

MISSION: To provide opportunities and pathways in a safe, supportive and technology-rich environment that engage, challenge and inspire students to achieve college and career readiness and to contribute to our 21st century community.

SWANSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Swansea Public Schools intends on operating a Hybrid model of learning beginning on September 14 for grades 1-12, September 21 for kindergarten and September 28 for preschool. There are still many logistics that are being worked out in this unprecedented time, so we thank you for your understanding and patience.

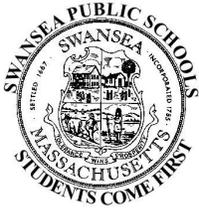
The Hybrid model consists of cohorts of students that will attend school in-person on two days and access remote learning on the other three days (cohorts A and B) and students that have decided to access learning in a fully remote capacity (cohort C). Cohort C students will not partake in any in-person instruction. Students who are considered 'high needs' by the state have been identified and have been categorized as cohort D. The cohort D students will be invited to participate in the four days of learning where students are in-person. Principals are working on disseminating cohort letters for students in cohorts A, B and C. The Student Services Department will continue to work with parents regarding the cohort D students and how their learning will be operationalized within the Hybrid model. Careful planning and adherence to the health department and department of education guidelines, will provide a safe and productive learning environment for our students and staff.

At the secondary level, student participation in athletics and activities will be guided by daily attendance rather than choice of hybrid or remote model. Student class attendance will be captured daily in both scenarios, whether on-line or in-person

Some of the overarching factors that are part of managing the Hybrid model efficiently include; students at the secondary level playing a key role in wiping down their desks to assist in keeping their areas safe, custodians being updated on the procedures that need to be in place throughout the day, and on the remote Wednesdays when no students are in school, to ensure maximum efficiency and cleanliness of each school environment, establishment by school nurses of communication processes so that parents, staff and students are aware of the appropriate steps for suspected and/or positive cases, and principals working diligently to

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outline updated logistics that impact things such as, drop-off/pick-up procedures, passing in hallways, lunch times, mask breaks, and handwashing protocols.

Please understand, however, that in this ever-changing environment, fluidity and flexibility are key to success. Throughout the months of planning, guidance from the health department has changed multiple times, directives from the state are in a constant state of flux and factors such as finalizing bus transportation (which may still impact school start times) and bargaining of certain contractual issues by the Swansea Educators' Association, could still cause a disruption to the Hybrid model of learning that we currently plan to have in place. An updated FAQ is being shared out as well that will help explain many items in greater detail.

This is a community effort and one that will continue to evolve and change as needed to keep our students and staff as safe as possible.

Thank you and be well

John J. Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

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