



Meeting Street
The Schwartz School

August 10, 2020

Meeting Street - The Schwartz School is planning for a full return to in person learning on Monday, August 24, 2020. The safety of our staff and students is our top priority. Our students need the in person services schools like ours provide, and we acknowledge that remote learning, for most kids, is not ideal. There is no perfect answer in these uncharted territories, and we are all trying to make decisions that keep our students' and staffs' safety as a top priority.

At this point, students in grades 2 and above must wear a mask – if they are able. Most of our students are unable, and we are preparing for this. Masks will not be mandatory for our students to attend school, but we will help to support students in wearing masks or face shields. At this time, staff will be wearing the appropriate PPE. Different PPE is required in different circumstances, and we will adjust to ensure the safety of our staff and students. When possible, we will maintain 3-6 feet of social distancing. We are ordering new furniture to replace tables where students may sit closer together, moving unnecessary items out of the rooms, replacing items like beanbags and rugs with items that are easier to sanitize, designating items to students, etc. We also plan to keep our students in the “pods” they are in – limiting crossover with other staff and students in the building for the time being. We will also be doing everything we can to remain separate from our outpatient program, designating our own entrance/exit, and designating the school hallways for school personnel only. These are all measures we are taking to ensure safety is a top priority.

If a family chooses to keep their student at home, we will be offering a remote opportunity that will look a bit different from what we have done over the summer. All staff will be in person in the building. The student's special education teacher will lead instruction in their classrooms, and offer live Zoom access to classroom instruction, along with recorded lessons and resources on Google classroom. Students who remain remote will continue to have access to their individual therapies through a telehealth model - PT/OT/Speech/APE will offer their scheduled individual services at the times designated in their school schedule. Speech groups, APE groups, art and music will be provided live, as well as recorded for access at the families' availability.

Dear Families:

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back into our school building at the end of August. We have been preparing for this since March 13, 2020 when we left school and entered into our distance learning model of instruction. We are proud of our distance learning program and will use the feedback provided by you and the school staff members to make improvements for the upcoming school year.

In reopening our school, we recognize that educational outcomes, social emotional health, and well-being of students are optimal when students can learn in person. Our understanding of COVID-19 and related best practices is constantly evolving through better data, research, and guidance from our Governor, Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). With that in mind, we are committed to working toward ensuring that as many students as possible, and hopefully 100% of them, are able to return to in-person learning at the beginning of the school year.

Because we do not know what the 2020-2021 school year will bring, we are preparing for three scenarios of instruction that may need to take place for a variety of reasons: 100% of students in school with precautions, hybrid model which will include some students in school and some students at home participation in distance learning, and distance learning for all. The core principles for developing these three scenarios are so that we are able to provide the highest quality educational experiences for all children while implementing the best strategies to ensure the health and safety for our students, staff and the entire educational community.

These three plans will be developed by the school administration team, with guidance and feedback from staff, parents, DESE and DPH, our medical director, Dr. Robert Griffith. The guiding principles for the four plans that we develop will:

- Put safety first. We will leverage science, data, and public health leadership to inform the choices we make.
- Be transparent. We will share what we know and what we do not know. We will be clear about what we can control and what is outside of our control.
- Be equitable. We will center decisions on what is best for all students, families, and educators, especially those most impacted by educational inequities and COVID-19. We will remember that equitable does not mean equal, and we will strive to give students, families, educators, and communities what they need, knowing that our communities have been hit by the virus at different magnitudes.
- Listen to the experts to understand the realities on the ground and develop and share creative solutions.
- Be decisive. Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We will need to be flexible and nimble, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change.

Based on feedback from our Distance Learning Parent Survey, we know that parents thought that our schedule worked well and that our teachers and therapists were flexible with their schedules

in or to individualize the instruction and therapy sessions. We will be taping all art, music and APE classes, so that parents will have access to them at a time of their convenience.

We are confident that we will continue to meet the needs of our students and provide them with a high-quality educational and therapeutic experience in all three of the scenarios we are planning for. As always, your support, cooperation and continued flexibility will continue to be needed for any one of these scenarios to be successful.

Sincerely,

Margaret Knowlton
Superintendent
Meeting Street | The Schwartz School

In-Person Learning Model

For the full in-person model, the Schwartz School will open for all students, following the 6.5 hour daily schedule, with the modifications as noted below:

- Additional classrooms will be open, as needed, in order to properly distance the students from each other
- “Community” furniture (circle tables, rugs, etc.) have been replaced with individual desks that can be kept 6 feet apart. Additional space has been made in the classrooms to ensure proper social distancing
- All staff and students who are able will wear masks - mask breaks will be scheduled when students/staff can be outside, 6 feet apart, and it is safe to do so. We will try to have students who cannot wear a mask wear a face shield. We acknowledge due to the nature of our population, many of our students will not be able to cover their face
- The students will remain in pods, only interacting with each other and the same adults each day, minimizing unnecessary interactions with additional staff. TA’s and Therapists are assigned classrooms. The RN and LPN will separate caseloads to the best of their ability
- Art/music will take place within the classrooms, rather than exposing students to an additional environment. Time will be scheduled to ensure proper sanitizing of shared supplies between classes
- APE class is the only class that will take place in a common area, with time allotted for cleaning in between classes. When weather permits, outdoor activities will be planned
- There will be designated entrances/exits for students in different classrooms, and designated paths in the hallways. Hallway schedules will be created for students who utilize the hallways for sensory breaks and/or therapeutic activities
- Lunch is and will continue to be eaten in the classroom.
- Individual students' items will be placed in storage bins. Students will be assigned materials to limit sharing as much as possible. Larger equipment that needs to be shared will be properly sanitized between use
- For contact tracing and limiting the number of adults in each classroom, a log will be outside of each classroom that every adult, every day, will need to sign in and out of.
- Families will complete a daily Covid-19 screening tool using Google Classroom attesting that their student is symptom free, has not been knowingly exposed to Covid-19, and has not traveled outside of Massachusetts to an area with elevated risk
- Students who do opt out of in person learning will be provided with the hybrid learning model as summarized below

Hybrid Learning Model

The Schwartz School hybrid learning model is designed based on parent input and choice, as we know that some students will remain home due to the nature of their medical needs and/or disability.

- All staff (who are able) will be in person in the building
- Special education teachers will lead instruction in their classrooms, and offer live Zoom access to classroom group instruction, along with recorded lessons and resources on Google classroom. The resources provided in Google classroom will be directly related to the student's learning goals
- Students who remain remote, will have access to their individual therapies through a telehealth model - PT/OT/Speech/APE will offer their scheduled services at the designated times. Speech groups/APE/music/art will be provided live, as well as recorded for access at the families' availability
- In the building - students will remain in the "pods" within their classrooms with their classroom staff. Staff will utilize the appropriate PPE as outlined in the DESE recommendations. Therapists will be assigned to these pods in order to limit crossover amongst students/staff
- In the building all in-person safety protocols will be in place, included, but not limited to: lunch in individual classrooms, designated entrances and exits, scheduled playground time, art/music in each classroom, designated materials for students, additional cleaning time, etc.

Remote Learning Model

The Schwartz School Remote Learning Model is designed in the case that it becomes unsafe for any in-person learning to continue.

- Continue with utilizing Google Classroom to offer resources for students, and in person Zoom/Google Meet meetings for therapy and classes. All students will continue to have an individualized schedule that has been created with each individual family to meet their child's needs. This may include teachers and therapists flexing their schedules and providing services outside of the traditional school day hours. Each schedule includes: academics based on state standards, APE, art, music, and any related services the student receives per their IEP (PT, OT, Speech, APE, Vision, ABA) Families also have access to nursing, the behaviorist, and administration.
 - Student attendance will be taken by teachers by a combination of students participation in posted work and/or participation in live (zoom/google meets) class lessons.
 - Progress will be kept by teachers and therapists and quarterly progress reports will continue to be issued.
 - Families will be offered weekly newsletter updates as well as regularly scheduled family video meetings.

Student Supports and Professional Learning

- Our school nurses will be visiting each classroom to review hand washing protocols with staff and students
- All staff have and will continue to provide social stories and supports around Covid-19, mask wearing, etc. as age and developmentally appropriate
- Our behavior specialist will work with families and staff to support students re-entry into school, and with any behavioral and/or emotional issues that may arise due to the changes that have occurred over the past 6 months
- All staff will participate in their regularly scheduled professional development the week prior to the students returning to the building: this PD will include new protocols, policies and procedures related to Covid 19, including (but not limited to): Safe and effective use of protective equipment; General information related to COVID-19 from the CDC; How COVID-19 is spread; How to prevent the spread of COVID-19; Symptoms of COVID-19; and When to seek medical assistance for students or staff who exhibit symptoms or become sick

2020-2021 School Calendar

July 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
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						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					11

September 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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26	27	28	29	30		

October 2020						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
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29	30					17

December 2020						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		17

Meeting Street
Schwartz School
1 Posa Place
Dartmouth, MA 02747
Phone: 508-996-3391
Fax: 508-996-3397
School Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

- Jul 1 First Day of School
- Jul 3 No School: Fourth of July Break
- Jul 31 No School
- Aug 10-14 No School: Students/Staff
- Aug 17-21 No School: Students-Staff PD
- Sep 7 No School: Labor Day
- Sep 8 No School: Students-Staff PD
- Oct 12 No School: Columbus Day
- Nov 3 No School: Conferences
- Nov 11 No School: Veterans Day
- Nov 25 Half Day: Students dismissed at noon
- Nov 26-27 No School: Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec 24-Jan 1 No School: Holiday Recess
- Jan 18 No School: Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 29 No School: Students-Staff PD
- Feb 15-19 No School: Winter Recess
- Mar 19 No School: Students-Staff PD
- Apr 19-23 No School: Spring Recess
- May 31 No School: Memorial Day
- Jun 23 Graduation
- Jun 30 Last Day of School

Calendar has 221 days and
and additional 5 make-up/PD days

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						18

February 2021						
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28						15

March 2021						
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28	29	30	31			22

April 2021						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	17

May 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					20

June 2021						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			22

Family Advisory Council	
Oct 20	5:30p.m.
Jan 13	5:30p.m.
Apr 28	12:00 p.m.
Jun 22	6:00p.m.

Family/Teacher Conferences	
Nov 3	8:30a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Progress Report Issued	
Aug 21	
Nov 20	
Feb 12	
May 21	

Make-up Days	
Jan 29	
Mar 19	
Apr 21	
Apr 22	
Apr 23	

Certificate of Health and Safety Requirements

- **Masks/face coverings**
 - Students in grade 2 and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 are encouraged to wear a mask/face covering.
 - Face shields may be an option for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings.
 - Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear masks/face coverings.
 - Mask breaks will occur throughout the day when students can be six feet apart and/or outside
 - Masks/face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable face masks will be made available by the school for students who need them.
 - Reusable masks/face coverings provided by families should be washed by families daily
 - For students that cannot wear a mask or face shield, a note from the students' medical doctor will be required.
- **Physical Distancing**
 - Classroom desks will be spaced six feet apart and facing the same direction
- **PPE**

Due to the need to be closer than the minimum physical distancing requirements when instructing some students with disabilities, the Department recommends that school and district special education service providers follow the guidelines that the Center for Disease Control describes for “direct service providers”. Direct service providers include personal care attendants, direct support professionals, paraprofessionals, therapists, related services personnel, assistants, school nurses, health office staff, and any other staff who must come into close contact with students with disabilities.

Classification of Individual Wearing protective equipment	N95 or KN95 Respirator	Face Shield	Disposable Gowns	Disposable Gloves	Gowns/Coveralls/Other Body Covering	Cloth Face Covering	Disposable mask
DSPs in care areas of students with suspected COVID-19	X	X	X	X	X		X
DSPs in the same facility but not in the care areas for students with suspected COVID-19						X	
DSPs providing personal care to students without suspected COVID-19 but who may potentially be exposed to bodily fluids		X		X			X
DSPs performing or present during aerosol generating procedures such as nebulizer treatments, chest PT, suctioning, trach care	X	X		X	X		
Transportation personnel/monitors who must come in direct physical contact with passengers (e.g. buckling/unbuckling, performing wheelchair safety services)			X			X	

- Student Groups
 - Students in each classroom will remain with each other throughout the school day.
 - School therapists are assigned to classrooms
 - Teachers and teacher's assistants will remain with the same group of students throughout the day
 - Interactions with "non essential" personnel will be kept at a minimum with at least 6 feet of social distancing and the appropriate PPE
- Hand Hygiene
 - Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.
 - When handwashing, individuals should use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry with an individual disposable towel.⁴⁶ • Hand sanitizing
 - If handwashing is not feasible, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropyl content can be used
- Covid 19 Isolation Room
 - 2 COVID-19 related isolation spaces separate from the nurse's office have been identified
 - Any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be moved to the specific room pre-designated for medical-related isolation until they can be picked up by a family member.