



Shutesbury Elementary School

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November 3, 2020

Dear Shutesbury Elementary School Community,

Last night the Shutesbury Elementary School Committee unanimously voted in favor of returning to school in a hybrid model. The timeline for students returning to school is as follows:

- Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students will have the option to return to school in a hybrid setting on December 7, 2020. Students will attend in-person school from 8:30-11:30 am and will have remote instruction from 1:00-3:00 pm. Students will not eat lunch at school. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students will have remote instruction on January 4, 5 and 6, 2021, and return to hybrid learning on January 7, 2021.
- Grade 5 and Grade 6 will have the option to return to school in a hybrid setting on Wednesday January 20, 2021. Students will attend in-person school from 8:30-11:30 am and will have remote instruction from 1:00-3:00 pm. Students will not eat lunch at school.
- Grades 3 and 4 will have the option to return to school in a hybrid setting on Wednesday February 3, 2021. Students will attend in-person school from 8:30-11:30 am and will have remote instruction from 1:00-3:00 pm. Students will not eat lunch at school.
- The preschool schedule and decision about hybrid leaning has not been decided yet. Most likely, Pre-K will remain remote for some time with invitations to social/play groups outside.

Over the course of the next month, we will be working hard to finalize details on the incredibly challenging task of teaching remote students and hybrid students simultaneously with limited staff. We will also be surveying K-2 families on their final decision about enrolling their student in the hybrid option, or continuing their student in the remote setting. We are a small school, and although our teachers are incredibly creative and talented, I feel it necessary to say that the remote instruction will feel different once we welcome students into a hybrid classroom. Teachers will likely be filming themselves (live) teaching mini lessons, but teachers will not be able to be available all morning for explicit remote instruction. Other staff members will need to support remote learners at points throughout the morning while the teacher is with students outside or supporting students in the classroom. Also, learning inside the classroom will not be like it was in “normal times”. Students will wear masks, remain at desks, and will be utilizing the outdoors often for mask breaks, movement and learning. We understand that neither option is ideal, but you have my word that we will work hard



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to find creative and effective supports for our teachers and our students at home and at school.

I want to remind families that we have a detailed Hybrid Handbook that we are continuing to update as our planning continues. You can access the handbook [HERE](#) and on our website. I plan on holding a Town Hall style meeting about the hybrid return-to-school plans on **Wednesday, November 18th from 6:30-7:15 pm**. We will be sending a survey for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade families to report on the learning setting they want for their child on **Thursday, November 19th**.

I will be communicating more about our transition to hybrid learning in the coming weeks. This will include a date of a mandatory meeting (in early December) for any Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade family that will choose hybrid learning in order to review the SES health and safety guidelines as well as the travel/gathering expectation that we have as a school community.

I want to thank the many families that have reached out to our school in the last few weeks with gratitude for the hard work that the staff is putting forth, and also the recognition of the challenging times we are all facing. We have an EXCEPTIONAL, talented and compassionate staff that truly cares for our students, families and the community. We will continue to work everyday to provide quality education, care and compassion to our "Moose" family.

Sincerely,

Jackie