



August 19, 2020

Greetings, Stratford High School Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! As we plan for a beginning like no other we have seen in the past, we have remained unwavering in our commitment to two critical priorities:

- Protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff;
- Upholding the mission of our school district to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, character, and 21st century skills to succeed through high-quality learning experiences and community partnerships within a culture of diversity and respect.

Thus, we are pleased to share with you the following plans for Fall 2020 at both Bunnell and Stratford High School. These plans build layers of safety for our students, faculty, and staff members, offering the most-effective approach for reducing risk to our school community.

- Student capacity will be reduced by 50 percent to support social distancing utilizing the hybrid model that rotates between in-person instruction and distance learning.
- **Cohort A** - Students whose last names are A-L will attend in-person classes on Monday (Periods 1, 3, 5, 7) and Tuesday (Periods 2, 4, 6, 8). These students will then attend and participate in distance learning on Thursday (Periods 1, 3, 5, 7) and Friday (Periods 2, 4, 6, 8). Classes will be approximately 80 min long. All students will attend and participate in online learning on Wednesday (Periods 1-8).
- **Cohort B** - Students whose last names are M-Z will attend in-person classes on Thursday (Periods 1, 3, 5, 7) and Friday (Periods 2, 4, 6, 8). These students will then attend and participate in distance learning on Monday (Periods 1, 3, 5, 7) and Tuesday (Periods 2, 4, 6, 8). Classes will be approximately 80 min long. All students will attend and participate in online learning on Wednesday (Periods 1-8).
- **Distance Learning Students** - Those students who have opted for full time distance learning are expected to log in and participate in online learning at regularly scheduled class times Monday through Friday.
- **Daily Schedule** - The daily schedule approved for both high schools is below.

	Cohort A (A-L)	Cohort A (A-L)	Distance Learning - All Students 7:30 am - 2:00 pm	Cohort B (M-Z)	Cohort B (M-Z)
7:30-8:49	1	2	Periods 1-8	1	2
8:53-10:11	3	4		3	4
10:15-11:53 Lunch: 10:15-10:35 10:41-11:01 11:07-11:27 11:33-11:53	5	6		5	6
11:57-1:15	7	8		7	8

Please note: Both high schools will dismiss at 1:15 PM

Preventative Safety Measures:

- **Social Distancing** - Students and staff members will maintain 6 ft of social distance in hallways and throughout campus.
- **Face Masks** - High school students must wear face masks at all times. Each student will be given two face masks by the Board of Education.
 - Exceptions will be allowed only for students when eating or drinking water.
 - Students who are non-compliant will be reassigned to distance learning.
- **Hygiene Guidelines** - Students and staff will practice all Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for hand-washing, coughing, etc., at all times.

Classroom Safety Measures:

- **Classroom Redesign** - Forward-facing student tables will remain and each student will be 6 feet apart in every classroom. Students will keep classroom furniture in place and sit one per table.

- **Classroom Sanitizing** - Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be available in every classroom. Students and staff will use hand sanitizer upon entry to and exit from every classroom, and students will use wipes to sanitize their desk and chair upon entry into each classroom.
- **Repurposed Learning Areas** - The Library Media Center (LMC) will be closed to students at this time. The library media specialist (LMS) will respond to individual student requests and classroom technology support by visiting classrooms and meeting with students in their classrooms.
 - The LMC, auditorium, and lecture hall have been temporarily repurposed as additional space to provide more socially-distanced options and spaces to be used, as needed.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols:

- Our custodial staff will continue working closely with the Director of Building Maintenance to ensure that daily and overnight cleaning and sanitizing standards are sustained and met. The school building will be closed to students and staff on Wednesday's to allow for deep cleaning between cohort attendance.

Facility Updates and Protocols:

- **Bathroom Access and Sanitation** - Only one student at a time will be granted access to the school bathrooms. Bathrooms will be closed during passing times. Each hallway or department will be assigned to a male/female bathroom throughout the building. Teachers will utilize an electronic sign out system to ensure each student's private and safe access to bathrooms. Additional custodians will be hired to sanitize every bathroom at least once per period.
- **Hallways and Staircases** - Most corridors and all stairwells will now be one way to better ensure social distancing. Floor markings will guide students and staff to follow designated directionals.
- **Passing Times** - With just four classes each day, students will only travel to classes en masse three times during the day. Students will be expected to travel directly from one class location to the next using social distancing and following corridor and stairway directional.

Information for Students:

- **Arrival To/Dismissal From School** - The school building will not open to students until 7:20 am each morning. Upon entering the building, every student will report directly to his/her first class and remain in that classroom. Specific dismissal protocols will be shared with students and parents the first week in September.
- **Grab and Go Meals** - Food service will begin on Monday, September 14th. Breakfast kiosks will be located at each point of entry from 7:20 to 7:30. Lunch menus will be pre-published, and students will pre-order "grab and go" selections prior to their two-day school attendance. Note: the cafeteria will offer no a la carte items or "double lunches" to start the school year.

- **Cashless Meal Service** - It is important that students maintain positive balances on their school cafeteria account to support a cashless point of service at the breakfast kiosks and for school lunches.
- **Water Bottles** - Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school. Access to the drinking fountains will be restricted, but students will be able to access the “fill” option of the school water fountains.
- **No Lockers** - Students will only be permitted to carry a small Satchel or “Cinch Sack” with them in the building. Large, traditional backpacks are discouraged at this time.

Academics and Attendance:

- Chromebooks - Students will be provided with chromebooks to support both in-person classes as well as distance learning.
- The Stratford BOE Attendance Policy will take effect on Monday, September 14th.
 - **Students who have opted for full-time Distance Learning are expected to log in to their regular classes each day at the scheduled class times.**
 - Students whose cohort is Distance Learning (Cohort B on Monday and Tuesday; Cohort A on Thursday and Friday) are expected to log in for their regular classes, as well.
 - Student attendance will be maintained, as usual, in PowerSchool.
- Electronic Instructional Materials - Teachers will be maximizing Google Classroom and the Google Suite for both in-person and distance learning. We will utilize electronic instructional materials in lieu of hard copy submissions and issuing traditional textbooks.

School Guidance Services:

- All Parent Conferences, PPTs, and 504 Meetings will be conducted virtually.
- College Visits will be provided for seniors virtually and facilitated by the school counselors

Extra-Curricular Activities:

- Students and staff are encouraged to maintain participation in extracurricular clubs and activities; however, advisors are encouraged to facilitate and support virtual meetings to the extent possible. When in-person meetings are essential, all participants must maintain social distancing standards.

Athletics:

- The athletic directors continue to work closely with CIAC administration, SWC athletic directors, and the Stratford Health Department and our district nurses to develop and communicate safety standards for coaches, athletes, and specific teams that support our students’ participation in interscholastic sports. Mr. Thrall (BHS) and Mr. DeAngelo (SHS) and individual coaches will maintain communication with student-athletes and parents throughout each of the upcoming sports seasons.

Visitors:

- Visitors will be restricted to ensure that exposure risks are minimized.
- Students who require early dismissal will be escorted from the building by one of the SHS security guards, school nurse, or an administrator.

Distance Learning “Opt Out” Information:

- Parents who wish to opt for Distance Learning 5 days/week for their student(s) should email the school principal.

Safety Drills:

- School administrators will work in tandem with the building SRO and Stratford Fire Department officials to continue and maintain safety drills (fire drills and lockdown drills) in a manner that maintains social distancing while ensuring adequate practice and execution.

September Calendar:

Friday, August 28th - 11AM Grade 9 Students	Freshmen Orientation Hosted by LINK Crew This is a Virtual Event
Friday, August 28th - 11AM Grade 9 Parents	Release of Video Link for Freshman Parent Orientation Hosted by Administration and School Counselors
Wednesday, September 9th Early Dismissal 11:15 AM	First Day of School for Cohort A *Students in Cohort B do not have to log in **Schedule will be Periods 1-8 to allow students to meet each of their teachers
Thursday, September 10th	Deep Cleaning Day - Building Closed No Distance Learning
Friday, September 11th Early Dismissal 11:15 AM	First Day of School for Cohort B *Students in Cohort A do not have to log in **Schedule will be Periods 1-8 to allow students to meet each of their teachers
Monday, September 14th - Friday, September 18th	First Week of Classes - Hybrid Model Cohort A (Last Name A-L) in school Mon/Tues Cohort B (Last Name M-Z) in school Thurs/Fri

In closing, as we all adapt to our “new normal” and prepare for the possible unknowns that lie ahead, we will continue to take a thoughtful approach to all problem-solving and concerns.

We are looking forward to safely being on campus in September and will continue to update you in the weeks ahead. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support.
Be well, stay strong, Stratford Strong.

Sincerely,

Jack Dellapiano
Principal, Stratford High School

Nancy C. Dowling, Ed.D.
Principal, Bunnell High School