



Shutesbury Elementary School

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August 9, 2020

Dear SES Families,

We hope this email finds you all healthy and that you have been able to enjoy the outdoors this summer!

On August 5th, the Shutesbury School Committee approved a plan for our fall return to school. Shutesbury Elementary School students will begin school on Wednesday, September 16th, 2020. They will participate in 8 weeks of remote learning. The School Committee will meet before the week of November 9th, 2020, and determine if it is safe for students to return to school in a hybrid option. If the School Committee determines it is not safe to return to in-person learning, remote learning will continue. However, if it is determined by the Committee that it is safe, students would return to school in an alternating small cohort model. This would not happen before November 11th. If students are returning to school at that point, they would remain in "pods" of no more than 10 students with a physical distance of six (6) feet. Masks will be required for all students. Specifics about the alternating cohorts model can be found within the document located [HERE](#).

Now that we have a sense of what our Fall model will look like, we can finally spend the required time really training and planning for that time. The Leadership Team is in the initial stages of collaborating on a letter and packet of information to families for what they can expect for the next year. Remote learning will be completely different than in the spring. All students will be provided a device from school. Students will attend virtual face-to-face classes with the teacher as well as work in workbooks (provided to you) , projects and notebooks. Students will have specials and get an opportunity to connect daily as a classroom community. The remote learning plan will be highly organized, predictable and accessible. Families and students will receive training on devices and learning platforms. Staff will be available to assist students and families with questions and concerns, extra help and tutoring.

Preschool will be limited to 4 year olds this school year. They will also be remote for the first 8 weeks. If a hybrid plan is then in place they will have a half day program that will dismiss before lunch. More information around preschool will be available soon.

We are fully aware that this is hard and complicated for everyone. These decisions were not easy and were truly made putting the health and safety of the students and staff at SES first. We understand that this is a hardship for some families and that there are still many concerns and unanswered questions. We promise to communicate and offer more Town Hall sessions in the weeks to come to ensure a stellar remote experience in the first 8 weeks.

More communication will follow soon.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent

Jackie Mendonsa, Principal