

# Shaler Area School District

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Director of Business Affairs

March 12, 2021

Dear Shaler Area families,

This week, we welcomed K-3 students back into our schools for 4-day in-person instruction. It was very exciting to see Cohort A and Cohort B in the building together, and we look forward to continuing to expand our 4-day in-person instruction model K-12. In this week's communication, please note important information regarding:

- The start of 4-day in-person instruction for Shaler Area Elementary;
- Updated transportation information;
- Planning for 4-day in-person instruction for grades 7-12;
- Shaler Area educators getting vaccinated;
- A summary of COVID-19 cases in SASD for the week of March 8.

## **4-Day In-Person Instruction Begins for Grades 4-6**

We are excited to continue our transition to 4-day in-person instruction with Shaler Area Elementary School **on Monday, March 15**. As a reminder, students committed to 4-day instruction will attend in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesdays will remain virtual for all students. Students committed to Cohort C will participate virtually Monday through Friday.

## **Updated Transportation Information**

The district Transportation Department recently made changes to several bus routes and drop off and pick up times related to the reopening of Mt. Troy Road and the transition to 4-day instruction K-6.

**All changes take effect on Monday, March 15, 2021.** Please check Infinite Campus to confirm your student's bus information. To access the bus information, log in to your Infinite Campus account, click "More" on the left-hand side menu, and then click "Transportation." If you have a concern that your student's bus schedule may be incorrect, please contact the Transportation Department at [businfo@sasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:businfo@sasd.k12.pa.us).

## **4-day In-Person Instruction for Grades 7-12**

We remain committed to expanding in-person instruction at the secondary level and plan to transition the middle school and high school to 4-day in-person instruction in April. Over the past weeks, we have been working on solutions to maximize social distancing in key locations, particularly during lunch periods, to maintain the health and safety of our students and staff. In order to help us better plan for the secondary transition, we ask all families 7-12 to complete the Commitment Form below to indicate your family's commitment for your student(s) to attend 4-day in-person instruction or the 100% virtual option.

Forms are due on **Friday, March 19**. Please fill out one form per student:

<https://forms.gle/XVynm8Q6VTxKJYXN8>.

To help answer any questions you may have about the district's transition to 4-day in-person instruction at the secondary level, we will host a series of Parent/Guardian Town Hall meetings. Below is the schedule for 7-12 families. These meetings will be recorded for families who cannot attend at the scheduled times.

### **High School Parent/Guardian Town Hall Meeting**

**Thursday, March 18, at 4 p.m.**

- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94075993143>
- Meeting ID: 940 7599 3143
- Join by phone: 646-558-8656

### **Middle School Parent/Guardian Town Hall Meeting**

**Thursday, March 18, at 4:45 p.m.**

- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96444735127>
- Meeting ID: 964 4473 5127
- Join by phone: 646-558-8656

Next Wednesday, March 17, we will present the administration's recommendation for the secondary transition to the school board during its scheduled voting meeting. We plan to share the district's finalized plan with Shaler Area families next week.

Next Wednesday's board meeting is open to the public. If you are interested in participating in the meeting, you can call into the meeting or complete the RSVP form to participate in person. To maintain the capacity limits on indoor gatherings, in-person participation will be limited and the RSVP will be required. Once the in-person attendance capacity is reached, you can still participate via the virtual platform. Information regarding the specifics of the platform and RSVP form will be posted to the district website on Monday, March 15.

### **Shaler Area Educators Getting Vaccinated**

At the beginning of March, Governor Wolf announced that educators within Pennsylvania school districts are eligible to receive the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination and have been prioritized to receive this over the course of this month. While supplies are limited, Shaler Area staff started receiving vaccinations yesterday, March 11, as part of the first round of vaccines. A second round of vaccines for educators is scheduled to arrive in Pennsylvania on March 28. This opportunity will further our efforts to create a healthy and safe learning environment for our staff and students as we transition to 4-day in-person instruction throughout the district.

### **COVID-19 Summary**

Below is a summary of the additional positive COVID-19 cases in our district since our communication last Friday:

- One employee at Shaler Area High School tested positive on March 8.
- One student at Shaler Area Middle School tested positive on March 8.
- One student at Scott Primary School tested positive on March 8.\*
- One student at Shaler Area High School tested positive on March 9.
- One employee in the Buildings and Grounds Department tested positive on March 10.
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 11.\*
- One employee at Burchfield Primary School tested positive on March 11.

\*Indicates the positive case was not in school during their infectious period, therefore, the case will not appear on the dashboard nor be included in the 14-day rolling totals.

The district, in partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department, has identified and notified any individuals who have been identified as a close contact. When a positive COVID-19 case occurs in the district, we will continue to send an email to all families and staff members of the affected building and update our district's COVID-19 dashboard: <https://www.sasd.k12.pa.us/COVID-19Dashboard.aspx>.

As always, thank you for your support this school year.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Aiken, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Bryan E. O'Black, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent