

9/20/2020

Greetings,

It was uplifting to have our students return last week in our Phase In for the 2020-2021 School Year. Students brought the excitement and curiosity for learning and school that makes all our efforts worth it. The traditional Senior Parade certainly brought in this excitement and joy of a new school year!

It actually, despite all the obvious differences with COVID safety requirements, felt and sounded like school and was certainly great to be back together, albeit with only a quarter of our total enrollment each day. We look forward to beginning our Hybrid model in full tomorrow with a Day 1a / Cohort A in school and Cohort B Remote.

A few things to note:

- I want to thank all students for their efforts and support for wearing masks. We know it can be uncomfortable and at times challenging with communication, but your efforts were noticeable and appreciated. For some it was a challenge and we will work with you to overcome any issues of feeling uncomfortable, but please understand the wearing of masks is a non-negotiable requirement.

- Two areas I need to address and seek your assistance:
 - **Student Parking lot and walking to school:**
 - The student parking lot was a noticeable place where students were not consistent with wearing the face mask
 - **Masks are required the moment you enter school grounds either walking or driving and parking.**

 - **Social Distancing**
 - Parking lot, walking to school and hallway transitions
 - Social distancing in these areas was, let's just say, not so much.
 - We understand that this might be more challenging than wearing a mask, but again these are state requirements.
 - **Social Distancing of 6 feet is required**
 - **Students must take self responsibility to be aware of their surroundings and proximity to others and adjust space as needed to keep the required safety distance of 6 feet.**

This is new for all of us and together we will make this work.

Here's to a fun, positive and academically engaging week for all of you as we take the next step in this journey

Spartan Strong!

Attendance / Vacations / Travel

Attendance:

Please remember that the strongest indicator for academic success is consistent attendance. With school beginning our expectation is that students will attend school and their classes daily, whether in the Hybrid model of In Person / Remote or in a Full Remote model.

Vacations:

Our expectations are that families plan family vacations at established vacation weeks as provided in our yearly school calendar or over the summer. Please note that vacations are not considered excused absences with regard to our attendance policy or make up work or due date extensions.

Travel:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has identified states who are considered low risk or high risk for travel. The State provides clear requirements for any travel and return from a high risk State.

- **Required**
 - **Complete State Travel Form**
 - **Quarantine 14 days or receive a COVID test immediately upon return to state**

No student who has traveled to a high risk state will be allowed to enter SHS until after a 14 day Quarantine or earlier with official documentation of a negative COVID test.

Please see this link regarding returning to the state following travel:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts-travel-form>

Free Breakfast and Lunch

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that all meal program operators will provide free lunch and breakfast to all students through December 31, 2020. This unprecedented move will help ensure - no matter what the situation is - that children have access to nutritious food as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we still need to receive your application by September 30 in order to qualify for free and reduced meals after December 31, 2020 or to have reduced or waived fees under the "Sharing information with Other Programs."

Free and Reduced Meals Application is [HERE](#)

Gates and School Grounds Closed During School Hours

To ensure a safe and secure school setting all school grounds will be closed for public use during school hours. This includes access to and use of all athletic fields, track, parking lots, tennis courts and all walkways and driveways.

Until further notice, **School hours are considered 7:30AM - 8:00PM Monday - Saturday.**

We apologize for any inconvenience, but for the general safety of our students and in order to be compliant with state safety guidelines for field capacity we must restrict use of school grounds to students and SHS faculty only.

School grounds will be considered open for public use on Sunday's.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Athletic Director David Pignone or Principal Bryan Lombardi

Athletics Information / Concussion Testing

Any student athlete seeking to participate in the 2020-2021 Fall Athletic Season must complete a Baseline Concussion Test. No student will be permitted to become a member of an Athletic Team and participate in any tryout, practice or competition without a completed Concussion Baseline Test.

Concussion Baseline tests must be completed for the following Fall Athletic teams

- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Golf
- Field Hockey

A test schedule, shared below, has been created to assist with this process. **All students athletes are required to bring their cell phone in order to complete the Concussion Baseline Test. All tests will be completed under the supervision of our Athletic Trainer.**

If you have any questions or concerns with this process or expectation please contact the Athletics Department.

Testing Schedule

- **MONDAY 9/21**
 - 3:00 - GIRLS SOCCER (MEET AT YOUR PRACTICE FIELD)
 - 4:00 - FIELD HOCKEY (MEET AT YOUR PRACTICE FIELD)
 - 5:00 - BOYS SOCCER (MEET AT YOUR PRACTICE FIELD)

- **TUESDAY 9/22**

- 3:00 - BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS MEET OUT ON THE FIELD BY BACK OF GYMNASIUM -PATIO & GIRLS MEET DOWN BY TRACK CONCESSION STAND/HUT)

- **WEDNESDAY 9/23**

- 2:30 - GOLF (MEET OUTSIDE IN FRONT OF THE GYMNASIUM)

If you have any questions please contact the Athletic Office

Student / Parent Resources

Return to School Handbook [HERE](#)

2020 - 2021 School Year Calendar [HERE](#)