

CHAPLIN, HAMPTON, SCOTLAND AND REGIONAL DISTRICT #11
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
304 Parish Hill Road
Chaplin, CT 06235-0277

Kenneth V. Henrici
Superintendent

Phone- (860) 455-9306
Fax- (860) 455-1263

August 18, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope that you had an enjoyable, relaxing summer and that your son/daughter is ready to return to school. As you are likely aware, Parish Hill will offer a full, in-person learning plan for all of our students. We are confident that we can reopen with a comprehensive health and safety plan that adheres to CDC, state DPH and Eastern Highlands Health District guidelines. Per Governor Executive Order 13A, all staff and students will be required to wear masks inside our building and students must also wear masks on school buses. We will follow the three-foot rule for social distancing recommendation to “the greatest extent possible” per the health guidelines from the organizations listed above. Our favorable enrollment and more than adequate building space lends itself to the full in-person model.

First, in terms of health and safety, we have hired a full-time custodian with grant funds, whose primary responsibility will be sanitizing various parts of our building, including the cafeteria after each lunch wave. Our night custodians will also focus on sanitization of the building as their main responsibility. Our building will also have a daily, comprehensive health and safety inspection conducted by our Director of Maintenance. Individual desks will continue to replace tables in a number of classrooms and student seating will be spaced at least three feet apart. An isolation room will continue to be utilized to assess those students with COVID like symptoms. We will continue to strictly follow all advice and protocols from the Eastern Highlands Health District regarding any student exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. We also ask that families continue to do a morning assessment of their son/daughter prior to coming to school. If any COVID symptoms are present, **do not send your child to school. This is very important as there were a number of instances last year where students were sent to school while exhibiting COVID-like symptoms.**

As indicated previously, masks are required of all staff and students at all times. The only exceptions will be mask breaks and lunch outside of the building with social distancing (built into the student schedule and also conducted at a teacher’s discretion), music classes conducted outside, and physical education classes conducted outside. In all cases, social distancing will be required, including 6 feet or more for choral groups singing and band classes practicing. During inclement weather, band and chorus members will practice inside with greater social distancing protocols in place. It is important to note that all staff will take part in professional development regarding health, safety, and welfare of all in the COVID era.

Regarding transportation, social distancing on school buses will be observed to the greatest extent possible. We anticipate that numerous parents will drive their son/daughter to school so we are confident that three-foot social distancing can be observed.

We will continue to provide hot lunch with individual seating in the cafeteria and auditorium with all students practicing a minimum of three-foot social distancing. The federal boxed breakfast and lunch program will continue to be provided to eligible school and community members.

School will start on Wednesday, August 25 and the start times and dismissal times will remain the same—doors open at 7:30 a.m. with a 7:50 a.m. start time and 2:25 p.m. dismissal time. There will be staggered entering times from buses to minimize student contact and staggered dismissal times for the same purpose. School administration will be providing more information on this via BlackBoard CONNECT and/or letter. There will be strict procedures in place which may not be popular with students, but which are needed for health and safety. Since all “feeder” elementary schools are also opting for full day, in-person learning, our regular dismissal time will not affect elementary school dismissal times.

Fall sports are scheduled to start on time on August 26. All Connecticut teams will play a full regular season and compete in CIAC state championship post-season play. Athletic Director John Krot and coaches have or will be in contact with team members. Per the CIAC, one strategy that is available for middle and high school athletes to have an uninterrupted season is **to get vaccinated right now as everyone 12 and older is now eligible for vaccination. Fully vaccinated people do not have to quarantine or test after a known exposure to COVID-19, as long as they remain asymptomatic.** All spectators attending Fall outdoor Parish Hill home games will be required to socially distance but not wear masks. However, this protocol may change based upon local health district recommendations.

We are very pleased to inform you that Parish Hill will now be holding a FIRST DOSE vaccination clinic as well as our previously scheduled SECOND DOSE vaccination clinic on-site on Tuesday, August 24 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Those receiving their first dose on August 24 may plan on attending a second dose clinic **on-site on September 14** during the same hours, conducted by the Griffin Health Mobile Clinic. **There is no need to pre-register—you only need to show up. Furthermore, an I.D will be requested but will not be required. Parents are asked to accompany students ages 12-17. Free \$20 Amazon gift cards will be given to all those receiving a vaccine.**

As stated previously, the state of Connecticut is requiring in-person learning for all students with very limited exceptions (e.g., IEP requirements, COVID cases, etc.). While we were in-person learning for the majority of last school year, the overwhelming majority of our staff and a notable number of our students are now fully vaccinated. Thus, this will likely mean very few COVID interruptions and through in-person learning, provide a better social-emotional support system for our students. Be assured that our school social worker will also be providing continuous support to our students and families.

In sum, we believe that we have a focused, safe school reopening plan that makes the safety and welfare of all Parish Hill students and staff the driving force behind the plan. The reopening plan can be found in its entirety on the Parish Hill website.

We look forward to the start of a successful and rewarding school year!

Sincerely,

Kenneth V. Henrici
Superintendent

Brian Tedeschi
Principal