



SOUTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT



307 CURTIS CORNER ROAD, WAKEFIELD, RI 02879-2106

www.skschools.net



September 1, 2020

On August 31, the Governor announced that Rhode Island could begin the process of returning to in-person learning. **We would like to announce that SKSD will use the guidance from the Governor's office to open using a slow and cautious approach. It is our goal to use the first four weeks of school to ease into a full reopening. SKSD will use a staggered schedule from September 14 through October 9. The first two weeks of school will be virtual for all learners. Beginning week three we will slowly stagger by grade level with the goal of full in-person (for those that have selected that option) by the end of week four.**

Why a *Staggered Start Back to School Schedule*?

What makes back-to-school planning challenging during a pandemic? Everything. It is difficult to adequately convey the complexities of back-to-school planning during a pandemic, and in many ways, our SKSD staff is doing the impossible. We have an incredible team of dedicated staff who have worked seven days a week around the clock to get ready for the school year, but there is still more to do.

While we are ensuring that we are ready for our new normal we are also **working to improve our indoor air quality with a very large project.** We will use this time to supplement our current HVAC systems so that the **air exchange rate is at least four times each hour in each learning location.** We are **putting an air purifier in each classroom unless the learning location** already has HVAC that is using a MERV 13 filter. We expect the air purifiers the week of September 14 and will work to have them set up in classrooms as quickly as possible.

As you can imagine, there are many new protocols to follow for students and teachers. It will take time to become familiar with the hallway, lunch, bathroom, and drop-off/pickup procedures. We will have staggered arrivals and dismissals. We will screen and take temperature checks upon arrival. Everyone will be required to wear a mask at all times. We will socially distance. We will not be able to share supplies or use lockers. **We do believe that we need time to become accustomed to these and many practices.**

Whether in-person or virtual, we can't wait to welcome your children back to school! All SKSD families have a choice between in-person or virtual. If you want to change your previous request for virtual or in-person then please work with your child's principal.



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More About Our Staggered Start

Your child's principal will send more detailed back-to-school information to students and families regarding the specific dates and times of four weeks staggered start plan. The tentative daily schedule is provided below. In the meantime, here's a quick overview of what you need to know about the first few weeks of school:

1. **September 14, 2020, is the first official day of school. All students will start their 2020-2021 school year in a virtual environment on this date.**
2. **Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will have meetings with their student's teacher during the weeks of September 14 and September 21.** All other students will be virtual during these first two weeks. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten will also have access to virtual learning.
3. **All children who selected the in-person model will be fully integrated within four weeks of the start of school.**

What does the schedule look like?

We are excited to be able to begin our reopening on September 14th. We have shared a calendar below that outlines how we will phase and stagger our approach. It is our goal to have all students (that have chosen in-person) in our schools by October 9th. [link to PDF schedule available here](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 Grandparents Day	14 September Opening Day All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	15 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	16 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	17 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	18 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	19 Rosh Hashanah
20	21 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	22 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	23 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	24 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	25 September All Virtual with PreK, K & 1 Meets	26
27	28 Yom Kippur (No School)	29 September All Virtual except Grades PreK, K, 1, 5, 7, 9 are in-person	30 September All Virtual except Grades PreK, K, 1, 5, 7, 9 are in-person			

