



STERLING HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE SILVER KNIGHTS



FALL 2021 THE ROAD FORWARD



August 20, 2021

Sterling Community Stakeholders:

The documents within this memo are a summary of the safe return to school plans based upon the current guidelines of:

- New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) “[The Road Forward](#)”
- SHS District “[Safe Return Plan](#)”
- [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC)
- [New Jersey](#) and [Camden County](#) Departments of Health

All SHS District items can be found on our [school website](#) by accessing the [Safe Return Plan](#) Banner.

Requirements for the reopening plan:

- Provide for the health and safety of staff and students to the greatest extent possible.
- Resume In-Person instruction. There is no remote option as Executive order 171 expired.
- Prepare and update the [Safe Return Plan](#)

Please note that any of the information contained in this document is subject to change upon receipt of updated state and local guidelines.

In-Person Instruction:

2021-2022 school year will consist of Full Day In-Person instruction following our normal bell schedule and annual school calendar. [2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

Please note the opening week of school September 7-10th includes early dismissal school days where students and staff will participate in activities that inspire active participation.

Student Entry:

100 Wing (near the Science wing, facing Warwick Rd)

300 Wing (by Preston Ave Lot near BOE building)

Band Hall (by new parking lot and cafeteria)

Late students and Guests will enter at the Main Office Entrance.

No Early drop-off of students. The entrance bell is 7:22.

Student Lockers:

Students will have access to lockers before school, after school, and during lunch. Backpacks and water bottles will be permitted at the start of the school year.

Physical Education:

For the start of the school year, P.E. students will not have access to locker rooms and will not change for P.E. Therefore, students enrolled in P.E. should dress to school in appropriate P.E. participation clothing (See [Student Handbook](#)). This includes appropriate footwear.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Athletics:

Athletics have begun. SHS is following all District, State, and NJSIAA guidelines to provide our student athletes a positive experience. Athletes will have access to locker rooms. Please visit [Sterling Athletics Home](#) page. Student Athletes must wear mask while on buses.

Breakfast and Lunch:

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided during normal school times. SHS will be participating in the National School Lunch Program to provide free meals for all students during the academic school year. Please review [2021-2022 School Letter HERE](#) regarding the lunch program.

Students arriving for Breakfast should enter directly at the cafeteria beginning at 7:00a.m. Only students acquiring breakfast will be permitted in the cafeteria at that time. There is no early drop-off location.

Lunches will be divided into two main locations of the cafeteria and gym.

Masks:

Per the Governor's Executive order 251 all students and staff are required to wear masks for the start of the school year. See [Mask Wearing Letter](#) from Superintendent Matt Sheehan.

Vaccinations:

Vaccinations are encouraged for all students and staff. See [Vaccine Letter 2021.8.20](#) from Superintendent Matt Sheehan for more information. Vaccination verification will be necessary when evaluating close contact situation and required quarantined timelines. Please note that masks are not considered exemption from being identified as a close contact.

Synchronous Instruction during Quarantine:

Synchronous instruction will be available via Microsoft TEAMS only to students who are confirmed with Covid related exemptions (illness or quarantine). All other absence will be considered unexcused absence.

Physical Distancing:

Physical distancing has been planned for at the greatest extent possible. A physical distance of at least three feet will be maintained when and where possible within the building's classroom structure.

Screening:

Parent and guardians will be responsible for self-screening their students. Please reference this [Daily Screening](#) document as a reference.

Reporting COVID related Diagnosis or Exposure:

Parents and guardians should report to the school via email to pandemicresponse@sterling.k12.nj.us

Students should inform their Teachers via email or the TEAMS chat feature.

Administrators will confirm positive diagnosis or exposure of students with parent/guardians and then communicate to Teachers individual students need for synchronous instruction during their quarantine period.

Disinfecting:

SHS maintains its commitment to nightly classroom cleaning. Additionally, classroom disinfectant wipes are available for all students and staff. Hand sanitizer remains available throughout the building. High touch areas will continue to be disinfected routinely throughout the school day. Staff and students are encouraged to practice hand washing and appropriate respiratory etiquette.

Ventilation:

All occupied spaces are properly ventilated. Our fresh-air exchange system in all occupied spaces is continually monitored as part of our regular facility maintenance program. Filter changes occur as required for proper maintenance. Outdoor spaces are permitted to be utilized at the staff member's discretion.

