



## Shaker Road School 2020-2021 School Year Plan

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### Introduction

Shaker Road School enters its forty-second year during a global pandemic. Despite the uncertainties before us, we are excited to have students return to campus in person and remotely. As a school, we are committed to providing the best education and care possible regardless of our current situation. Fortunately, the school is in a region of the country that has taken precautions to prevent widespread transmission of the Covid-19 virus; however, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to continue this positive trend and take all reasonable efforts to keep our community safe. We all play a part in this battle.

We have spent this summer preparing for multiple school scenarios. We will continue to provide our full learning program, including before school care and after school programming. Though classrooms may look different, activities will change, and students will be grouped into small “family” bubbles, there will be many opportunities for students to try new activities, learn new skills, and discover new passions.

We must all recognize that given the nature and history of this coronavirus pandemic, a return to remote learning at some point in the school year is an unfortunate possibility. We learned from the experience last spring and will be ready to pivot to an even stronger remote model if necessary. It is important for all of us in the Shaker Road School and broader communities to remain vigilant to prevent the spread of the virus. This will likely dictate whether we must go remote at any point.

With safety always being a priority and particularly during this pandemic, we have made changes to normal school operations to prevent, as much as possible, the coronavirus from entering and spreading on campus and within the school community. *Acknowledging that learning and recreating on campus during this pandemic creates an unavoidable risk of exposure to Covid-19, everyone must agree to honor and cooperate with public health guidance and Shaker Road School’s policies and procedures to remain a member in good standing in the Shaker community.*

The following guidelines have been drawn from recommendations from multiple public health agencies and education organizations:

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- New Hampshire Division of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE)
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C)
- Plans developed by independent high schools, colleges, and universities.

In the coming weeks, you will receive more specifics and detailed information about class assignments, daily procedures, and after school activities. As we have learned in the past six months, be prepared to be flexible and ready for anything.

### The “Family” Model, Physical Distancing, & Classroom Spaces

For the 2020-2021 school year, students and teachers will be organized into small groups we will affectionately call “families.” Great efforts have been made to further subdivide already small student groupings in each grade. Students will remain with their “families” for the entire school day. This will limit the number of interactions students have with others on campus. Creating and maintaining small groups necessitates additional classroom space. Four rooms that previously housed “specials” classes (e.g. art) or ancillary services (e.g. lunch, the store) will now be used as classrooms. This provides the necessary indoor space to maintain small groups. Additionally, all school families will also have designated outdoor learning areas.

When learning indoors, students will have individual work areas separated by a *minimum* of six (6) feet from other students. Teachers will also have dedicated spaces. Whenever teachers or students need to enter another’s space, masks will be required. Additional examples of actions to facilitate physical distancing and minimize congestion including assigning entry and exit doors for buildings and staggering access to hallways by classroom.

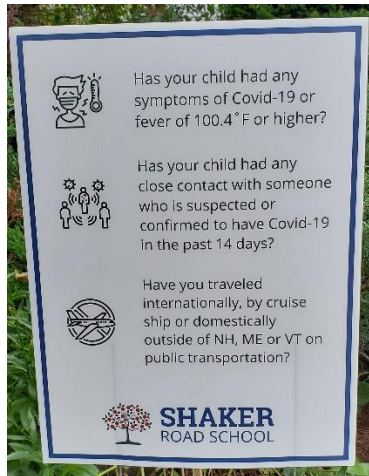
Outdoor learning will occur as much as possible considering the weather and nature of particular subject areas. We have one large pavilion that can also accommodate many students safely distanced, and a new pavilion is currently being constructed. Students will also be spending after school outside as much as possible and should be prepared for the weather.

### Health Safety Protocols

Our summer practice of health checks each morning will continue during the school year. Students will check in with a school official, have their temperatures taken and recorded, answer screening questions, sanitize their hands, and enter campus. Should students not satisfy these conditions, they must return home and learn remotely until the conditions can be satisfied. Parents should be prepared to take their children (DHHS) return home if students display any signs of illness.

Students and parents must wear masks to the check-in desk, and parents must remain on campus until their children have been cleared.

Current summer screening conditions include the following:



This is also a year of independence for students, as parents will drop their children at The Birdhouse instead of entering campus. Teachers will be available to help students unpack their belongings and get settled for the day.

Students will be required to be extra-diligent in their personal hygiene especially as it relates to others. All classrooms will have ample hand sanitizer, and most have sinks. Those that do not have sinks will have easy access to bathrooms.

All students and teachers will be required to have masks while on campus and wear them when required physical distancing cannot happen. Wearing masks is widely regarded as a major factor to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, and it will also help stop the spread of the flu, and other common illnesses we see each year. When students return to school, we will teach them best practices for hand washing and wearing masks. Parents should be prepared for students to have 3-5 washable masks to start the school year.

Our buildings and grounds team constructed outdoor handwashing stations, upgraded ventilation in buildings with centralized air flow systems, and are currently working to increase airflow in older classrooms without such systems.

### School Day and Calendar

Creating and maintaining small groupings requires teachers to remain with their families as much as possible without mixing personnel. As such, school will open at 7:00am and close at 5:30pm this year. In the morning, all students will have assigned areas (by family group). We will remain outdoors for as long as possible, so students should come to school prepared for the weather.

The academic day will begin at 8:30am and end at 3:30pm.

At this point, we will maintain all vacations as published on the school calendar.\*

### New Opportunities

Everyone has made sacrifices during the pandemic. Vacations have been canceled, sports seasons postponed, and birthday parties altered, but we have also found new opportunities as

replacements. Many of our students have learned to cook, garden, fish, and hike. This year at SRS, we will be focusing on more individual sports and activities and encourage students to keep their social circles small by participating in school activities.

*Following the model of local independent high schools, Shaker Road School strongly discourages students from participating in activities outside the school community (e.g. club sports) that bring together people from other communities. Such activity increases the risk of Covid-19 transmission and contravenes school efforts to keep our community safe.*

While we will not have organized team sports (e.g. soccer) and fall trips have been postponed until at least spring, we are developing a wide range of different activities and options for the afternoons after classes end. To start the school year, we will not be transporting students on our school buses but will remain on campus for all activities.

After school activities will occur by school families. Students have expressed interests in learning to golf, ride mountain bikes, work in the greenhouse, run, hike, Nordic ski, snowshoe, cook, and play ultimate (Frisbee). We encourage students to begin thinking about what activities they may want to do and be prepared to share them with their teachers or advisors when school begins.

A typical afternoon might look like the following example:

Academic day ends at 3:30pm (some students leave for the day)

Remaining students (with teacher) in school family group play golf 3:45-4:45pm

Quiet time/study hall 4:45pm until parents pick up.

School closes 5:30pm

#### Travel, Quarantining, and Covid-19 Testing

While we recognize that families like to travel during the school year, please understand that traveling increases the likelihood of Covid-19 transmission. To mitigate these risks and help protect others, we ask that families strongly consider the safety of the school community before making travel plans during the 2020-2021 school year especially if using public transportation. Families who choose to travel to recognized “hot-spots” should be prepared to quarantine at home for at least 10 days before returning to school (10 days per the most recent DHHS update (#19)). As hot-spots will change during the year, please refer to CDC tracking as one possible resource <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#cases>.

*To begin the school year, we strongly encourage all families to quarantine for the 10 days before the school year begins. As such, school will be closed to students grades K-8 from August 28 to September 7.*

We are not currently requiring students to have a negative Covid-19 test to begin the school year; however, families should be prepared to have students tested at any point in the school year should they come in contact with a known Covid-19 positive person, for other situations where Covid-19 may be suspected, or to verify that a previously Covid-19 positive student is no longer infectious.

## Remote Learning

Shaker Road School is preparing for in-person learning to start the 2020-2021 school year. While most students will learn on campus this year, some will opt for remote learning. We are preparing to accommodate both models this school year. Before school begins, we will provide more specific information about how remote learning will happen, but remote learning students can expect to have access to the curriculum provided to on-campus students. With the nature of remote learning, those students must also recognize that they will be learning more independently than on-campus students. We are working to identify additional school personnel to help facilitate those students studying remotely.

It is important for remote learning students to feel connected to their on-campus peers. Each classroom will have at least one “Max Headroom” computer situated to bring students together. To facilitate this, computers from the technology lab will be moved to classrooms to allow all students to see each other and work together. We will continually monitor remote learning to gauge individual and programmatic success.

*If you are planning to learn remotely this year, please contact Mrs. Connelly as soon as possible ([caitlin.connelly@shakerroadschool.org](mailto:caitlin.connelly@shakerroadschool.org)).*

## 2020-2021 Teaching Assignments and Classroom Locations\*

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teaching Team – Mr. Curry, Ms. Raby, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Lewis, Dr. Matt

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classrooms – Rooms 602/603 and 607/608

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Classrooms – Rooms 502 and 601

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teaching Team – Ms. Carter, Mrs. Linden, Mrs. Berry

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom – Room 504

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classrooms – Rooms 503 and 503a

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teaching Team – Mrs. Daniels and Mr. Laliberte – Rooms 100 and 101

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classroom – Mrs. Newbery – Room 501

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Classroom – Mrs. LaRochelle – Room 204

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teaching Team – Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Potter – Rooms 402 and 403

Kindergarten Teaching Team – Ms. Burgess and Mrs. Waters - Rooms 401 and 404

\* Please note individual student assignments and schedules and the school calendar will be sent to families at the beginning of August, as usual.