



Southbridge Public Schools

132 Torrey Road, Southbridge MA 01550

Telephone: (508) 764-5450

August 28, 2020

Dear Families,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I know you have a lot of questions about the changes to the school day, access to technology, safety measures, and more. District staff from all schools continue to reach out to families and we welcome your questions about the start of the 2020 - 2021 school year. There are several ways you can get information and updates. Each school has an upcoming virtual open house event for families. The dates and times for these open house events are available on the homepage of our website, along with a link to login information to access the meetings.

We have had a high level of attendance and engagement at our first virtual open house and at recent public meetings. We hope that these forums help to answer your questions as we transition into a new school year influenced by the unprecedented change brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our most frequent questions from parents include how to log into the Aspen Family Portal and how to select our Remote Learning Academy for a student.

If you have not logged into the Aspen Family Portal and you do not know your username and initial password, please contact your student's school. They will provide you with this information. Families have also asked how to enroll in our Remote Learning Academy. To select this remote learning option for your child, please contact your child's school. They will ask you a few questions and make note of your choice. The phone numbers for each school are as follows:

Eastford Road School - (508) 764-5460
Charlton Street School - (508) 764-5475
West Street School - (508) 764-5470
Southbridge Middle School - (508) 764-5450
Southbridge High School - (508) 764-5450
Southbridge Academy - (508) 764-5415, ext. 103

We encourage you to attend the upcoming virtual open house for your student's school. You will find the date and time of these meetings and a link to join the virtual meeting on our website. For many other questions, you can contact help@southbridgepublic.org or ayuda@southbridgepublic.org. We also encourage you to check our website and our official Facebook page for updated information.

Each week, the State of Massachusetts releases data to classify the rate of COVID-19 cases in each town. The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report map is updated by the end of the day on Wednesdays by the Department of Public Health and can be found at this link: [COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report](#). This report provides color-coded ratings for towns based on the rate of new cases over the past two weeks. The color coded map that was released this week indicated that Southbridge was still in the "Green" category, and with an

average daily incidence rate level with the previous report. By this metric, Southbridge Public Schools remains safe for in-person, hybrid, and remote models of instruction.

For families choosing to enroll in our Remote Learning Academy, it is important that you let us know now if you choose the Remote Learning Academy now, so that we have the correct information for buses, classroom layout, Chromebook assignments, and more. As we plan for the upcoming school year, we require an accurate number of students who will be attending in-person versus remotely so that we can adhere to all safety regulations and have a successful year.

As I have mentioned previously, planning for the upcoming school year is a complex task due to the uncertain nature of the Covid-19 pandemic. To focus our efforts, we continue to follow two simple **guiding principles**: 1) We will develop a plan that is safe for our students and for all of our staff members and 2) We will deliver the highest quality educational experience for students possible. The health and safety of our learning community comes first in all decisions related to reopening.

Family Welcome Center

If you need to register a student who is new to the district, including incoming kindergarten students, you can still do so through the Family Welcome Center at 25 Cole Avenue. When you arrive, call (508) 764-5414 ext. 405 and provide your name and phone number. You will be directed to wait in your car until you receive a call to come into the building. Only one parent or guardian should enter. Please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering. If you don't have a mask, one will be offered to you onsite. If you have children with you, a staff member will come to your car with the paperwork. For a full description of our enrollment process and the required documentation, please see [our website](#).

Communications About the Upcoming School Year

As a reminder, we are committed to providing you with updated information when it is available. You will 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.

We are committed to providing students in Southbridge with rich opportunities for learning under any circumstance. Thank you for your patience and hard work during this unusual time.

Regards,

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