

UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
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Dear Upper Deerfield Parents/Guardians:

We have developed a plan for the opening of school and will continue to provide as much information as soon as possible to assist you with planning your family schedules. It is important to note, the health and safety of our students and staff remains our priority and all guidelines of the CDC and Health Department have been instrumental in supporting our plan.

Our Governor has, at this point, stated schools must offer in-person instruction and a parent option to remain in a virtual setting. Many things have been considered in developing the on-site instructional programming schedule and the option that has been adopted is a four-day full day program for all who elect to attend on site with Friday as a remote day and a full five- day remote option. A form will be sent via email and posted on the website to return electronically **only if you are electing the remote only option. This form will be posted next week with a deadline to return.** Additional information will be provided to explain how to elect to change your option from remote to in-person or in-person to remote.

Please see below the schedule framework for this plan:

School Calendar

- The first two days of school, September 8 and September 9 will be remote for all as the electronic devices will be distributed to everyone and a schedule of times will be provided. The devices will be available at each building for the respective grade levels – Seabrook School would be pre-K to grade 2; Moore School would be grades 3 to 5; Woodruff School will be grades 6 to 8. In addition, instructions will be provided for you to log into the system and complete all forms electronically for submission as would be done the first two days of school. **Please note if you choose to use your own device at home, you would not need to pick up a device and a form will be provided to notify us of that as well.**
- Thursday, September 10 and Friday September 11 we will be open for on-site and remote instruction. This will be the only Friday we will be on site.
- Beginning Monday, September 14, we will begin the four day on-site with the Friday remote and all five-day remote.
- Please be prepared at any time for a closure and return to full remote instruction.

Learning Environment

We will start our school year in a hybrid learning environment, meaning instruction will occur for both those on-site and those in the remote setting. When students are at home, they will be learning in a synchronous setting by following the same periods and times as their classmates who are on-site. This will require students to login from home at specific times. The process for each class and level of interaction is in the development stages and information will be provided.

Student Attendance - On-site / Remote

Attendance will be taken via the login for remote students and on-site via the temperature checks each day upon arrival at school.

Student Arrival and Departure, School Day Structure

- The students will arrive between 7:40am and 8:00am and will take temperature checks as they enter the building. 8:00, with first period starting around 8:15.
- The students will have a regular class schedule as they would each year in their respective buildings.
- Lunch periods will be staggered to maintain social distancing for students.
- Our staff members will have dedicated 'Office Hours' each Friday during that remote day as they plan for the following week and provide answers to questions. This will enable students to contact their teachers while they are remote.
- All schools will use the same virtual formats for consistency and information about contacting teachers via the platforms will be provided.

Health and Safety (Masks/Social Distancing/Building Access/Transportation)

- While each classroom does not afford for social distancing of the six-foot recommendation, desks will be spaced apart and desk shields will be in place on each desk as well to provide additional safety measures. Depending on the number of students electing on site, there could be the opportunity for the six-foot social distancing that will be employed in the cafeteria for lunches.
- Per the order of Governor Murphy, each staff member, student, and everyone else in the buildings will be required to wear a mask at all times while on campus. Students will also need to wear a mask while on the school buses.
- Students will undergo a temperature check each day as they enter the building. In addition, we ask your support during this time to be available to pick up your child if the temperature is above the 100.4 degree mark.
- Another item of importance is if your child is not well, please do not send your child to school and notify us that your child is ill.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the building for anything other than 'emergent' reasons and will be **required to wear a mask at all times.**
- There will be barriers in the hallways of our schools for safety and limiting of contact. Schedules will be staggered to minimize hall traffic in all of our buildings.
- Additional lunch periods will be added in our buildings to reduce the number of students at lunch and to provide for social distancing.
- The CDC and County Health Department, as well as our Governor's guidance for schools continues to guide our planning. If the guidance changes, we will modify our plan to ensure that we remain in compliance with the most recent updates from the CDC in addition to the local and state health departments' and Governor's recommendations.
- With regard to transportation, we have received confirmation that the buses will be sanitized by our contractor and we ask that you be patient with the bus times as they may be delayed a few minutes for this safety measure. Transportation home on the buses should not be affected as other schools in our consortium have opted to have half-day schedules.
- More information will be provided regarding transportation as you may elect to transport your child and we will be changing our drop off points due to the daily temperature checks of the students.
- Hand sanitizers will be available and all cleaning protocols remain in compliance with CDC and health department recommendations. We are fortunate to have the machines we do in order to sanitize areas and will continue to do so. In addition, there are other safety protocols in place to minimize risk as much as possible.

All Remote Learning Option for Parents

- Parents now have an option to opt into an All- Remote Learning environment. As indicated previously, more information and a form will be provided to you if you select this option.

While this correspondence includes some basic information for you to initiate your family schedule planning, subsequent communication will include additional details that should provide some clarity. We are also going to be posting information on our website with links to guidance that may address many of your questions. There is no substitute for safety during this time and, as our survey indicated, the majority of our parents, approximately 70%, are extremely concerned of a re-opening of schools. We also had a good response with regard to returning whether it be full time or combination (approximately 70%). Any decision made on your part will have risk and we certainly understand the difficulty in the decision, but also respect whatever you decide as we are in uncharted territory and understand that safety for our students, staff, parents, and community is paramount.