

Friday, August 7, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

I will attempt to keep my Friday communication brief, as there are a number of important updates:

Amended 2020-2021 Student Calendar:

At the August 5, 2020, Combined School Committee meeting, the committees voted to revise the [2020-2021 Student Calendar](#). As a result, the start of the school year for students is now Wednesday, September 16, 2020. The committees supported the Commissioner of Education's recommendation to reduce the number of school days from the required 180 days to 170 days, with the purpose of adding ten professional development days at the start of the school year.

District Reopening Strategy - August 12, 2020, Joint School Committee Meeting - Discussion and Vote:

On August 5, 2020, the Northborough, Southborough, and Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committees voted to approve the [District Reopening Plan](#). The Plan outlines the following three reopening models: In-Person Learning, Hybrid Learning, and Full Remote Learning.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, the Northborough, Southborough, and Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committees will discuss reopening plans and vote on a reopening strategy. To provide the school committees with data as they vote on their reopening strategy, I am asking families to complete [The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough Family Reopening Survey](#). I will provide the school committees with the survey data this Sunday evening. Your input is essential.

(Families will receive a form on August 14, 2020, to select the Stand Alone Remote Program. More information will be included in next Friday's communication).

Additional Resources:

[District Reopening Forums](#)

[District Reopening FAQ](#)

Update from the Technology Department:

In order to provide equitable access to technology, the District will be loaning a device to all students in grades kindergarten through 8 for the upcoming school year. At Algonquin, we will continue to allow students to choose to use their own device or to borrow a Chromebook for the year. Students in grades kindergarten and 1 will receive Ipads. Students in grades 2 through 8 will be given a Chromebook. Pre-K classrooms will be equipped with Ipads for students to use while in school. We understand that some families with students in grades kindergarten through 8 currently have devices at home for their children but we strongly suggest the use of the school-issued device for both in-person and remote learning. The school-issued devices will be set up to allow easy access to all the learning platforms students will use.

We will be sending out more detailed information about the distribution of the devices in the upcoming weeks. Please email Julie Doyle (jdoyle@nsboro.k12.ma.us) with any questions

Health and Safety:

[Things you can do to prepare for returning to school](#)

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau
Superintendent of Schools