



Southbridge Public Schools

132 Torrey Road, Southbridge MA 01550

Telephone: (508) 764-5450

September 25, 2020

Dear Families,

As we settle into the school year and the second week of classes, students and families are establishing new routines for in-person, hybrid, or remote learning. If questions or issues arise about any aspect of school, you have a variety of ways to find support. The [homepage of our website](#) has contact information for our technology help desk and regular updates for families. You can also find useful information on our [Remote Learning Academy page](#), including a notice about our policy on recording virtual classes. Southbridge High School families will also find the open office hours of our Culture and Climate team for remote learners on the Remote Learning Academy page. This team includes guidance counselors, school adjustment counselors, the family liaison, and others who can help you with any issue that may arise.

The 21st Century after school program continued to offer enrichment programming for students this past summer, in spite of the challenging circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our 21st Century programming provides students with enrichment opportunities that enhance and build on the academic and social emotional learning that takes place in the classroom.

The district will continue to offer the 21st Century after school program this fall for remote, hybrid, and in-person students. The deadline to register for fall after school programs is Monday, September 28 and you can find a link to the registration on the homepage of our website, along with more information about the fall session. Please reach out to Jasmine Rivas at jrivas@southbridgepublic.org with any questions.

If we need to make any changes to the school year calendar due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, you will find the most recent version of the calendar on our website. The ["calendar" page](#) of our website will indicate the date of the most recent version of the calendar. If you have copies of previous versions, you can determine which is the most updated version by looking at the bottom right corner of the calendar for a date. At this time, the current version has "Updated 9/16/20" in small type on the lower right corner. I know that there have been several changes to the calendar as we prepared to open school this year. I am sorry for the confusion and inconvenience these changes have caused. Unfortunately, there have been many necessary revisions, but I believe that at this time the calendar is set for the rest of the school year.

Aspen Family Portal

We will continue to provide you with updated information throughout the school year. It is important that every family has access to the ASPEN Family Portal. The district will use this system to send report cards and other information. If you do not have access to the portal you can contact help@southbridgepublic.org or [ayuda@southbridgepublic.org](mailto/ayuda@southbridgepublic.org) to get information on how to use the system. You will also find announcements on our website, on

our official social media accounts, and through other communication channels such as email and phone calls. If you would like to update your contact information or confirm that we have the correct email address and phone number for your family, you can write to help@southbridgepublic.org or ayuda@southbridgepublic.org. You can also call or text (774) 601-0082 with updates to your contact information. For questions about your student's schedule, please contact the school directly.

As always, we remain committed to providing students in Southbridge with rich opportunities for learning under any circumstances. As we adapt to the changes in the learning environment necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, I thank you for your continued patience and adaptability under unusual circumstances.

Regards,

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.
Receiver/Superintendent
Southbridge Public Schools