

SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 FALL RE-OPENING PLAN

**Presented by the Seymour Schools COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance
Team**

July 23, 2020 DRAFT

THANK YOU, TOGETHER WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS

Thank you to the following team members for the creation and hard work placed into this plan:

- ▶ Superintendent – Michael Wilson
- ▶ Associate Superintendent - Vonda Tencza
- ▶ Business Manager - Sherry Holmes
- ▶ Board Chair (Policy and Finance Sub-Committee Member) – Edward Strumello
- ▶ Head Nurse - Rebecca Bennett
- ▶ Director of Facilities – Timothy Connors
- ▶ Director of Safety and Security – Rich Kearns
- ▶ Director of Nutrition Services – Cynthia Brooks
- ▶ Director of Technology – Robert Dyer
- ▶ Director of Pupil Services – Dr. Kristopher Boyle
- ▶ Parent Representative – Fran Marsala
- ▶ Teacher Union Rep – Meagan Krushinski
- ▶ Administrator Rep – David Olechna
- ▶ Administrative Assistant Rep – Karen Murphy

THANK YOU, TOGETHER WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS

We would like to thank the staff, parents, students, and various community members who have reached out with ideas and suggestions through email, phone calls, and survey responses. This feedback has helped guide the team's work in creating this plan. As always, THANK YOU for all that you do for your children, our students, and our schools.

This document is intended to provide information and guidance as we look to potentially safely reopen schools this Fall. This document is subject to change dependent upon both State and Local Health guidelines.

Please realize that this document represents four models:

- (1) full participation in person model**
- (2) a hybrid model where those who wish to physically attend are in as well as those who temporarily chose distance learning**
- (3) an in person hybrid rotating model**
- (4) a full distance learning model**

Vision of the Seymour Public Schools

The Seymour Public Schools work diligently in order to promote individual student learning. We strive to have all students succeed in all social and academic areas so they can become well rounded individuals who show compassion toward others and who can confidently confront and solve any problem with which they are faced.

Mission of the Seymour Public Schools

The mission of the Seymour Public Schools is to fully know our students as learners, to educate and inspire them through a range of experiences that reflect high expectations for learning and prepare them to meet the challenges of an ever changing world.

Our Beliefs

- *All students can learn*
- *Everyone in our school community will be learners*
- *Accountability leads to growth*
- *All learners have individual interests, needs and talents*
- *All learners will be physically and emotionally safe in the learning environment*
- *Home, school, and community will act as team members in the educational process*
- *By working together collaboratively toward common goals with cooperation and teamwork all learners will succeed.*

Seymour Public Schools remain committed to providing all students with a high-quality education regardless of the learning platform. We want all students to feel both emotionally and educationally prepared as they begin the 2020-2021 school year. **Please realize that this pandemic is fluid and ever changing and as a result we are doing our best to plan for a full return to school for this fall and are working diligently to create a plan that meets the safety and security needs of both our students and staff. We ask that you be patient and understand that while we have considered a lot in this plan, we also recognize that we cannot anticipate every challenge that may confront us in the coming year.** We are beyond fortunate to have a great working relationship with the Naugatuck Valley Health District as well as with our Town Emergency Management team. Together, we will continue to get through this for our students.

Per the Commissioner of Education and the Governor

- As a result of the recent guidance from the Commissioner of Education as well as the Governor, there are two models of instruction that school districts need to provide to students for the 2020 – 2021 school year:
 - Returning to school for in-person instruction
 - Distance learning (for students with compromised health issues and those that choose not to physically return to school)
 - Establish a continuum of strategies for implementation of in-person schooling that anticipates potential alternative programs and robust blended learning if future public health data requires class cancellations.
- The following slides outline basic parameters for each of these models as well as a hybrid model at the end where students come in on a rotating basis as well as access distance learning while at home.
- The content of the following slides is shaped directly by the ‘Adapt, Advance, Achieve’ Connecticut Plan Requirements that are necessary for schools to reopen in the fall.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel. The central area is a clean, white space where the text is placed.

PHYSICALLY RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Traditional Instruction for those students physically returning

(Page 1 of 3)

- On July 14, 2020, the Connecticut State Department of Education released new guidance on the number of days for students (now 177 school days) and on how days were to be used prior to student arrival. As a result of this, our teachers will return to school on August 25 for five days of professional learning and important training in order to better prepare for our student needs and various types of teaching that will take place this year.
- Seymour will officially begin the school year for students on September 1, 2020.
- We will first start with four days of distance learning, from Sept 1 through 4. Students will participate in distance learning lessons and activities designed to aid in the transition back to traditional in-person instruction.

Traditional Instruction for those students physically returning

(Page 2 of 3)

- During these four days, small groups of students will be scheduled to attend school to allow for orientation to the buildings and procedures and an incremental return of students.
- The transitional return days of September 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be designated as distance learning days for all students. During these days small groups of school identified students will be brought in for in-person instruction during the span of these four days to allow for incremental return of students.
- For the Sept 1 – 4 time period, the specifics of who will be in school and when they will be in school will be communicated in mid-August from student's schools.
- When not in school, students will participate in highly engaging distance learning to help transition back to school.
- Traditional in-person instruction for ALL STUDENTS will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Traditional Instruction for those students physically returning

(Page 3 of 3)

- Please realize that while we want to stay in school, other factors may cause us to once again be placed out of school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If this occurs, students and parents will be notified, and we would once again be on a distance learning platform. We have revised the distance learning experience that occurred from March to June, based on survey recommendations from teachers. We believe our revisions will provide an improved learning experience for all.
- Students who enroll in traditional learning will remain in traditional learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Requests to transition to distance learning will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may take up to two weeks to process.
- As always, we encourage you to contact your child's school administration team to discuss any concerns that you may have as we return to school.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue, creating a modern and professional look.

**DISTANCE LEARNING FOR
THOSE TEMPORARILY NOT
PHYSICALLY RETURNING
TO SCHOOL**

Distance Learning for those students who elected not to physically return

(Page 1 of 2)

- Seymour Public Schools will provide a distance learning program for each child that chooses not to physically attend school. Per the state plan, this will be a temporary situation. Our survey responses, email and other forms of communication from many students, staff, and families expressed a desire for more synchronous (live) learning opportunities. Our new distance learning structure is as follows: The student will follow their normal schedule as if they were in school and our teachers will teach through a video means live at a minimum of four times per week. Pre-recorded lessons will also be encouraged in order to enhance learning after the minimum of four live sessions. Unlike the Spring, since teachers will be providing instruction at specific times, students are expected to attend at those times, just like they would if they were in school. These live/synchronous sessions are mandatory for attendance. They are not optional. Students at all levels will be expected to attend all synchronous instructional activities their teachers organize throughout the day. These types of activities will vary by grade level and content area, but may include morning or advisory meetings, read-alouds, previewing content or concepts that will be covered during the week, lab demonstrations, teacher-led group discussions, individual or small group activities, and other experiences.

Distance Learning for those students who elected not to physically return

(Page 2 of 2)

- Virtual learning can never replace the traditional classroom experience, however with the enhancement of live teaching via the computer as well as your teacher being available for help via online support, phone, or in person if you choose to set up an appropriate socially distant meeting at the school, we feel that our students will get the most out of this even while at home.
- Students who enroll in temporary distance learning can choose to re-enter school in the traditional fashion at established re-entry times during the year. This request will take up to two weeks to process since we have to enroll your child into another teacher's physical classroom and provide the transitional support required to ensure your child's smooth reentry to the classroom.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, modern aesthetic. The text is centered in a white space between these blue elements.

HYBRID ROTATING SCHEDULE FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

HYBRID SCHEDULE FOR GRADES K - 12

(Page 1 of 3)

HYBRID ROTATING SCHEDULE FOR GRADES K - 2

GRADE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
GRADE K	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	DISTANCE	DISTANCE
GRADE 1	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	DISTANCE	DISTANCE
GRADE 2	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	DISTANCE	DISTANCE

HYBRID ROTATING SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 3 - 5

GRADE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
GRADE 3	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	IN PERSON
GRADE 4	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	IN PERSON	IN PERSON
GRADE 5	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	IN PERSON	IN PERSON

HYBRID SCHEDULE FOR GRADES K - 12

(Page 2 of 3)

HYBRID ROTATING SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 6 - 8

GRADE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
GRADE 6	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	DISTANCE	DISTANCE
GRADE 7	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	IN PERSON
GRADE 8	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	DISTANCE

HYBRID SCHEDULE FOR GRADES K - 12

(Page 3 of 3)

HYBRID ROTATING SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 9 - 12

GRADE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
GRADE 9	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	DISTANCE	DISTANCE
GRADE 10	DISTANCE	IN PERSON	IN PERSON	DISTANCE	DISTANCE
GRADE 11	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	IN PERSON	IN PERSON
GRADE 12	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	DISTANCE	IN PERSON	IN PERSON

So what's new in Seymour Schools for all in the Fall of 2020?

- Seymour Public Schools is proud and happy to announce our new computer one-to-one device plan for all students in grades K-12.
- Students will be issued a Chromebook to use while both in and out of school to do their work, whether it be from the traditional classroom or on the distance learning platform.
- You will receive more details on this in August, including information on a very cost-effective device protection plan and sign-off documentation for each device issued. Information will also be posted on our Seymour Schools Website.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing the central text.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR OUR SCHOOLS

How will cleanliness and safety measures be addressed on the school bus?

- Our Bus Transportation Company, All-Star Bus Company, takes cleanliness very seriously. All buses will be sanitized before students are transported to and from school. They will also be sanitized between each bus run. For us that means that they will be sanitized after the High School students are dropped off, then after the Middle School students are dropped off, then after the Elementary students are dropped off.
- While on the bus, all students and drivers will always be required to wear a mask, as well as comply with all bus safety guidelines.
- Upon school arrival, school staff members wearing masks may ask students to remove their mask briefly for identification purposes so that we can ensure student security.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

OPERATIONS PLAN FOR OUR SCHOOLS

What cleanliness measures will be in place during a regular school day?

(Page 1 of 2)

- Maintaining building cleanliness is a priority and as such, our custodians have implemented enhanced cleaning protocols.
- Our wonderful custodial staff have been, and will remain, diligent in cleaning and sanitizing all buildings both during and after the school day.
- Restroom Sanitation - Restrooms will be sanitized multiple times daily. Soap and/or sanitizer will be available in the bathroom and throughout the school buildings.
- Common Area Sanitations - Common areas and surfaces (handrails, doorknobs, etc.) will be sanitized throughout the day by custodial staff. All efforts will be made to minimize contact with common surfaces.
- Classroom sanitation and cleaning will be a joint effort by the school custodial staff, classroom teachers and other school personnel. All classrooms will have extra cleaning supplies on hand to wipe down desks and equipment after each use.

What cleanliness measures will be in place during a regular school day?

(Page 2 of 2)

- Signage about frequent hand washing/hygiene will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication throughout the day.
- Water fountains will be disabled. We will continue our current practice of encouraging individual clear only water bottles for students. Please be sure your child's water bottle is clearly labeled with his/her name on it. We are working on replacing water fountains with refillable water bottle stations, which are hands-free.
- In order to better promote the flow of traffic in buildings and to maintain social distancing, our Director of Facilities and our Safety and Security Director will place signs and visual markers for foot traffic within each building as well as limiting the number of entry points for each building.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

DAILY OPERATIONS PLAN FOR OUR SCHOOLS

What preventative measures will be in place during a regular school day?

(Page 1 of 3)

- While each school will have a specific plan for the following topics, typical guidance is as follows:

- Masks will always be worn by both students and staff at all times while on school grounds. While at outdoor recess or during physical education, masks may be removed. Masks will be removed to eat once students are seated in the cafeteria.
- **Morning Arrivals** - Students will report directly to their first-period classroom. No congregating in groups.
- **Dismissal** - Students will go to their assigned bus or to their parents' vehicle in an orderly, socially-distant manner outlined by your child's school.
- There will be no lockers issued at the middle or high school. All students will have their materials in their back-pack in order to minimize congregation in the halls. Elementary students have individual cubbies which are labeled accordingly. To the best of our ability, students will be informed ahead of time as to which days they need to bring textbooks to minimize their backpack load.

What preventative measures will be in place during a regular school day?

(Page 2 of 3)

- While each school will have a specific plan for the following topics, typical guidance is as follows:
 - **Lunchroom** - cohort grade levels will be eating at the same time where feasible. All students will always wear masks except when they are eating their lunch. Opportunities for social distancing and outside dining are being explored at various schools.
 - **Elementary Snack** - Elementary students will have a break within their classroom or in an assigned area outside the building maintaining social distance guidelines.
 - **Play areas** at the Elementary level will be sanitized after each recess.
 - **Classroom Seating** - Student desks will be spaced apart as much as is feasibly possible and placed in forward-facing rows or same side of table when possible. Since six feet of spacing is difficult, masks must be worn at all times.
 - **Labs and Tech workspaces** - Social distancing will remain. Equipment will be regularly sanitized.

What preventative measures will be in place during a regular school day?

(Page 3 of 3)

- We realize that each school is different, however, each school will refer to the guidance outlined in the district plan:
 - All rooms will remove and minimize the inclusion of cloth and other soft surfaces within the classroom environment. (rugs, beanbags, reading tents, etc.)
 - All staff will educate students on best practices for self-care for themselves as well as others (hand-washing, limit sharing of personal items, sneezing in elbow, etc.). When feasible, desks, counters, and table surfaces will be cleaned during transition times.
 - All efforts will be given to refrain from sending students to the nurse's office for well visits and/or minor needs. Our Head Nurse will provide information to teachers on whether to send or to refrain from sending students to the Nurse's office.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered on a white background within this composition.

HEALTH PRACTICES AND PROTOCOLS FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Safety & Wellness Measures – Training

(Page 1 of 2)

- We will have mandatory health and hygiene training in place for all staff, given by our nurses and members of the NVHD during one of our first Professional Development days, in order to ensure that all are aware of the protocols in place.
- There will be more frequent checks on our students social-emotional health. This will take place at all grade levels (at grades 6-12, this will mean more frequent Advisory/Homeroom periods in order to further connect with our students).
- All Staff will encourage hand washing and basic respiratory hygiene, such as covering the mouth when coughing.
- Each school nurse will, if needed, be a resource person for student educational activities, such as age-appropriate educational videos on hand-washing, covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing, and how to wear a mask.

Safety & Wellness Measures – Training

(Page 2 of 2)

- Posters will also be made available for classrooms and school hallways.
- Health tips regarding hygiene will continue to be shared on social media and school websites.
- If confirmed COVID-19 cases occur within our school community, then all buildings will be placed out-of-school for the shorter of 8 consecutive school days or 14 consecutive calendar days during which distance learning and lunch pick-up at SMS would begin. Safe re-entry into schools will take place after such period. This communication will be sent home from Central Office if such an event were to occur. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, we will continue to collaborate with the NVHD to conduct contact tracing and to determine the quarantining of individuals as necessary. Protecting the identity of any impacted individual, the district will notify members of the school community in the event someone tests positive.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, dynamic feel. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

HEALTH MONITORING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Home Prevention (First Screening) for Safety and Wellness

- Cloth masks should be washed daily to ensure safety.
- All staff are encouraged to take their temperatures daily before coming to school. If your temperature is greater than 100.4°F and/or are exhibiting symptoms, please stay at home and rest.
- Parents of children are encouraged to take temperatures and assess before sending to school. Students who have an elevated temperature greater than 100.4 °F and/or are exhibiting symptoms, please stay at home and rest.
- If a child has a pre-existing condition, parents are advised to speak with their child's primary care physician about returning to school.
- Parents should discourage students from taking non-essential items to school. Items taken to school should be sanitized as feasibly as possible.

Transportation and School (Second and Third Measures) for Safety and Wellness

- All Star Transportation will use clearly visible signage that students should not have fever or COVID-19 symptoms if traveling on a school bus. The signage will also outline COVID-19 symptoms as an educational tool.
- All staff will visually check students as they usually do for any signs of illness.
- Faculty will limit the items sent home with students that need to be returned. Items sent home will be sanitized as feasibly as possible before they are sent home with your child. To assist with minimizing the amount of items sent home, we will use parent email as a method of sending forms. Please sanitize your child's chromebook, lunchbox, and backpack as often as possible. To the best of our ability, students will be informed ahead of time as to which days they need to bring textbooks to minimize their backpack load.
- **Please make sure that your most current and accurate email is on file with your child's school by updating your PowerSchool account.**

Nurse office Visits as they pertain to Safety and Wellness

- Teachers will try to limit well-child visits to the nurse's office for students with minor problems (e.g., Our classroom teachers will be provided with Band-Aids from the nurse for minor cuts and abrasions and extra clothing for student bathroom accidents).
- Teachers/Staff will call school nurses before sending a student to them to limit the number of students in the health room and limit exposure.
- School Nurses will have the necessary PPE equipment to protect themselves and others that may come into contact with an infected student.
- School Nurses will work closely with administrators in developing a plan to isolate sick children until someone comes and gets them.
- School Nurses will assess the student and take appropriate actions. If a child needs to be sent home, we ask that the parent and/or guardian make every attempt to pick up their child within 30 minutes. The nurse may encourage that your child be COVID-19 tested if they are presenting with those symptoms.
- School Nurses will sanitize and disinfect their office after any student is seen for care.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN OUR SCHOOLS

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

(Page 1 of 3)

- Two committees, one from the 2 elementary schools, and one from the middle and high schools, began the work of identifying a new Social Emotional Learning program during the 2019-2020 school year.
- At the time of school closures, each committee had selected 3 Social Emotional Learning programs to pilot which were centered around CASEL's study on Social and Emotional Learning. This pilot was planned to run for the final 8-10 weeks of the 2019-2020 school year, but will now begin in the fall when schools reopen.
- Programs to be piloted are:
 - Elementary Level: Caring School Community, PATHs, and Competent Kids.
 - Secondary Level: Student Success Skills, Lions Quest, and Suite 360.
- Upon completion of these pilots, the committees will again review the programs, this time also considering the social emotional needs of our students following the prolonged closure.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

(Page 2 of 3)

- Seymour is aware of the need for robust social and emotional supports for our students, as well as our school community. We have adopted CASEL's pandemic re-entry theme of Social and Emotional Learning which is "Reunite, Renew, Thrive". The District has three areas of focus (Pre-Entry, Entry, and Implementation) <https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SEL-ROADMAP.pdf>
- **Pre-Entry:**
 - The school staff will identify at-risk students and prepare supports for a safe return to school in the following ways:
 - In person or virtual tours of our buildings for students who are new to the district or those who are transitioning from one school building to another;
 - Social stories for students who require repetition and support in understanding the changes in the school day;
 - Develop transition plans for students struggling with re-entry; and
 - Respond proactively to families and students through regular communication, meetings and phone calls.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

(Page 3 of 3)

• **Entry:**

- Staff will identify students in need of social and/or emotional support;
- SRBI teams will develop and implement intervention plans to support students in need;
- Counselors and teachers will provide opportunities for at-risk students to receive support in developing social skills and relationships;
- Continued consultation between teachers, counselors, and families; and
- Piloting and adopting scientific research-based instruction in social skills and emotional regulation.

• **Implementation:**

- Evaluate and measure student growth and response to intervention; and
- Provide additional supports to students/families experiencing difficulty with re-opening or ongoing transitions.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered in a white space between these blue elements.

TEACHING AND LEARNING
INFORMATION
FOR OUR SCHOOLS

TEACHING AND LEARNING INFORMATION

(Page 1 of 5)

- It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all students get what they need to learn and meet with success. During our first five days of Professional Development, our teachers will vertically align themselves with teachers who had the students the year prior in order to discuss areas of weakness as well as areas that were not covered. In the spring, all educators PK-12 worked to identify “bridge standards” -those standards they deemed essential for students to focus on -helping to smooth their entry to the next grade this fall. This will help the current year’s teacher to determine where to begin.
- In August, educators will analyze data gathered from their departments, as well as district-wide data, to identify students who struggled or were disengaged in the spring. These needs will be a primary focus area for educators in the fall.

TEACHING AND LEARNING INFORMATION

(Page 2 of 5)

- During August professional learning days, educators will begin to modify their lessons and activities to account for these student needs while maintaining social distancing guidelines. They will be engaged in professional learning to make choices in instructional methods that are best-suited to support any potential return to remote learning. This process will continue throughout the year, with the expectation that regular educators work collaboratively with their special education and English Language Learner (ELL) teachers to co-plan lessons that support learning for all students.
- In an ongoing fashion, teachers will assess where their students are and provide the necessary supports for them to achieve the learning targets set for each grade level.
- Beginning of the year district MAP assessments will continue to be administered as usual however our first few weeks of school will not be filled with testing. MAP and other formative assessments are critical to assist in individualized instruction and planning purposes and will take place after students and teachers reconnect with the classroom environment and each other.

TEACHING AND LEARNING INFORMATION

(Page 3 of 5)

- Curricular adjustments may need to be made on a grade/class level basis which would need to be coordinated through the Associate Superintendent of Schools, Director of Pupil Services, and building Administrators. It is recognized that the traditional pacing of curriculum and/or individual lessons will need to remain flexible due to the unpredictability of the school year and the addition of COVID related activities (such as hand-washing, mask breaks, social-emotional needs, etc...) embedded within the school day.
- Students' return to school in September - whether as part of distance learning or in-building learning will include a thorough orientation to the coming school year. There will be a clear need to spend time reconnecting with students, and build strong relationships with teachers and each other, following the spring's emergency school closure and summer vacation.
- In order to prepare our community to engage with the levels of challenge and rigor appropriate to each individual student within these new learning models, staff will monitor student social-emotional needs for returning to school before addressing academic content. In all grades and classes, students and teachers will begin the year with a unit that bridges those social-emotional needs with important priority content standards from the previous spring that need reinforcing or explicit teaching.

TEACHING AND LEARNING INFORMATION

(Page 4 of 5)

- Seymour teachers will rely more than ever this year on the differentiation of instruction strategy.
- Differentiation benefits all learners. It provides for different paces of learning, varied resources to match learning styles and interests, and varied products to demonstrate learning. It allows for students who want to stretch to try new things in new ways, and it provides options for students who need to take more time on a topic or skill.
- Differentiation is not a new instructional practice for Seymour teachers, but it can have an impact on student equity and access, essential criteria for this school reopening. Practices that offer ‘just right learning’ to each student have the potential for more equitable learning opportunities and closure of achievement gaps that have persisted in many students.

TEACHING AND LEARNING INFORMATION

(Page 5 of 5)

- Seymour staff believe that meaningful educator feedback is critical to learning. Data collected throughout the spring indicates our families and students are looking for more frequent and detailed feedback from educators and our educators want this as well. Feedback to students comes in a variety of forms (both formal and informal) and has a variety of purposes. The most useful feedback for teachers and students is feedback that helps inform instruction and meet learners where they are on the instructional curve.
- During our professional learning days in late August we will be targeting sessions through digital means that equip our teachers with additional strategies to further open the feedback loop.

NEXT STEPS

- Our Administrators will begin to work with members of the COVID-19 Safety Panel in order to successfully implement the guidelines set forth within these models.
- We are asking for two additional teacher and two additional parent representatives from each of our four respective buildings to work with the COVID-19 extended panel as well as all building Administrators to assist in making the decision on which model is the best to meet our communities' needs as well as to continue to meet throughout the year to monitor the situation.
- If you are interested in becoming a part of this group referenced above, please email Lee-Ann Dauerty at ldauerty@seymourschools.org by no later than Wednesday July 29, 2020 since the group will need to meet in very early August.

The background features a white central area with abstract blue geometric shapes on the left and right sides. These shapes include overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of blue, from light to dark, creating a modern, layered effect.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 1 of 12)

- **What type of mask should students and teachers be wearing?**
 - An appropriate cloth mask that is washed daily is preferred. The cloth mask should be generic in nature with no inappropriate images on it. Bandana or other face coverings that wrap around the entire head are prohibited for security reasons. One cloth mask will be provided to each staff member and student. Please remember to wash it.
- **Can my child still wear a hat or a hood in school?**
 - No, these will not be allowed as it prevents us from identifying our students from a security standpoint.
- **What if I do not have an appropriate mask for my child?**
 - Please call your child's guidance counselor and/or school nurse and they can assist you.
- **What happens if my child refuses to wear a mask?**
 - We want all children to physically be in school and the mask is needed to mitigate the spread of germs. If your child continually refuses to keep his/her mask on, you will be contacted to pick your child up from school. Please work with your children on wearing the mask and in reminding them of the importance of wearing a mask while at school.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 2 of 12)

- **Will my child be allowed to participate in Fall Sports/Extracurricular activities if he or she does not physically attend school?**
 - No, in order to participate in any Fall sports/extracurricular activities, our students must be physically in school.
- **If there is a Fall Sports season, can I go to watch?**
 - Further guidance on this will be coming from the CIAC. However, at the bare minimum, crowd size will be minimized because we would have to sit six feet apart. A mask would have to be worn while entering and exiting the event. Keeping it on during the event would also be encouraged.
- **Will I be allowed to visit my child's school?**
 - No, in order to maintain cohorts of students, we are discouraging any other unscheduled visitors to our buildings. In the event that you are asked to come in for a meeting, you must wear your mask and have your ID to enter the building. If you are picking up a sick child, you will be asked to remain in the sally port to ensure the health and safety of all. Your child will be brought out to you. All visitors must remove their mask when at front entrance when they ring our doorbells requesting approval for entry. They must continue to hold their photo identification up to the entry cameras so our staff can match up the ID to the face of the person.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 3 of 12)

- **How will safety guidelines impact extra-curricular activities, including athletics?**
 - The CIAC is the governing body in charge of making state decision on sports. Information on all Athletics will be disseminated from the Athletic Director and the Assistant Athletic Director after it has been reviewed with Central Office.
- **Can I still home school my child?**
 - Yes, you may still choose to home school your child. Please note that parents must file with the Central Office (ldauerty@seymourschools.org), to make us aware of your decision to home school. You will be required to submit a withdrawal form within ten (10) school days of your child's withdrawal from school to start home schooling.
- **Is attendance important?**
 - Yes, attendance is required and will be taken daily either in person or virtually.
- **Can my child bring his/her own hand sanitizer to school?**
 - Yes, as long as it is clearly labeled with his/her name on it.

GENERAL FAQ'S

(Page 4 of 12)

- **Since I cannot come into the school, how can I contact my child's teacher for a meeting?**
 - Meetings can take place virtually and can be scheduled by phone or email. All staff email is available on our website.
- **Will there be an in-person Open House/Parent Teacher Conferences?**
 - No, we will conduct back to school meetings, meet the teacher nights, and parent conferences virtually until further notice.
- **Will my child be going on field trips?**
 - No, until further notice, all field trips are temporarily suspended until further notice.
- **How will schools maintain social distancing?**
 - School staff will do the best that they can to ensure social distancing with all of the measures described above.
- **Will students take their Chromebook home daily?**
 - Yes, because of our new one-to-one initiative, students will take their Chromebook home daily.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 5 of 12)

- **Can my child get extra help or guidance support by appointment if they are being taught via distance learning?**
 - Yes, your child can get help either by appointment in-person at the school, on the phone, or by a video conference. However, transportation to and from an in-person appointment is the responsibility of the parent.
- **If I choose distance learning for my child, can they still come in to get any services that they may have?**
 - Yes, any mandated services will be provided via appointment at the school. However, transportation to and from an in-person appointment is the responsibility of the parent.
- **Will we have the Senior Mentoring Program this year?**
 - No, Senior Mentoring Programs will be halted immediately to stop outside contact with vulnerable populations. We simply do not and will not know health situations/exposures to the virus from these volunteers. It is simply an added health risk of exposure/spread of the virus for our students, staff and the Mentors.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 6 of 12)

- **Will I be notified if a classmate of my child has tested positive for Covid-19?**
 - In the unfortunate event that a student or employee tests positive, persons within that class setting will be notified to the greatest extent possible without revealing any confidential student information. Student and employee information will remain confidential as required by law. We ask that all respect people's confidentiality.
- **Will before and after school programs be allowed?**
 - Yes, SONCCA will be allowed to use our buildings for before and after school care provided they adhere to all safety guidelines set forth for them from the State.
- **How can I reach my child's teacher or school counselor?**
 - We encourage you to contact your child's teacher or school counselor in the same manner that you have in the past, which is via email or via phone. All staff email is available on our website.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 7 of 12)

- **What are the Immunization and Health Assessments from the State of CT?**
 - Immunizations: Guidance from the Department of Public Health was issued dated June 17, 2020(<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2019-20/update-DPH-letter-to-SDE-back-to-school-6-17-2020-final.pdf>) emphasizing the importance of protecting students by staying up to date on immunizations.
 - Health Assessments: Guidance from the CSDE was issued dated June 26, 2020(<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2019-20/Health-Assessments-for-the-2020-2021-School-Year.pdf>) outlining the requirements for Health Assessments(<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2019-20/Health-Assessments-for-the-2020-2021-School-Year.pdf>) prior to students enrolling in school.
- **When should I stay home from school/work?**
 - Both students and staff should inform the school if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms, particularly if they have had a known contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and have also had contact with the school population. They must stay home when they are sick, especially if they have COVID-19 symptoms such as fever and cough.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 8 of 12)

- **If I have been diagnosed with COVID-19, when can I return?**
 - At a minimum, it would be 14 calendar days before a student or a staff member can return. A doctor's note clearing you to return to school/work will be required. However, while out for those 14 calendar days, the students who are physically able will be required to participate in distance learning.
- **What if it is extremely hot outside?**
 - In this event, schools will either be physically closed, with all students being taught via the distance learning platform.
- **Will drop off times be staggered?**
 - You will hear more about this from your building administrators, however, please realize that these times will be earlier than normal so that we can start our school day as close to our normal time as possible.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 9 of 12)

- **Do I have to let the school know that my child is not returning because of COVID-19 medical issues or concerns?**
 - Yes, in order for Seymour schools to properly educate all children both in person and remotely, we need to know exactly how to restructure classes so that we can have physical in person teachers as well as distance learning teachers. This is extremely important as it may require the district to hire more teachers.
- **What else can we do as parents to help?**
 - Your constant support is always appreciated. We feel that you reminding your children of safety precautions in terms of mask wearing and constant hand washing will go a long way in helping us to transition back to school.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 10 of 12)

- **How do I know if FMLA applies to me?**
 - Please visit the following link to see how you can apply for FMLA with your employer: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200401>
- **My child has a disability and has an Individualized Education Program (IEP). If I chose for my child to participate in distance learning, can my child still have access to his/her services?**
 - Yes, your child will be provided with distance learning opportunities from his/her special education teacher. Related services, such as counseling and speech/language, can also be arranged. These services will be by appointment and can also be in- person at your child's school or through teletherapy.

GENERAL FAQ's

(Page 11 of 12)

- **My child participates in the district's integrated pre-school/pre-kindergarten program. What will that look like when schools reopen?**
 - Our pre-school/pre-kindergarten program will continue as previously discussed. We will continue to hold AM and PM sessions 5-days per week.
- **Based on my child's disability, he/she cannot wear a mask throughout the school day. Does that mean that my child cannot attend in-person when schools reopen?**
 - No, we certainly can make accommodations for your child. While we would prefer that all students wear their masks throughout the day, we understand that this may not be possible for a limited number of our students. However, you must have a note from your child's physician documenting the reason that your child cannot wear a mask, as well as any other recommendations, to be considered for this accommodation.

GENERAL FAQ'S

(Page 12 of 12)

- **Will my child have a mask break?**
 - When possible, during the day, students will be taken to an area (outside preferably) where they can safely remove their mask for a short period of time.
- **Can I drop something off at the school if my child forgot it at home?**
 - You may drop items off at the entryway doors provided it is clearly labeled. You will not be allowed into the office to drop it off.
- **Can I send in a classroom snack/birthday/holiday for the entire class?**
 - No, at this time we are not allowing outside food to be brought into school to share with others.
- **How can I make sure I receive up-to-date information?**
 - It is very important to ensure that your child's school has accurate and up-to-date contact information. If your contact information has changed or if you are unsure about its accuracy, please update your PowerSchool account and contact your child's teacher and/or the school secretary to make sure accurate information is available.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN THAT WAS NOT ADDRESSED? HERE IS WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE COMING WEEKS.

- There will be live recorded one on one question and answer sessions with the Superintendent and members of the COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Team in order discuss the following topics:

- **Facilities** – will take place on August 3, 2020. Questions must be sent in by July 31 by no later than 10:00am to ldauerty@seymourschools.org.
- **Safety and Security** – will take place on August 3, 2020. Questions must be sent in by July 31 by no later than 10:00am to ldauerty@seymourschools.org.
- **Teaching and Learning** - will take place on August 4, 2020. Questions must be sent in by August 3 by no later than 10:00am to ldauerty@seymourschools.org.
- **Technology** – will take place on August 4, 2020. Questions must be sent in by August 3 by no later than 10:00am to ldauerty@seymourschools.org.
- **Special Education** - will take place on August 4, 2020. Questions must be sent in by August 3 by no later than 10:00am to ldauerty@seymourschools.org.
- **Health**– will take place on August 5, 2020. Questions must be sent in by August 4 by no later than 10:00am to ldauerty@seymourschools.org.
- **Transportation**– will take place on August 5, 2020. Questions must be sent in by August 4 by no later than 10:00am to ldauerty@seymourschools.org.

- All recordings will be linked on our website and can be reviewed at your leisure.

- The new larger group (referenced on slide 48) will meet in early August, and under the direct guidance of the state and local health department will determine which plan to use for Seymour Schools to safely reopen.

- Thank you for your continued support and patience. Remember that we will get through this together.