



## **SHS Opening Plan Return to School Fall 2021-2022**

### **I. Welcoming Students Back**

#### **A. Freshman and New-to-SHS Orientation**

Helping Hands students to provide tours for 9th grade students around the building. Select faculty will be meeting with them during this orientation.

#### **B. 9th-12th Grade Assemblies**

Orientation will take place on the first day of school. A special schedule will be implemented for that day. Students will meet with their advisors for the orientation activities.

### **II. Schedule: Full Student Population On-Campus Return**

Per the State of Connecticut Guidelines, SHS has prepared for a full on-campus return to school in the fall.

#### **A. Full On-Campus Return Model**

- a.** Student schedules were developed based on student course requests and staffing availability.
- b.** The model follows a traditional schedule where students will pass from class to class. Some room assignments were developed based on class size allocating the largest spaces in the school for the largest classes, for example, band classes will be moved to the auditorium, and chorus moved to the band room and / or cafeteria, if available)

#### **B. Mask Breaks**

- a. Students will have mask breaks during study halls and lunches, again, when six-feet of social distancing can be maintained. Students may also have mask breaks once settled with six-feet of social distancing if their class is held outside. Students who are struggling with the mask may also request additional mask breaks by seeking out the administration or counselor. Mask breaks may also occur during regular classes if the teacher chooses to bring them outside where social distancing rules can be applied.

**C. Bell Schedule**

- a. The rotating Bell Schedule will operate as typical with a few adjustments.
  - i. **Regular Schedule**

**Somers High School**  
**Rotating Schedule 2021-2022**

*Starting Time for School - 7:40 a.m. / Warning Bell - 7:37 a.m.*

	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>7:40 - 8:29</b>	1	6	5	4	3	2
<b>8:32 - 9:24</b>	2	1	6	5	4	3
<b>9:27 - 10:16</b>	3	2	1	6	5	4
<b>10:19 - 11:08</b>	4	3	2	1	6	5
<b>11:11 - 12:41</b>	5	4	3	2	1	6
<b>12:44 - 1:28</b>	7	7	7	7	7	7
<b>1:31 - 2:15</b>	8	8	8	8	8	8

**Daily Lunch Waves**

A Lunch - 11:11 - 11:31  
B Lunch - 11:34 - 11:54

C Lunch - 11:58 - 12:18  
D Lunch - 12:21 - 12:41

**Early Dismissal**

*Periods will run on an alternating odd / even period rotation.*

1<sup>st</sup> Mtg. Time 7:40 – 8:27  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mtg. Time 8:30 - 9:20

3<sup>rd</sup> Mtg. Time 9:23 – 10:10  
4<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time 10:13 - 11:00

## Delayed Opening

*Classes continue on the STRIVE schedule, however the first two scheduled classes of the day will not meet.  
Warning Bell - 9:37 a.m. / Starting Time for School - 9:40 a.m.*

3<sup>rd</sup> Mtg. Time – 9:40 – 10:23  
4<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 10:26–11:09  
5<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 11:12–12:42

6<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 12:45 – 1:28  
7<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 1:31 – 2:15

### *Delayed Opening Lunch Waves*

A Lunch - 11:12 - 11:32  
B Lunch - 11:35 - 11:55

C Lunch - 11:59 - 12:19  
D Lunch - 12:22 - 12:42

## Advisory Day Bell Schedule

*Advisory will run after the 2nd class meeting. Period order will be based upon the STRIVE schedule.  
The advisory period will begin with morning announcements.*

1<sup>st</sup> Mtg. Time – 7:40 - 8:23  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mtg. Time – 8:26 – 9:09  
Advisory & Announcements – 9:12 – 9:42  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mtg. Time – 9:45 – 10:27

4<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 10:30 – 11:12  
5<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 11:15 – 12:45  
6<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 12:48 – 1:30  
7<sup>th</sup> Mtg. Time – 1:33 – 2:15

### *Advisory Day Lunch Waves*

A Lunch - 11:15 - 11:35  
B Lunch - 11:38 - 11:58

C Lunch - 12:02 - 12:22  
D Lunch - 12:25 - 12:45

## D. Use of Space

- Gym classes, when possible, are encouraged to hold classes outside on the athletic fields.
- Band and chorus classes will be held in the auditorium, cafeteria, gymnasium, and / or outdoor classroom space. Given the nature of band, chorus, these teachers who wish to utilize outdoor classroom space will be given priority.
- If possible, remaining space in the Library Media Center (LMC) will also be used to accommodate tutoring / intervention services, testing, and meetings.

### **III. Arrival Procedures In-Person Learning Sessions for (Full On-Campus Return Model)**

- A. Students will enter the building through 1 of 2 entrances. The main entrance will be for student drop-offs and buses. The Student parking lot entrance will be used by all students driving to school until 7:35 AM. Parents will drop off students by using the elementary loop or the bus loop if it is after 7:30 AM. Additionally, junior and senior students who have study halls during the first block of the day, and are in good academic standing, may register for late arrival. The purpose of this is to reduce the hallway traffic at the start of the school day. Students are required to get parent permission and families are responsible for arranging their own transportation to school.
  
- B. Access to lockers
  - a. Due to the close proximity students experience when accessing their lockers, lockers will be closed to students during the period where social distancing is required.
  
  - b. Because of the locker closures, students should be encouraged to only bring to school the materials they need for the classes scheduled on a given day. They will be able to carry their backpacks and coats in the classroom.
  
  - c. Once students enter the buildings, they should report directly to their first classrooms of the day.

### **IV. Curriculum Implications**

**A. Learning Centers:** Students who are struggling with the current content may benefit from additional extra help sessions with their teachers. This time can be afforded during the regular school day during Learning Centers. These times will be available 1-2 days per 6 day cycle. We will post accordingly.

**B. Curricular Adjustments (temporary):**

- 1. Pre-tests and screeners will need to be administered to provide baseline information to the teachers (i.e., content area pretests, iReady (Math/ELA will be administered to all 9th and 10th graders and identified Intervention students). These tests will need to be administered in an earlier timeline than is typical to help teachers plan instruction (early September).
  
- 2. Teachers will need to hone their instruction to focus on the essential content and skills within the curriculum. Analysis of the curriculum in Atlas will help teachers identify those enduring understandings,

essential skills, and essential content

### **C. Instructional Considerations (if needed)**

1. Should there be a resurgence with the COVID-19 virus, distance learning plans may need to be reinstated full time. Teacher preparation in advance of these decisions will help to smooth the transition process.
2. The State Department of Education prohibits school districts from offering optional remote learning for 2021-22 school year. All instruction must be in-person learning. Exceptions in which remote learning can be utilized are:
  - If the school quarantines or places a student in isolation due to COVID-19
  - If an entire school closes due to a COVID-19 outbreak
  - If part of an Individualized Education plan developed by the Planning and Placement Team Quarantine/Isolation (Rare)

Students that are quarantined or placed into isolation by the school system will have access to both synchronous and asynchronous learning environments.

SHS: Students will be allowed to remote into live classroom instruction following their normal schedule. Teachers will conduct their normal method of instruction and not necessarily be stationed in front of the computer screen at all times.

3. Students should bring their technology and chargers home with them each day.
4. Small group work will take into consideration physical distancing.
5. One-on-one instruction (specifically, Intervention and Special Education) will need to be adjusted to respect the social distancing guidelines.
6. Manipulatives and other materials for classes should be used on a one-to-one basis to reduce the sharing of equipment. If this is not feasible, gloves and other safety measures should be taken.

## **V. Staff/Faculty Meetings**

### **A. Department Meetings**

Department meetings will continue to be held once per month. Communication of information from the administration to the department

through the Team Leader, and other business needed to be accomplished by the Team.

Meetings should be held in areas of the school where appropriate social distancing can be maintained. Classroom space, Library space, etc may be utilized as it is available. If in a remote learning scenario or unable to find a space to hold the meeting, a Zoom meeting should be arranged.

## **B. Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Meetings**

PLC will continue to meet one time out of every 6 day instructional cycle. Analysis of student performance and curriculum should occur during these times to ensure the needs of students are being addressed, best practices are being shared, and instructional concerns can be problem-solved.

Meetings should be held in areas of the school where appropriate social distancing can be maintained. Classroom space, Library space, etc may be utilized as it is available. If in a remote learning scenario or unable to find a space to hold the meeting, a Zoom meeting should be arranged.

## **C. Team Leader Meetings**

Team Leader Meetings will occur where appropriate social distancing can be maintained. The regularly scheduled meetings will remain in effect. Special meetings may be called depending on the need.

## **D. Faculty Meetings**

Faculty Meetings will be held in the Auditorium where appropriate social distancing may occur. Faculty Meetings will be utilized to provide training, provide reinforcement of safety concepts, address news and information, and answer questions from the faculty. Explanations to procedures and policies may be reviewed and provided as well.

## **E. CCC Meetings**

CCC Meetings will be held where appropriate social distancing may occur. These meetings focus on all aspects of student life: Academics, social-emotional, testing, referral to MTSS, scheduling, attendance.

## **F. MTSS Meetings**

MTSS meetings will be held where appropriate social distancing may occur and if necessary, from individual classrooms via Zoom. These meetings focus on students who are enrolled in intervention services, requests for assistance from classroom teachers, review of student academic, behavioral, and attendance data, as well as executive functioning data collected during intervention services.

## **VI. Facility Maintenance**

1. Bathrooms will need to be routinely cleaned during the school day.
2. Limit the number of students using the bathroom.
3. Door handles both inside and outside of classrooms and on entry and exit doors will need to be disinfected at appropriate times during the day.
4. Surface cleaning will need to continue throughout the day in hallways and offices as necessary.
5. Water fountains will be limited to water bottle filling only stations to avoid close mouth to spout contact.
6. Additional hand sanitizers will be placed in each hallway.
7. Classroom sanitation will need to happen routinely during the school day.

## **VII. Physical Health and Emotional Wellbeing**

### **A. Physical Health**

1. Clearly articulated regulations regarding individual health must be maintained (no fever, symptoms, etc)
2. **Masks must be worn by all occupants of the building.** It will be important to consider the lack of non-verbal signals that can be sent through the facial parts covered and to replace them with appropriate gestures/other non-verbal signals along the way (i.e., A student will not be able to see when you smile, so you will need to find another way to express that you are happy with their progress.) Masks will be provided to students/staff who do not have one.
  - a. Exception for anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the

mask without assistance, face coverings and masks should not be required.

b. Exception for anyone who has a documented medical reason making it unsafe to wear a face covering, masks should not be required.

3. Students will have mask breaks during study halls and lunches, again, when six-feet of social distancing can be maintained. Students may also have mask breaks once settled with six-feet of social distancing if their class is held outside. Students who are struggling with the mask may also request additional mask breaks by seeking out the administration. Mask breaks may also occur during regular classes if the teacher chooses to bring them outside where social distancing rules can be applied.

4. Routine use of hand sanitizer and handwashing must be encouraged.

5. Good hygiene techniques will need to be taught and practiced by all (coughing into elbow, washing hands, not touching face, etc)

6. The Nursing Office Treatment Room will be used for quarantine. Room 143 will be utilized, if necessary.

7. Nursing protocols will be established for handling illnesses. The nurse will provide training to staff in the beginning of the year to give clear guidance on how to handle illnesses in their classroom.

8. Somers Public Schools Superintendent Brian Czaplak is the District COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison.

9. Signage regarding stopping the spread, protective measures, handwashing, and proper face coverings will be displayed in classrooms, bathrooms, and throughout the building.

10. Bottle filling stations will replace traditional water fountains and touchless faucets will replace traditional touch faucets.

## **B. Emotional Wellbeing**

1. Support Services Staff will need to monitor and respond to emotional health concerns.

2. Consider a partnership with Somers Social Services to address large scale needs for counseling of students

3. Consider digital mindfulness time for staff before school starts each day.



4. Wellness Survey/Questionnaire/Screeners should be considered to attempt a level of proactivity regarding each individual student's feelings about returning to school as well as their current emotional state after this crisis.

5. Consideration will be given to assigning a member of the Support Staff Team to join Team Meetings and/or classes where appropriate to remain knowledgeable about individual student's mental and emotional health needs.

6. As transition back into the school is considered, resources for parents/guardians should be shared regarding facing anxiety and fear during a pandemic situation. Pictures of the alterations of the school should also be shared with families, so students can begin to adjust to the new normal.

7. The Support Staff will need to determine--either based on the wellness survey responses or by observation in the school--whether or not a grief group is appropriate for students.

### **VIII. Clubs and Activities**

- A. CIAC guidance will need to be followed for athletics.
- B. Participation waivers will need to be completed for all students wishing to participate in athletics and clubs.

### **IX. Visitors**

- A. Wherever and whenever possible, visitors should communicate their needs telephonically and efforts should be made to prevent them from physically entering the building. A box will be placed at the main entrance where the entrance monitors can speak through the intercom and the parent/guardian can leave the items being dropped off. Once the person has left, the items can be picked up, appropriately sanitized, and brought into the building.
- B. A [protocol](#) to screen visitors coming into the building will be followed.
  - a. Standard questions that will be asked upon buzzing the entrance monitors. Entrance monitors can ask the questions and follow a flowchart response protocol.
  - b. Masks must be worn by visitors before entering the building and at all times in the building.
  - c. Hand sanitizer must be used immediately upon entry into the building.
  - d. Visitors will be limited to the entry foyer unless it is otherwise unavoidable.

C. Scheduled Meetings

- a. Wherever possible, parent meetings will be scheduled telephonically or via a Zoom platform.
- b. PPT and 504 meetings that are scheduled will continue to be done via ZOOM, Google Meets and/or telephonically.
- c. When parents pick up children, they may be able to follow the procedures while staying outside of the school.
- d. The use of the SHS facility will be restricted during the period of COVID restrictions. Careful consideration will be given to town functions. Private functions will not be permitted.