



# SUPERINTENDENT'S BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS

Andover Regional School District

August 24, 2020

First Day for all students:

**Friday, September 4, 2020**

## Red / White Hybrid Cohorts

**Red** - Monday / Tuesday

**White** - Thursday / Friday

**Wednesday** - All Virtual Day

## School Alignment & Times

### Florence M. Burd School

Mrs. Cindy Mizelle, Principal

[cmizelle@andoverregional.org](mailto:cmizelle@andoverregional.org)

973-315-5257

Pre-K - Grade 4

8:55AM - 1:15PM

### Long Pond School

Mr. Bryan Fleming, Principal

[bfleming@andoverregional.org](mailto:bfleming@andoverregional.org)

973-315-5256

Grades 5 - 8

8:50AM - 1:15PM

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. I hope you are relaxing and enjoying the final days of summer vacation with family and friends. As we begin the new school year, we will do so during unprecedented times of a global health pandemic. That being said, I am confident that our staff, in collaboration with our school community, will continue to provide our students with a safe, enjoyable, and efficient learning experience.

Our school reopening committee and school administrative team has worked tirelessly over the last two months to put in place the safest return-to-school plan possible for our students and staff.

We will start the school year in September with a **Hybrid model schedule** consisting of two cohorts (Red & White), with each cohort attending in-person learning two days a week and the other three days consisting of virtual learning at home. The red cohort will attend in-person learning Mondays and Tuesdays, the white cohort on Thursdays and Fridays, and all students and staff will work virtually on Wednesdays (deep cleaning day between cohorts). The school administration has communicated student cohorts to parents.

**Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 1**, along with identified special education student populations, will have in-person learning **4 days a week**. This is due to developmental needs, identified education plans, and/or the ability to provide effective virtual learning programming.

The school schedule will consist of an **early dismissal schedule each day with lunch taking place at home**. A "Grab and Go" lunch program will be offered for all students through our food service company. The logistics of serving lunch and social distancing in a safe manner is not possible. This will also allow for all our teachers to have their contractual lunch and prep time after student dismissal, along with providing students with scheduled virtual meetings.

**The option for a 100% virtual program** has been made available for those parents who do not feel comfortable sending their child(ren) for in-person learning. Students will be permitted to shift back to the Hybrid model at the end of each trimester. Parents/Guardians are required to inform the district **30 days prior to the start of a trimester** for planning purposes.

## Special Services Department

Mrs. Suzanne Ross

Supervisor of Special Services

[sross@andoverregional.org](mailto:sross@andoverregional.org)

Dr. Melissa Van Blarcom

School Psychologist

[mvanblarcom@andoverregional.org](mailto:mvanblarcom@andoverregional.org)

Mrs. Allison McCurry

School Social Worker

[amccurry@andoverregional.org](mailto:amccurry@andoverregional.org)

## Curriculum Office

Mrs. Jennifer Reynolds

Supervisor of Curriculum,  
Instruction and Assessment

[jreynolds@andoverregional.org](mailto:jreynolds@andoverregional.org)

## Business Office

Mrs. Nicole Sylvester

School Business  
Administrator/Board Secretary

[nsylvester@andoverregional.org](mailto:nsylvester@andoverregional.org)

The school plan will allow for a **fluid and smooth transition from the hybrid model to 100% virtual model** if directed by NJDOE, Health Department, Governor's office, or Superintendent's office. **All Andover families should be prepared for the possibility of 100% virtual remote learning at any time.** This could happen due to staff coverage issues, confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases, or state directives.

This year's return to school will come with some new protocols and procedures in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. As we open schools for in-person instruction, it is important that everyone recognizes the role they play in protecting themselves and others. **It is absolutely imperative that if any student experiences any illness symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, chills, nausea, difficulty breathing, fatigue etc.) they stay home.** The district will be discontinuing any type of perfect attendance awards. Each school will place a heightened emphasis on facility sanitation, including the regular cleaning of touch points, horizontal surface areas and the use of electrostatic sprayers to maintain a clean and healthy school environment. Hand hygiene is vital! We will have hand sanitation stations placed throughout our schools and students will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands as a way to remove germs, avoid getting sick and prevent the spread of germs.

**Daily Health Screenings** will take place for all staff, students, and school visitors on a daily basis. These screenings will take place as individuals enter the building at school arrival by a Health Trained Assistant/Employee. A specified Health Trained Assistant will also be assigned to an isolation/waiting room and to assist our school nurses in each building. **Any student with COVID-19 symptoms will be required to be picked-up by a parent/guardian immediately. Please have emergency contact information and procedures in place.**

All students, staff, and school visitors will be **required to wear a cloth face covering/mask** while at school. **The only exception to this mandate will be a diagnosed student health issue which must be accompanied by a Physician note to the school nurse.** Parents/Guardians will be required to provide their child(ren) with a cloth face covering on a daily basis. The face covering must cover the nose and mouth and be secured with ties or ear loops. The daily classroom schedules will have built-in snack/mask breaks. **School visitors will be permitted on an appointment only basis through the Principal's office.**

In addition to required face coverings for all students and staff, all classrooms and student desks will be configured for six feet social distancing to the maximum extent practicable.

Students will be **required to wear face coverings at bus stops and on buses.** Social distancing of six feet will not be possible on buses. The plan is for one student per seat with the exception of siblings sitting together.

**September**  
**Important Dates**

**To Remember**

- 01 Teacher In-Service
- 02 Teacher In-Service
- 03 Teacher In-Service
- 04 First Day Of School  
For Students
- 07 Labor Day Schools  
Closed
- 23 BOE Meeting 7:30PM
- 28 FMB Back-To-School  
Night 7:00PM
- 30 LPS Back-To-School  
Night 7:00PM
- TBA LPS Pictures
- TBA FMB Pictures

Each school building will have a **Wellness/Pandemic Response Team** that works closely with the Sussex County Health Department regarding required COVID-19 health related building protocols.

The **Sussex County YMCA** will provide before and after-school **child care programming** at the Florence M Burd School. The YMCA will be required to follow all CDC guidelines for child care programs.

The **school calendar** has been amended to reflect three staff in-service days September 1-3. **The first day of school for students will be Friday, September 4th.** This will allow for additional staff professional development and preparation for the new school year. It will also allow each cohort group of students to attend in-person learning prior to the first Wednesday of all students on virtual learning. In accordance with Governor Murphy's Executive Order, all schools will also be closed for in-person learning on Election Day, November 3, 2020 (100% remote learning day). This will move the last day of school for students from Tuesday, June 22 to Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

The district will be hosting a **Superintendent Forum** on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6:00PM regarding our Health Related School Preparedness Plan and the reopening of the 2020-2021 school year. The meeting will allow for approximately 15 community members to attend in-person at the Long Pond School on a first come first serve basis through our business office. The meeting will also be available remotely via Zoom.

Our school principals will be providing further building level information to our students and parents/guardians regarding the opening of the 2020-2021 school year.

Please be assured that our number one priority for the school year will be the health and welfare of our students and staff. To that end, our plan will have appropriate safety protocols and cleaning procedures in place.

We encourage our school community to visit our school website on a regular basis, where our school administration, teaching staff and school nurse's will be providing ongoing pertinent school information.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation during these difficult times. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our school administrative team.

Best wishes to all our Andover students and families for an enjoyable and successful 2020-2021 school year!

Sincerely,



Dennis Tobin