



*"Engaging all learners to succeed in their ever changing world"*

*Serving the Communities of Belmont and Canterbury*

## **2021 - 2022 School Opening Plan**

### **Introduction:**

The following plan focuses on staff and student safety and well-being, flexibility, and our responsibility to educate our students. We cannot predict what will happen with the pandemic prior to the start of the school year or throughout the year. The district realizes that this remains a dynamic situation. However, **it is the district's goal to open schools in the fall with teaching, learning, and school operations mirroring pre-pandemic times as closely as possible.** It should be emphasized that this plan is a working document and will need to remain flexible for adjustments in the future.

### **The Plan:**

The district will open the 2021-2022 school year with a full, in-person learning model. Remote learning (Cohort C) will not be an option for students at any grade level.

### ***Weekly Schedule:***

Monday through Friday - full, in-person learning.

### ***Daily Schedule:***

All schools will operate on a traditional, pre-pandemic, schedule. There will be no shortened-day schedule.

### **District-wide protocols – Public Health Protections (logistics)**

#### **Physical Distancing:**

Classrooms and common spaces will remain configured to maximize physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. This is subject to change as more people become vaccinated, and if levels of community transmission are low.

#### **Masking:**

**It is the district's hope that masks will not be required in indoor settings and that mask use will be optional for staff and students.** The district will follow New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommendations regarding mask use while indoors. Masks will not be required in lower-risk outdoor settings, such as during recess and in outdoor learning spaces. **The district will update our indoor masking protocol once we receive guidance from NH DHHS closer to the start of the 2021-22 school year.**

**Screening:**

Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms will be encouraged, but not required to be recorded on a daily basis. The district will continue to monitor students with respiratory illness (i.e colds) and potentially send them home for evaluation and/or COVID-19 testing. People with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home and be evaluated for COVID-19 testing.

**COVID-19 related matters:**

The district will document, report, and coordinate with public health officials to investigate and respond to any person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

**Promoting Hygiene:**

Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently and use hand sanitizer if/when washing hands is not possible. Staff and students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow or with a tissue.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

The district will meet CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting, use EPA-approved disinfectant, and maintain a schedule for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting surfaces that are frequently touched.

**Limiting group sizes:**

The district will attempt to keep group sizes small when possible.

**Classroom Configurations:**

Classrooms will remain configured to maximize physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. This is subject to change as more people become vaccinated, and if levels of community transmission are low. Circulation of outside air will be increased by opening windows and opening up ventilation systems to the greatest extent possible. Outside spaces will be used as learning spaces when possible.

**Other Areas****Communication:**

District-wide communication will come from the Superintendent. Building-level communication will come from the Building Principal. The district will use websites, email, newsletters, learning management systems, social media channels, phone/text alert systems, and local media sources to communicate with the community. Classroom or student support communication will come from the teacher or student support staff (school counselors, nurses, etc.).

**Visitors, Volunteers and Outside Organizations:**

Visitors, volunteers, and outside organizations will be permitted to enter the schools in accordance with district-wide protocols.

**Athletics:**

The district will follow state and New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) guidelines in addition to the district's own safety protocols.

**Co-Curricular Activities:**

Co-curricular activities will take place following the district's safety protocols.

**Food Service:**

Food service will serve meals in the cafeteria as was done prior to the pandemic. Schedules may be adjusted to accommodate physical distancing in the cafeteria to the greatest extent possible.

**Transportation:**

Seating on buses will be arranged to maximize physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. The district will follow New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommendations regarding mask use while on buses. It is the district's hope that masks will not be required while riding a bus and that mask use will be optional for drivers and students. **The district will update our masking protocol once we receive guidance from NH DHHS closer to the start of the 2021-22 school year.**

**Next Step**

This plan will be revisited and may be amended (if necessary) at the School Board meeting on August 10, 2021, at 6pm at Canterbury Elementary School. Amendments will be based on the most current NH DHHS recommendations and will include masking protocols. The Superintendent will send out an email to staff and families with any updates or changes to this plan following the August 10th School Board meeting.

**Resources used to develop this plan:**

[New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[Dr. Benjamin Chan, NH State Epidemiologist](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)