

September 29, 2020

Greetings Main Dunstable Families,

For those who may not know, the last day we saw our students in classrooms at Main Dunstable was Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, March 2020. We had a foreboding sense of what was to come but, on that day, I certainly didn't anticipate the hallways would still be empty six months later. These have been difficult times. I do not know one person who hasn't been negatively affected by this pandemic. I have spoken to so many of you who have been impacted by the illness and/or loss of a loved one, financial uncertainty, or concern for your children's physical, academic and emotional well-being. I behold great empathy and admiration for you all. Raising children during this time takes incredible strength. I think back to what school life was like pre-COVID and know that those "carefree" days will return. School procedures and protocols may not be exactly as they were but the joy that children bring to the classroom and that staff can bring them will resume. As you know, we are in the emergent stages of that process. The Superintendent has informed you of the following timeline for return:

\*Oct. 5 – Hybrid in-person begins for many students with special education needs

\*Oct. 19- Hybrid in-person begins for Kindergarten

\*Nov. 2- Hybrid in-person begins for First Grade

*\*Please note:*

*-NO SCHOOL for anyone Oct. 12 due to Columbus Day*

*-NO In-Person school Nov. 3 for anyone due to election day-This will be a remote learning day for ALL*

As we welcome students back in hybrid cohorts, I would like to call your attention to important information and procedural items to facilitate the safe return of our students. A more thorough overview of the Nashua School District reopening plan and associated documents can be found on the district website under the Covid-19 tab. Below please find some of the more salient points that I wish to highlight regarding essential health practices and our **NEW DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES**. It is important that everyone read the **entirety** of this email as there are several significant changes to procedures from previous years.

- **District Calendar:** To reference the revised 2020-2021 school year calendar, [click here](#).
- **School Nurse:** Should you have any questions regarding health procedures and protocols, please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Lindsey Anderson by email [andersonl@nashua.edu](mailto:andersonl@nashua.edu) or telephone (966-2325). Her [virtual nurse's office](#) is rich with information so you may wish to start there. I also recommend you take the time to read [Things to Know Before Returning to School](#) and watch the video clips previously sent from Dr. Mosely on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Daily Screening:** Parents/guardians are instructed to daily screen their children for symptoms of Covid-19 or risk factors before allowing the child to travel to school. Students who present with any of these new and unexplained symptoms during school will be sent home immediately.
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
- **Travel Requirement:** Individuals must self-quarantine for 14 days from last day of travel if one has been outside of New England, even if (s)he produces a negative Covid-19 test result.
- **Positive Covid-19 Steps:** [5 Steps to Expect if Student or Staff Member tests positive for COVID-19](#)
- **Masks:** Masks will be worn by all staff and students throughout the day and while on the school bus. They should cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly. *Masks with exhale valves, gaiters, buffs and*

*bandanas are not acceptable.* Mask breaks will be short and frequent and removed for eating and outside play. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school building. Please send your child to school each day with his/her own mask.

- **Provisions IN the building:**
  - **Social Distancing:** We have signage and markings to assist students to remember social distancing. We understand this will be a very difficult concept for our youngest of children and will do our best to support them in this practice. One-way traffic in the hallway will be used when possible.
  - **Student Belongings:** Students will be allowed to bring backpacks, lunches, snacks and water bottles as well as their schoolwork and materials, as necessary. Classroom materials will be stored per student rather than in communal bins.
  - **Illness:** A separate space will be designated for anyone showing symptoms associated with COVID-19 and parents will need to come pick up their child immediately.
  - **Visitors:** No visitors or volunteers will be allowed in the school building at this time.
  - **Lunch:** Students will be eating lunches in their classrooms. School lunch is FREE for any students who wish to partake through Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. These will be delivered to the classrooms.
- **Playground:** We are so excited about the progress on our new playground! At this point, please be aware that ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS IN NASHUA REMAIN CLOSED. Also, know that students are not permitted to utilize recess equipment so we'll encourage walking and running with friends and other activities that Mr. Cardin is going to discuss with the kids.
- **Arrival Procedure:**
  - The lane closest to the school will be for BUSES ONLY.
  - The lane furthest from the school will be for CARS. Parents, please do not get out of your cars. Teach your child to exit the side of the vehicle facing the school and staff will take it from there.
  - As we are required to minimize the amount of people at the school's entrance, parents may not park in the lot and walk their children to the front of the school. Please utilize the car drop-off lane only.
  - The first 4 cars in the line may disembark. Staff will be there to assist.
  - Buses will only be permitted to unload one at a time to minimize the number of children in one area.
- **Dismissal Procedure: 3 OPTIONS: BE SURE TO INFORM YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER AS TO WHICH METHOD YOUR CHILD IS TO BE DISMISSED!**
  - OPTION 1: BUS
    - The lane closest to the school will be for BUSES ONLY. (*Cars will not be able to park and drive through this lane as has been done in previous years.*) Our larger buses drive around the back and will board from the back door of the gym. Our smaller buses will park in the lane closest to the school and students requiring this type of specialized transportation will board at this location.
  - OPTION 2: CAR PICK UP
    - The lane furthest from the school will be for cars. ALL CARS WILL NEED A SIGN WITH STUDENT'S NAME TO PICK UP STUDENTS. We will provide a sign for all students who have signed up for hybrid so keep it safe for use every time you are picking up your child at the day's end. A staff member will approach your vehicle to retrieve your sign, go inside to get your child who will be waiting in the hallway, and bring your child (and sign) out to you. Again, we request that parents stay IN their vehicles as staff guide children to your cars. *This will probably be a laborious process as we get started. We appreciate everyone's patience while we get our school community acclimated to this means of exiting our students in reduced numbers.* This is also the first year that Kindergarten will follow the same schedule as the rest of the school so we wish to ensure those little ones are shepherded with extra care.
    - As we are required to minimize the amount of people at the school's entrance, parents may not park in the lot and wait for their children at the front of the school.
  - OPTION 3: WALKERS

- For our students who walk home, parents need only to inform the teacher and those students will be allowed to exit the front door and walk on their own.
- **NO PARKING:** Parents will no longer be able to park along Whitford Rd and wait for their children. Everyone must use the car pickup lane.
- **Tardy/Early Dismissal:** Vehicles are no longer allowed to park in the two lanes in front of the school at any point during the school day. Parents must park in one of our lots to drop students off tardy, dismiss them early or to conduct any other type of school business. Please ring the bell and someone will come outside to assist you. Parents/visitors are not permitted inside Nashua Schools at this time. We request that parents do NOT call the school after 12:30PM to change a student's dismissal procedure.

My apologies for such a lengthy, detailed message but I want to communicate as fully as possible to ensure everyone understands our protocols to comply with CDC and district guidelines. Please know how grateful I am for the compassion and patience that the Main Dunstable parent community has extended to our staff as we navigate this change to our world, neighborhood, and school.

Be well.

Kelley Paradis, MDES Principal