

8/17/2020

**Mrs. O'Bryant's Desk-**  
**Newsletter #3**  
**2020-2021**

**SMS Tents are here!**



**Dear SMS Parents and Guardians,**

**Welcome to Camp SMS 2020-2021 school year!**

Thank you for filling out the Return to School Survey for each child to inform us of your choice for the "In Person" or the "Remote Learning Program" this school year. It is also critical for us to know whether a student will need bus transportation. If for some reason you have not filled out the survey please call South Meadow School at 924-7105 to give us this necessary information.

We are working with the survey information to create the Pods of students who will be in person or remote to start school. Please note that if you change your mind throughout the school year

you need to inform us of the change by the first of each month. It may take a few days to switch your child from one program to another . We need to adjust transportation and class size with each student change.

We are excited to have a plan to get our students back to school and offer an in person program. The tents will offer a different learning experience that will offer a safer environment with plenty of fresh air . We hope that the tents will offer more of a camp type experience for our students and staff. It will be important that students dress appropriately for different weather throughout the day from morning to afternoon.

Here are some of the highlights of the middle school model for reopening to school.

- Students will be assigned to a Pod of approximately 75 students grades 5-8.
- Class size will be approximately 15 students .
- Classes will be grade level classes except for Advisory which will be made up of two grade levels.
- Students who choose the remote option will be remoting into the classes they are assigned to at SMS.
- Each student will take four Core Classes and two Unified Arts classes
- Students will stay within their assigned pod at all times.
- There will be classes in tents throughout the day.
- Classrooms will have windows open for fresh air.
- There will be a separate entrance for each pod to limit students from being in groups coming in or leaving the building.
- No visitors are allowed in the building.
- All students and staff will be screened when they come in the morning.
- We ask all parents to screen their children and take temperatures each morning before they get on the bus.
- Students must wear masks throughout the day . Masks breaks will be given in each class.
- Computers will go to and from school every day. Chargers will stay at home to charge computers before coming to school each day.
- Advisory will be at the beginning of every day .
- The schedule is the same whether one is remote or in person.
- Attendance will be taken in every class.

School supplies for 2020-21- Here are some suggestions for school supplies this year which are different from any other year.

- Zippered binder that will hold the chromebooks .
- White lined paper for the binder
- Personal scissors (small)
- pencil sharpener

- Students will need their own pencil boxes with pens,erasers etc.. Students will not be able to share their supplies with other students.
- Hand sanitizer
- Sunscreen -non aerosol
- Warm clothes and shoes for outside activities each day. (Coat,gloves,boots,hats, sweatshirts.)
- We have individual whiteboards that students may use but some students may want their own personal whiteboard and markers to put their name on and keep in their backpack.
- Two water bottles so that they don't have to fill up bottles throughout the day.
- Multiple masks in a backpack each day.
- Backpacks to bring personal items each day.

#### Safety discussions:

Please have discussions about the safety expectations with your child at SMS.

- The purpose of the health screening each day before they get on the bus and when they enter the building.
- Purpose of wearing a mask
- Washing hands
- Hand sanitizer
- Social distancing 6ft.
- Pod groupings for contact tracing.
- Not sharing belongings with other students.

#### Important Dates:

- Sept. 8- First Day of School for Students
- Oct. 12- Columbus Day No School

#### **Traffic Patterns- Bus**

Students within a one mile radius will be considered as walkers.

Thank you to so many parents who have offered to drive students to school. This will be another way to mitigate the spread of the virus.

We will be working with the bus company to establish new traffic patterns for the drop off and pick up of students each day. We will send that out as soon as we have this in place.

#### **Grade 5 visit -**

We are planning a time for the grade 5 to come and visit the building the week of Sept. 1.

More information to follow.

**Chromebooks-**

We will be looking at a plan to have parents pick up the chromebooks when we are ready.

**The following is the NH state requirement for students entering 7th grade**

**Grades 7-12:** 1 dose of Tdap is required for entry into 7th grade. A Tdap vaccine given on or after the 7th birthday meets the Tdap requirement for Grade 7. This vaccine is required unless your child has a medical exemption or religious exemption on file at the school health office.

Please provide the school nurse with both a current vaccination record indicating the student received their Tdap vaccine and a copy of the student's most recent physical exam. These need to be submitted to the health office **by Tuesday, September 1, 2020.**

Note: The 2020 ACIP immunization schedule states that children age 7 through 9 years who receive Tdap or DTaP inadvertently or as part of a catchup series should receive the routine Tdap dose at 11–12 years

**Yearbooks:** If you haven't picked up your 2019-2020 SMS Yearbook they are in the office. Please call the office at 924-7105 to be sure that someone is available to meet you outside.

Principal O'Bryant

South Meadow School

924-7105

