



# School Administrative Unit 21

February 12, 2021

Dear SAU 21 Families and Community,

As we honor Black History this month, I'd like to share with the community a brief overview regarding how we are focusing on equity across SAU 21. Our Equity Committee that consists of dedicated staff members from all of our districts has made steady progress toward goals around anti-racism and equity in policy, community, training, and curriculum. [Click here](#) for equity and diversity resources for families.



**Goal #1: Develop and adopt an SAU-wide equity policy to serve as a basis for decision making and priorities for all boards.**

All SAU 21 School Boards approved and adopted the [SAU 21 Equity Policy](#) during their January 2021 meetings. Although the policy includes foundational beliefs and requirements to move us to realize these beliefs for our school community, it goes further to “foster an inclusive and barrier-free environment in which everyone will fully benefit.” Adopting the policy was step one.

**Goal #2: Work with local police departments and school resource officers to ensure proper training around race/ equity.**

The SAU 21 Safety & Security Task Force will review the New Hampshire State Task Force work in order to align and take next steps to integrate equity training resources.

**Goal #3: Ensure a diverse and inclusive representation of minorities in K-12 curriculum.**

Action steps include developing a curriculum and text adoption process utilizing an equity lens, auditing current texts to ensure diverse representation and actively tracking curricular topics.

**Goal #4: Ensure robust and connected professional development opportunities for staff around race & equity.**

Professional development activities promoting equity are well underway in our schools. In addition, we are holding the annual SAU-wide social-emotional PD day for all staff on March 9<sup>th</sup>, that will have a focus on equity. Sessions will include facilitated activities with UNH and Keene State leaders in diversity education as well as keynote speakers on resilience and self-care.

**Goal #5: Promote and solicit community involvement in the representation of minorities and people of color with regard to school symbolism and communication.**

Initiated by Winnacunnet alumni and Winnacunnet faculty, the team will develop as strategic plan in order to involve the community regarding the representation of our symbolism and communication.

*Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends. – Maya Angelou*

Sincerely,

Caroline Arakelian  
Interim Superintendent of Schools  
[carakelian@sau21.org](mailto:carakelian@sau21.org)

2 Alumni Drive  
Hampton, NH 03842  
603-926-8992  
sau21.org

*Caroline P. Arakelian, Ph.D.*  
Interim Superintendent of  
Schools

*David T. Hobbs, Ed.D.*  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum, Instruction and  
Assessment

*Matthew C. Ferreira, M.S.Ed.*  
Business Administrator

*Serving the communities of:*  
Hampton Falls  
North Hampton  
Seabrook  
South Hampton  
Winnacunnet High School

## School Spotlight: Barnard School

It's my pleasure to share two updates from Barnard School this week, neither of which are COVID related (!). The first highlight is related to the Feb. 3rd School Board meeting, where Ms. Cestrone was able to share some of her work on Competency Based Assessment in science. She discussed the process of transitioning her rubrics to relate to specific competencies, giving students the freedom to demonstrate the same concepts in a variety of different ways (i.e. manipulatives, video, project-based). It was inspiring to see videos of students sharing their work with energy & excitement. The Board was also able to hear about some of the curricular, instructional, and assessment practices that South Hampton has been able to implement in a parallel process with other districts in the SAU. Kudos to principal Witt and the entire middle school team on that work.

Second (in case you missed the @barnardschool announcement on Twitter), Mrs. Casassa has been formally nominated as for New Hampshire Teacher of the Year. As a nominee, she'll be working through the selection process throughout the spring along with other nominees from throughout the state. While the nomination is an honor in itself, we'll continue to support our well-deserving candidate throughout the process.

- Dr. Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, & Instruction

## COVID-19 Guidance & Resources / Nurses' Corner

NEW VACCINE questionnaire <https://www.vaccines.nh.gov/> Answer the questions to determine when you can take the vaccine. If you have questions about COVID-19 you may now call 2-1-1 or visit <http://nh.gov/covid19>. COVID-19 specific call-takers are available Monday through Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 8am-5pm.

[COVID-19 Testing Sites: SAU 21 Towns](#): SAU 21 Nurses compiled this table that includes testing site information from Newburyport to Hampton to Stratham.

[NHDHHS COVID-19 Schools Dashboard](#): The Schools dashboard shows COVID-19 data for schools and their surrounding communities. Select a specific county using the map on the left. This selection will display county-level COVID-19 activity and cases in every school in the county.

[NHDOE/NHDHHS: What to expect if a student or staff member tests positive](#): Published by the New Hampshire Department of Education and also posted on [www.sau21.org](http://www.sau21.org)

## Previously Shared Information

The following information was shared in a previous communication to families. The information is still relevant for this week and month and has been updated where appropriate.

## Trimester 3 Transition

Part of our commitment to you has been to assess and evolve our instructional models as safety, staffing, and space permit. In anticipation of Trimester 3, which begins for our K-8 students on Monday, March 22, 2021, we will begin looking at both remote and in-person enrollment throughout all of our districts to ensure the most robust programming possible. Specifically, we will be looking at the number of students returning from the Remote Learning Academy (RLA) and other Virtual Learning structures with an eye for capacity and staffing.

If you intend to continue the same instructional model (i.e. remote, in-person) for Trimester 3, you do not need to contact us. However, if you would like to request a change (i.e. move from remote to in-person learning) as a commitment for Trimester 3, please read the attached letter & contact us by Friday, February 19th.

Based on the enrollment projections for Trimester 3, we will be able to offer a concrete picture of the in-person model in each one of our districts, or determine what (if any) structural changes are needed. We will solidify these data in February with the intent to make any needed changes in March.

We appreciate your continued support as we evolve our models to support all students.

- Dr. Hobbs, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, & Instruction

## SAU 21 Updates & Notices

In the case of **inclement weather**, all SAU 21 Districts will either have a remote learning day or be closed for the day.

Remote Learning Day: All staff and students will work remotely during a remote learning day. This day counts as a school day and will not have to be made up at the end of the year. Schools/grades that are currently remote will adhere to the same schedule. Schools that are in-person (full or hybrid) may have an augmented schedule (published by your building principal).

Closed: Families and staff will receive a message regarding a school being “closed” meaning no students are attending virtually or in person. These days are reserved for substantial power outages across our region. These days will resemble the “snow days of the past” and will need to be made up at the end of year.

### SAU 21 Board/Budget Committee Meetings Visit [SAU21.org](http://SAU21.org) for Zoom links or location information.

#### February 2021

2021-02-17 (Wed)	Winnacunnet School Board Meeting — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
2021-02-15 to 19 (Mon-Fri)	Barnard School, South Hampton - Winter Break - No School
2021-02-22 to 26 (Mon-Fri)	Winter Break - No School - Lincoln Akerman School, Seabrook Schools, North Hampton School, Winnacunnet HS

#### March 2021

2021-03-01 (Mon)	SAU21 Permanent Superintendent Search Committee - 6:00 - 8:00 pm
2021-03-04 (Thu)	South Hampton School Board Meeting — 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm North Hampton School Board Meeting— 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
2021-03-08 (Mon)	SAU21 Permanent Superintendent Search Committee— 6:00 - 8:00 pm
2021-03-09 (Tue)	No School - Town Voting Day - Teacher PD Day
2021-03-11 (Thu)	Operations Committee — 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
2021-03-15 (Mon)	SAU21 Permanent Superintendent Search Committee — 6:00 - 8:00 pm
2021-03-16 (Tue)	Seabrook School Board Meeting — 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Hampton Falls School Board Meeting — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
2021-03-17 (Wed)	No School - Teacher PD Day Winnacunnet School Board Meeting — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
2021-03-22 (Mon)	SAU21 Permanent Superintendent Search Committee — 6:00 - 8:00 pm
2021-03-23 (Tue)	SAU21 Joint Board Meeting — 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
2021-03-29 (Mon)	SAU21 Permanent Superintendent Search Committee — 6:00 - 8:00 pm

## We are hiring!

SAU 21 is a great place to work and an equal opportunity employer. Please check out our website, [sau21.org](http://sau21.org) for current employment opportunities.

We currently have openings for:

- Teaching position for the 21-22 school year
- Facilities positions at various schools including a facilities manager position, a night custodian position and two part-time positions
- Substitute positions including school nurse substitutes
- Educational Associates for our Special education program

If interested, please apply at: <https://www.applitrack.com/sau21/onlineapp/default.aspx>

## Supports for Parents & Caregivers

February **Repeat Zoom Series for Parents and Caregivers** - Offered by the Center for Trauma Practice Change. Sessions are FREE and offered on Mondays and Thursdays in February 2021 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The goal of this series is to provide you with the confidence and knowledge you need to create reflective practice within your own home to support growth for your children of any age.

February 2021

- Session 1: Understanding Fear, Anxiety and Upset: The Neurobiology of Stress – February 1 or 4
- Session 2: You are Enough! The Key Role of the Parental Relationship in Developing a Resilient Child – February 8 or 11
- Session 3: Helping Your Child's Growth: It's all about Safety and Regulation - February 15 or 18
- Session 4: Your Family Can Survive Anything: How the Use of Story & Holding Hope Help Us Overcome – February 22 or 25

[Registration link for all sessions: Parent/Caregiver Education Series - Supporting Your Child Amid Crisis Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

## Meal Distribution Information

### SAU 21 Meal Distribution during COVID-19

Meals continue to be free for all students in buildings and learning remotely in 2021. We encourage full participation in our meal distribution program to any/all families regardless of free/reduced lunch eligibility.

#### Pick up

- **Meal Pick up** time is at least during **9:00am-10:00am** at **LAS, NHS, Seabrook, and WHS**.
- **Pickup will be provided Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays** unless otherwise noted for holidays.
- Parents/guardians from all five SAU 21 districts may **pick up at any location** for any of their children.

#### Delivery

- **Delivery will be provided Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays** unless otherwise noted for holidays.

- [Click here to view the bus routes.](#) Please check back frequently as stops and routes are subject to change. Please allow for a 3-5 minute range before and after the posted bus stop time. Buses will beep upon arrival to bus stops.
- Click here to access: [Family Food Resource List – Other Resources](#) (As posted on the [SAU 21 Meals Program Page.](#))

If you have any questions regarding receiving meals, please contact your Principal, Nutrition Director, or School Counselor/Social Worker.