



June, 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians, Sunapee Community

This letter contains information on the Sunapee School District 2021-2022 school year opening. **Please read it in its entirety.** If you have any feedback you would like to give, please use the link provided at the end of this letter.

As we continue to work on fine tuning the protocols and practices that will need to be in place for the Sunapee School District to open at the end of August, 2021, we want to share with families and our community our progress to date.

We are so pleased with the effort our community, students, teachers and staff put forward last year to have 96% of all our students return to in-person learning 5 days a week from August, 2020 to June, 2021 and without missing any extended period of time due to COVID infections or contact tracing. A major part of our success was everyone's willingness to follow our protocols for returning to school and adapting to them as the year went on and things changed. This year we will continue to follow guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services & New Hampshire Department of Education and implement what is required by the DHHS and the NHDOE.

The Sunapee School District will continue to offer 5 days a week in-person learning to all students in the 2021-2022 school year. From our experience we recognize that this is the best way to provide services to our students to meet their educational needs as well as for staff and student social/emotional and mental health needs and services. This plan will be reviewed by the School Board every six months to ensure we are continuing to deliver the best practice/services for our school community.

This plan was developed from input by the SAU staff, school administration, teachers, school board and parents. The plan was reviewed at a public school board meeting for comment and posted on the District website with an optional survey for comment and suggestion. The survey is open to anyone in our community to take. Our website and school board meetings are open to the public.

When planning the best use of the ESSER II / III funds, the School Board reviewed the proposal by the SAU in a public meeting in which the community was welcome to attend; it is also on video which is available online at the District's website. Everyone was welcome to speak to the spending in public comment or to write letters or emails to the School Board. Identifying the need for ESSER funds was not very direct, with 96% of our students returning to in-person learning and fully supporting the 8% who chose remote learning last year. The only weakness we have in our proven past practice was our facility. To keep students and staff safe and to



attempt to keep COVID out of our 100-year-old elementary school called for keeping windows open all year long and using portable air filters. The facility has no modern air exchange system. Our responsibility to our students, teachers, staff, and community is to provide a safe learning environment which may become a liability to the District. The funds have been dedicated to improve major systems (structural roof, electrical), to install a new HVAC system to keep air circulation up to code and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or other air transmittable diseases in our school facility.

Our top priority will continue to be the safety of everyone in our school buildings. With the protocols and systems that will be in place, we still have no 100% guarantee that any viruses will not enter our schools and that students, teachers and families may become ill. Parents need to make a decision regarding students' participation that works best for each family.

We have found that over the year some of our COVID protocols have served us well, and we will continue to keep some procedures in place as they have assisted us in becoming more efficient, focused and safe.

Screening:

Parent/Student Home Screenings: All parents will screen their children daily at home for symptoms of COVID -19. If any of the following symptoms are present, parents will keep children home from our schools: **fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting.**

The last page of this letter is the parent/student home screen tool that is to be used each day before leaving home for school. We recommend having a copy of the tool on the refrigerator or in a central place in the home as a reminder to complete the tool before each school day.

Bus Transportation: While at bus stops, all students should social distance from one another unless they are from the same residence. Students will be allowed on buses and will sit where assigned by the driver. Once at school, the bus will unload front to back, and students will enter the building through an identified entrance.

Parent Drop-off: Parents will be directed to approach the identified entrance of the building, remain in your vehicle and allow your child to exit the vehicle.

Student Drivers: Upon arriving at school, student drivers will park their vehicles in assigned spaces and enter the building through the identified entrance.



Parents or Visitors in Buildings: Will be allowed into our buildings following protocols; all visitors must sign in upon entering and indicating that they have no signs or symptoms of COVID.

Lunches: Will be served in our café; students will be assigned a specific time that they will eat lunch. We will continue to use the ordering system that will require students who would like to receive school lunch to order lunch in advance based on our provided menu, and that meal will be ready for them once in the café. This system will allow for better ordering and less food waste throughout the year. This system will still allow the use of the “My School Bucks” payment option. Microwaves will be available for student use.

Physical Activity: In our elementary school, grade level recess schedules will be established so that students have the opportunity to be outside and stay active. We will ask for students to continue to appropriately distance while at recess. Our physical education classes will have a similar practice in place which follows appropriate distancing when possible. Band and Chorus will resume as normal and may require social distancing as well as instrument shields for additional protection. Extracurricular activities will be returning in full, and we will look to the NHIAA for any guidance in sport programs. All other activities will follow school protocols.

Classrooms: The Administration has been working with the Facilities Department on appropriate classroom sizing that allows for social distancing of three feet. Our hope is that many classrooms will look more traditional as they were pre-COVID.

Facility Precautions: We have taken the necessary precautions to allow us to open our facilities. Frequent cleaning will occur in hallways and bathrooms throughout the day. Night time cleaning will be completed using normal cleaning practices along with room spray disinfectant and ultraviolet light treatments. Our HVAC systems, where applicable, have all been cleaned, and filters will be replaced more frequently to help promote clean air. In spaces where additional air filtration is needed, portable systems have been purchased. When possible, windows will be opened to help with the circulation of fresh air.

Masks: Any person entering our facilities has the option to wear a mask at any time due to any medical concerns they may have. The District will provide disposable masks at the entrance of each building. Students and teachers are encouraged to wear a mask if they are feeling sick while at school.



Remote Option: Any family that requires a remote option should contact the school administration who will assist them in contacting Virtual Learning Academy for enrollment in Grades K-12.

We hope that this letter provides you with information that helps to outline our District's re-opening of schools in August, 2021. The District and school administrations will have additional school-specific information coming out in August.

The Sunapee School District will continue to utilize NH Division of Public Health Services for guidance on re-opening protocols, screening, travel, self-quarantine and self-isolation for staff and students, closures of schools, and communication with families.

Sincerely,

Russell E. Holden
Superintendent

Please go to www.SAU85.org to comment on the proposed 2021-22 reopening plan.

Reopening Implementation Team

The Reopening Implementation Team was charged with creating a detailed plan, using the Reopening Framework and the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan as guiding documents. These detailed plans provide a clear road map for reopening for in-person learning.

Russell Holden	Superintendent
Kelly Wessells	Business Administrator
Terra Geer	Director of Student Services
Sean Moynihan	Principal/Parent SMHS
Meagan Reed	Assistant Principal/Teacher/Parent SMHS
Walter Huston	Principal SCES



Joyce Castiglione	Nurse SMHS
Mat Bouranis	Director of Facilities/Parent
Mike Montore	Director of Technology
Jon Reed	Technology Integrator/Parent
Rob Fullerton	Director of Food Service
Brenda Thomas	Director of Transportation
Cindy Lamontagne	Adjustment Counselor

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, students and community members who gave suggestion and comments to the re-opening plan

Timeline:

Mon, May 10	Review and revise Reopening and Recovery Plan
Mon, May 24	Reviewed by Implementation Team
Fri, May 28	Posted on District Website for comment and suggestions/Google Form
Wed. June 2	Reviewed at Public School Board Meeting Public Comments
Mon, June 7	Revised as needed and re-posted on District Website and email to parents
Tuesday, June 22	Updated based on parent/teacher/ community feedback
Wed. June 23	Submitted to DOE