

# School Administrative Unit #9

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Superintendent of Schools      Assistant Superintendent      Dir. of Administrative Ser.      Director of Special Ser.      Director of Budget/Finance

September 3, 2020

Dear SAU 9 Community Members,

I am very excited to welcome our students and staff to the 2020-2021 school year! Classes for all students will begin on Tuesday September 8th, whether they are attending face-to-face or through distance learning. It has been over six months since students were in our facilities and school just isn't the same without them.

Staff have been working hard to prepare for a safe student return. The [SAU 9 Re-entry plan](#) is very comprehensive and there have been some significant changes to the routines and facilities. Our goal is to keep our students in our schools safely. We need your help and support in following procedures and protocols that are in place. I would like to emphasize and clarify a few important points:

- **Face masks** are to be worn in our schools and on the bus. Gaiter/buffs, bandannas, and other garments are not a substitute for face masks. Masks will be provided for your child free of cost. If you provide your child with a mask other than the school provided mask, it must be two layers of cloth.
- **Daily screening** is extremely important to minimize risk and safely keep our schools open. The screening must be done prior to attending school or getting on the school bus. Screening questions:  
*Do you have any **new or unexplained** symptoms of COVID-19?* (This would include a temperature of over 100F, cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, body aches, fatigue, loss of taste/smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.)  
*Have you had close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the prior 14 days?*  
*Have you traveled outside of New England (NH, VT, ME, MA, RI, or CT) within the last 14 days?*  
If your child answers yes on any of the screening questions please keep your child home and contact the school.
- **Transportation** has, and will be, one of our greatest challenges. The capacity of each bus has been reduced by 60% allowing only 26 riders per full size bus. We appreciate those who have responded to the surveys, emails, and phone calls to register your child for transportation. If you have not registered your child for transportation, we cannot guarantee transportation at this time. Most of the busses are at capacity already and transportation is an area that we will continue to address moving forward. We appreciate your patience as we address needs as they arise.
- **Meals** will be provided to all students at no cost through December, 2020 or until funds are exhausted. However, we still need families to complete free/reduced price meal applications. Paper applications are available at each school. You can also apply online at <https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx>
- **Please** update your contact information by going to <https://sau9.powerschool.com/public>. Once you log it, go to Forms then Enrollment to review and update your information. Be sure to hit Submit when you are ready.

Each building principal will be sending out specific information for you and your child about new routines and procedures for this year.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy return to school.

Sincerely,



Kevin Richard