

A Message from the Superintendent – July 12, 2021

Dear SEL School Community,

First, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the entire SEL School Community! This past year has been unlike any other. As educators we learned to “pivot on a dime”, however students, parents, and family members had to do it too, so THANK YOU for the patience, understanding and confidence you have shown during the 2020-2021 school year.

Announcements made by Governor DeWine regarding Health Orders require districts to review reopening plans. Our reopening plans for the 2021-2022 school year include in-person instruction for students five days a week. I have maintained from the beginning that in-person, face-to-face, instruction is the best instruction. While we will continue to honor prevailing Health Orders, based on what we are witnessing around the state in this current school year, we expect to welcome all students back to in-school instruction in August. However, for our planning purposes, please email Ms. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent ([thompsonm@sel.k12.oh.us](mailto:thompsonm@sel.k12.oh.us)) if you have concerns with a return to in-school instruction in August for your children; we care and want to hear from you.

**SCHOOL SCHEDULES**

Students first day of school is Thursday, August 19, 2021. Although we are returning to a five-day a week school schedule, we will be instituting an Early Release Schedule on Wednesdays. The past 15-months have brought many challenges and we must collectively work together to close learning gaps and accelerate learning through careful planning. Time is a critical factor, and in order to accelerate learning for students we must do it sooner rather than later. Our teaching staff needs common time for collaboration to review data in real time to ensure that instructional practices and support for students closes any learning gaps. The chart below provides school start and end times for the 2021-2022 school year. It also provides a schedule for the Early Release Day on Wednesdays. **Your child’s building principal will be sending more detailed information.** Below are a few notes until then:

- The start of the school day on Wednesdays will remain the same as the other days of the school week.
- For those that qualify, transportation will be provided on Wednesdays at dismissal time. The adjusted drop off time for Wednesday will be provided at a later date.
- Breakfast and lunch will be FREE to ALL students for the entire 2021-2022 school year under the USDA federal extension.
- The Right at School childcare programs at our elementary buildings will be in operation.

K-3 Staff Day: 8:05-4:05	4-6 Staff Day: 7:00-3:00	7-8 Staff Day: 7:30-3:30	9-12 Staff Day: 7:15-3:15
-Student Arrival 8:15-8:30 -Instruction Begins: 8:30 -Instruction Ends: 3:30	-Student Arrival 7:15-7:30 -Instruction Begins: 7:30 -Instruction Ends:-2:21	-Student Arrival: 7:45 - 8:07 -Instruction Begins: 8:07 -Instruction Ends: 2:57	-Student Arrival: 7:35 - 7:45 -Instruction Begins: 7:45 -Instruction Ends: 3:12
<b><u>Early Release Wednesday</u></b> Instruction Ends: 2:15	<b><u>Early Release Wednesday</u></b> Instruction Ends: 1:15	<b><u>Early Release Wednesday</u></b> Instruction Ends: 1:45	<b><u>Early Release Wednesday</u></b> Instruction Ends: 1:30

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Due to COVID and health and safety guidelines our district was forced to change the district's transportation policy for the 2020-2021 school year. Over time those guidelines have changed. Although we will continue to follow all current health and safety guidelines for the upcoming school year as referenced above, I am pleased to announce the Board of Education has approved a return to the transportation policy we had prior to COVID. Below are highlights of the policy:

- Kindergarten through third (3<sup>rd</sup>) grade who reside one (1) mile and beyond the school of their assignment.
- Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) through sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade who reside one and a half (1.5) miles and beyond the school of their assignment.
- Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) through eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade who reside two (2) miles and beyond the school of their assignment.

For families who qualify for transportation, notices will be sent the first week of August.

## **FACE COVERING POLICY 8450.01**

At the time of this communication, the CDC is still recommending that **masks be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated and in general, people do not need to wear masks outdoors. However, the CDC is still applying an order that was issued on January 29, 2021, requiring the wearing of masks on public transportation conveyances or on the premises of transportation hubs. This order applies to school busses, which means that regardless of the mask policy for a school district, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.**

Board Policy 8450.01 is currently being amended to allow the Superintendent to review and adjust face covering procedures in consultation with local health officials. The one thing I have learned over the past 15-months is that orders and guidelines can change quickly. Before setting mandates and procedures for the upcoming school year I want to wait and see if any orders change. I will be sending an update to staff and families on our procedures with mask requirements for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year during the first week of August.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Your child's principal will send updated information to families later this month.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda N. Reid  
Superintendent