

South Park High School
150 Southside Pkwy.
Buffalo, New York 14220
Phone (716) 816-4828 Fax (716) 828-4905



*South Park gathers strength as it goes.
Go Sparks!*

Principal
Michael Morris

Assistant Principals
Molly Forero
Martin Lyonga (Ph.D.)
Kathleen Thomas
Tracey Travis



August 27, 2021

Dear South Park families;

We would like to welcome you to the 2021-2022 School Year! We are excited to bring all of our students-new and returning- to South Park on September 8th and wanted to take this opportunity to share the details of our re-opening with you. This letter contains an FAQ of valuable information, resources, and links to support the reopening of our school. Our dedicated faculty is looking forward to having students return to their classrooms for **in-person instruction**. Though we recognize that the last year and a half has been challenging, we are energized and ready to provide your child with a safe and rewarding educational experience.

As you may be aware, the Superintendent of Buffalo Public Schools (BPS), Dr. Kriner Cash, has created a re-opening plan that shares a multi-layered approach to safety and protection for all of our staff and students. This plan implements recommendations made by the BPS Medical Team, the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP), the Center for Disease Controls (CDC), and the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH).

Listed below is a concise summary of our high standards for a successful September and beyond. We will need, and expect, your strict adherence to effectively implement these protocols:

- Our school has chosen to participate in Operation Expanded Testing, a program supported and funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide COVID-19 PCR testing to K-12 schools at no cost to the school. Participation in this program helps schools stay safer against the risk of COVID-19. This program will help keep students healthy and well, as they participate in in-person learning and prevent the spread of COVID-19 via randomized weekly testing for 30% of the students and staff, at our school. Rest assured that, a team of highly skilled trainers will guide our school nurses and staff on how to assist with test collection.

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We strongly encourage you to opt into the program, to keep your child well. Please visit the following site to register child for testing: <https://www.assure-eurofinspooledtesting.com/app/#/registration/Z5TYYC/C3PYO2/institution>. The online registration process takes less than 5 minutes. If you would like a paper copy of the parental consent form, please contact the school and we will send it home with your child.

School Based COVID 19 Safety and Protection Protocols:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Masks | Mask are required for all persons inside of our school, regardless of vaccination status. No exceptions. If students do not have a mask, the school will provide the student with a mask. If students refuse to wear to mask, restorative disciplinary measures may be implemented according to the BPS Code of Conduct. |
| COVID-19 Testing | To ensure safety for all, parents will need to SIGN OFF TO CONSENT to ensure that their child(ren) can participate in randomized less invasive PCR testing at no charge. Testing of all non-vaccinated adults will happen weekly. 30% of vaccinated staff and all consented students will happen weekly. There will be a 24 hour mandatory turnaround for results. |
| Social Distancing | Schools will adhere to the CDC distancing requirement of a minimum of 3 ft. amongst persons. |
| When Your Child is ill | When your child is ill before the start of the school day, it is required that you keep your child home. If your child becomes ill during the school day, the student will report to the school's Isolation Room and you will be contacted to pick the child up, as quickly as possible. |
| Immunization Requirement | Please be informed that it is a New York State Requirement that all students participating in on site learning have up to date immunizations on file in their schools. |

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Rest assured, we will uphold our part of the Education Bargain and provide your student with the opportunity for a high-quality education and access to restorative, supportive services. Our goal at South Park is to provide every child with the resources needed to meet the State mandates for graduation by the end of their fourth year with us. I am pleased to be able to share our graduation video from the Class of 2021 with you:

https://youtu.be/M05FZZx_sXA . Whether your child has one year left at South Park or four, know that we will do our best to ensure your child's success.

In order to provide you with the opportunity to meet with myself and the leadership team, I will host parent zoom meetings on each of the following days: Wednesday, September 1; Thursday, September 2; and Tuesday, September 7 from 4:00- 5:00 pm. I hope you will be able to take advantage of this time to ask any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99114025817?pwd=OUxTQWRvTGZveW9WZ3BsdWJlQnkyQT09>

Meeting ID: 991 1402 5817

Passcode: 4X1Uds

If you have any questions please join us on the aforementioned zoom or feel free to reach out to me at 816-4828 or via email at mmorris@buffaloschools.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Morris

Principal South Park High School

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FAQ:

- **Will my child have to wear a mask every day?**
 - Per ECDOH guidelines and District protocols, all students will be expected to wear a proper mask covering both their nose and mouth all day. They will be permitted to remove their mask while eating lunch in the cafeteria. If you are seeking a medical exemption, please see the protocol information below:
 - Below is the process for parents/caregivers to request a medical or mask exemption for their child:
Parents must obtain up to date (within 60 days) signed medical documentation on a doctor's letterhead stating the specific diagnosis (reason) why the student must be considered for a medical OR mask exemption. The signature must be from a practicing: Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP), including a Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Physician Assistant (PA) or a Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP).
 - The medical documentation must be emailed to: medicalexemptions@buffaloschools.org OR submitted via U.S. mail to Medical Exemption Office, 427 City Hall, Buffalo, NY 14202.
 - Requests for mask exemptions should also state if the student is unable to wear a face shield as an alternative and if not, the reason why. The LIP must be someone who provides ongoing care for the child.
 - Documentation will be reviewed by the Medical Review Advisory Team to determine if the mask exemption will be granted.
 - Parent/Guardians will be informed of the decision, and schools will be notified of all approved medical and mask exemptions.

- **What preventative measures are being taken in regards to COVID-19?**
 - All staff and students will be expected to wear masks throughout the day.
 - Cleaning and sanitizing will be completed according to ECDOH and District guidelines.
 - Students and staff will be expected to maintain social distance at a minimum of 3 feet.
 - Hallway and stairwell traffic will be one directional to meet social distancing recommendations.
 - Students will have alternating times to utilize their lockers in order to avoid close contact at lockers.

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- Students will be assigned seats during lunch to ensure social distancing and assist with contact tracing if it becomes necessary.
- Random COVID testing will be conducted weekly.
- **How will my child get to school?**
 - If your child is eligible for an NFTA pass, they will receive their student bus pass during the first 2 weeks of school. Buses are free for the first 5 days of school. If you're child receives transportation from First Student, you will receive a letter from them detailing bus stops and times for pick up and drop off.
 - Please view the video from NFTA outlining expectations for use of public transportation to and from school.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDzHZnWhKjo>
- **How do I find my child's schedule?**
 - You can log into the Parent or Student Portal in Infinite Campus (<https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/2381>). Your child must select log in using Office 365 on the sign in page. From there, you navigate to the schedule tab to view the student schedule. Homeroom teachers will provide students with a printed copy of their schedule but we do recommend that parents and students keep a photo of the schedule in their phone.
- **How will my child know where to go when they arrive at school on the first day?**
 - We will have three doors open for students to enter- center hall and both of the back doors. They will have their temperatures taken as they enter the building. Students will report directly to their homeroom/first-period class. There will be copies of homeroom lists printed and available to students if they are unsure of their room number. In addition, staff will help direct students as they enter the building.

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- **Will my child need to complete the COVID Daily Screener every day?**
 - We will follow the ECDOH guidelines and require staff and students to complete a Daily Health Screener prior to entering the building each day. The link to the form is: <https://forms.office.com/r/KuHQmrRQfD>



- **Can I visit the school?**
 - At this time, visitors to the building will be limited and must be approved by administration in order to ensure we adhere to the ECDOH COVID related guidelines and protocols.
- **Where do I find a school supply list?**
 - Teachers will share supply lists with students during the first day. Additionally, please be sure your child shows you the syllabus for each class in which they are enrolled.
- **Who is my child's school counselor?**
 - Grades 9/10: Last names beginning with A-L – Mrs. H. Maeder
Last names beginning with M- Z- Miss. C. Hall
 - Grades 11/12: Last names beginning with A-L- Mrs. N. Dovi
Last names beginning M-Z- Mrs. A Blossom