



August 19, 2020

Dear Seaford High School Students & Families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! We are truly embarking on a new journey. This letter serves to help explain some of the changes for our reopening. More information will follow in a week or so on a number of things covered in our more traditional Welcome Back Packet.

**Split Schedule Plan.** In effort to create the proper conditions for us to reopen safely, while also getting all students into the building and connected with each other and their teachers/coaches/advisors every day, SHS will be on a split schedule making use of two groups, Group 1 and Group 2, that will each be in the building for half of each school day. Information about the groups, which will be broken up according to the alphabet, will come more specifically in about a week.

Under the plan, all students attend all classes and follow their full schedules each day. Part of the day will be for in-person instruction and part for remote instruction. As outlined in the board of education meeting, and which will be explained more fully separately, the groups will rotate coming in during the morning (AM Session) and the afternoon (PM Session). For example, if Group 1 is in the building for in-person instruction during the AM session, Group 2 will spend the AM session attending classes remotely via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Then, for the PM, Group 2 will come to the building and Group 1 will be “in” classes remotely.

\*Please note that it is not possible for us to grant requests to change groups.

\*\*As mentioned, more information will follow about our Split Schedule Plan in a separate letter.

\*\*\*[Click here](#) to view the bell schedule for the year that includes one-hour transition time between the AM and PM sessions. The start and end times remain the same.

**Student Schedules.** The various disruptions caused by the novel coronavirus have delayed the finalization of the school master schedule. Please know that all student schedules will be posted to the Portal at the end of the day on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. As was mentioned in an earlier communication, if there are questions about summer assignments, students should be aware that all AP course requests will be filled. Students should do all assignments for AP courses they requested in the spring.

**Schedule Consult Days.** Following posting of schedules, we will have our traditional schedule consult days where students can meet with guidance counselors to request “academically sound” alterations to their program. Those days will take place on August 31 for seniors and September 1 for juniors and sophomores. Freshmen do not have consult days as their programs are fully set at this

point. (Note that for a request to be academically sound, it must advance a student's academic experience by adding challenge or the like. Other changes cannot be entertained.)

Please know you will get further information from the Guidance Office about making consult appointments, which will take place via Zoom videoconferencing.

For ease, you can [click here](#) for a link to the Guidance Department webpage.

**Arrival and Dismissal Procedures.** As is true for all public schools statewide, upon arrival each day, all students and faculty/staff will quickly be screened for temperature (any reading 100.0' Fahrenheit or greater cannot remain in school), have to submit health screening survey information (prior to leaving home each day, parents/guardians will check their child(ren)'s temperature and certify that student is not ill), and be wearing masks. More information will follow about the health screenings, but please know we will be using a digital platform that all students can access through their phones using a QR code app. Paper "tickets" will also be available for those who need it.

**Entry/Exit Points.** In order to create safe entry, we will use three entrances to start the year with students assigned to an entrance based upon how they come to school. See the following:

- All students who arrive by bus will enter at the gymnasium doors just passed the Renaissance doors.
- Seniors (along with their siblings) who drive to school and park in the school lot and all students who walk to school enter through the Renaissance doors.
- Those who get dropped off by car will enter along Seaman's Neck Road through the front (auditorium) doors.

This will allow for the quickest entry while also keeping everyone safe. Once inside, as will be discussed during student orientation meetings, all students will go directly to classrooms. We will not be using lockers to start the year and cannot congregate in hallways.

At dismissal, students will exit school using the same designated doors.

**Week of September 8<sup>th</sup>.** In order to ensure the safety of our students and faculty/staff, as well as go over and monitor our new procedures, there will be a staggered start during the first week of school. The schedule is as follows for all students whether participating in In-School or Remote Learning instruction.

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Orientation Day 1  
AM Session for Group 1 in building  
PM Session for Group 2 in building  
(All groups please bring laptops and masks.)

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Orientation Day 2  
AM Session for Group 2 in building  
PM Session for Group 1 in building

(All groups please bring laptops and masks.)

Thursday, September 10, 2020

First Day of Full Classes (A Day) -  
A1 Day with Group 1 in building for  
live instruction during AM Session  
and Group 2 in building during PM  
Session

(All groups please bring laptops and  
masks.)

Friday, September 11, 2020

Second Day of Full Classes (A Day) -  
A2 Day with Group 2 in building for  
live instruction during AM Session  
and Group 1 in building during PM  
Session

(All groups please bring laptops and  
masks.)

Those students who opt for fully Remote Learning will participate by digital means according to their assigned groups.

More information about the orientation days will follow in the coming days with the details of the Split Schedule program.

*\*\*Note that on these days, students enter the school at the areas designated above in *Arrival and Dismissal Procedures*.*

**Classroom Instruction.** As mentioned, all students will follow their full schedules throughout each day, whether in the building for live instruction, or on remote instruction. While in the building, students will sit at individual desks that will be spaced apart and make use of plastic desk barriers (each student will get one during the first two days of orientation). Because no lockers will be used to start the year, students will keep all materials with them throughout the day.

As students enter classrooms, they will be asked to sanitize hands and then quickly wipe down their assigned desk. Students will wear masks in classrooms. Mask breaks will occur as needed.

**Technology.** All SHS students will have district issued laptops for 2020-21. Teachers will be using the Microsoft Teams platform to lead classes. It is important that all students understand the Board of Education Policy on Student Etiquette during remote instruction prior to the year beginning. To view the general guidelines sent during the spring, [click here](#).

**Lunch.** To begin the year, for safety purposes, students will not eat lunch while in school. Students should eat during the transition period between the AM and PM sessions.

Note that our traditional lunch periods will now be used for Study Breaks and be included in student schedules. This will allow us to provide students with time to work on assignments and projects, while also enabling us to return to a traditional schedule should conditions progress later in the year to allow for in-building eating.

More information will follow for students who will pick up pre-ordered lunches from Aramark, the food service vendor.

**Hand Hygiene.** As mentioned, students will be asked to sanitize their hands when they enter classrooms. There will also be sanitizing stations around the building should students want to sanitize while traveling between classes. Note that all dispensers are safety approved. Students will also be asked to wipe down desks and learning areas upon arriving in classrooms.

**Visitors.** All visitors to SHS must be with prior notice, unless with exceptional circumstances. This includes parents/guardians and other persons. If a visitor needs to enter the building, a COVID-19 Health Questionnaire needs to be completed prior to entry (QR codes are available outside of each building.) To begin the year, please note all parent/family meetings will be held digitally to ensure greatest safety.

**PTSA.** We have worked very closely with the PTSA this summer, and will continue to stay in touch during the school year. Should you have any questions or concerns, reaching out to the PTSA leadership is always a good way to get information.

**In Conclusion.** We know there are many changes this school year as we follow the New York State and Health Department requirements for the reopening of schools. It is important to remember that we are all in this together! All faculty and staff are excited to greet you during the week of September 8<sup>th</sup> and welcome you back, whether it is in person or remotely. For more detailed information regarding the reopening plan, please see the *Reopening School Plans* on the High School website under Quick Links.

Please know we are planning to hold Back-to-School Night in digital fashion. More information about our program will follow in the next few weeks.

We look forward to a good start to the school year. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Go Vikings!

Sincerely,

Mr. Bersin

Ms. Bisulca

Ms. Schnabel