

# Shaler Area School District

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April 16, 2021

Dear Shaler Area families,

In this week's communication, we are excited to share details about our instructional plans for the 2021-2022 school year and updates since last Friday. This will include:

- In-person instruction option K-12 for 2021-2022;
- Virtual instruction option for K-8 for 2021-2022;
- Virtual instruction option for 9-12 for 2021-2022;
- Virtual instruction interest survey;
- Town Hall meeting for the virtual instruction option;
- Rescheduled Kennywood School Picnic date;
- A summary of COVID-19 cases in SASD for the week of April 12.

## **In-Person Instruction Option K-12**

We plan to start the 2021-2022 school year in as normal of a school year as possible. This means that all students will attend school in-person, five days per week. There will no longer be a Cohort C, however, students will have access to a full-time virtual instruction option.

## **Virtual Instruction for K-8**

Shaler Area will launch the Shaler Area Virtual Institute (SAVI) in 2021-2022 for students K-8. SAVI will provide students with full-time online instruction from Shaler Area teachers, following the Shaler Area curriculum, as an alternative to returning to the physical school building. For the 2021-2022 school year:

- Any Shaler Area student in K-8 will have the option to enroll in SAVI with the commitment to participate in full-time online instruction for the entire semester or school year.
- The specific staffing model for SAVI will be built around the students being served at each grade level and therefore will be dependent on enrollment.
- Students will experience a typical schedule of core content and elective classes.
- Instruction will be delivered through a developmentally appropriate combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Students will have 4 required in-person check-in points throughout the year on campus (one per each 9-week grading period and during state testing). Students may schedule additional in-person check-ins with their teachers as needed.
- Students enrolled in SAVI will have access to counseling resources and all Shaler Area sponsored extracurricular activities.

## Virtual Instruction for 9-12

High school students will have the option to learn remotely through the Shaler Area Titan Cyber Academy for the 2021-2022 school year. Students will experience a typical schedule of core content and elective classes offered by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Waterfront Learning program. For the 2021-2022 school year:

- Any Shaler Area student in 9-12 will have the option to enroll in the Titan Cyber Academy with the commitment to participate in online instruction for the entire semester or school year.
- Instruction will be offered through the Waterfront Learning or in a blended environment for singleton and/or unique courses
- Students will have 4 required in-person check-in points throughout the year on campus (one per each 9-week grading period and during state testing). Students may schedule additional in-person check-ins as needed.
- Students enrolled in the Titan Cyber Academy will have access to counseling resources and all Shaler Area sponsored extracurricular activities.

## Virtual Instruction Interest Survey

In order for the district to begin planning for staffing our classrooms, SAVI, and the Titan Cyber Academy, we are asking that all families who may be interested in enrolling their student in the full-time virtual option complete one Interest Survey per student. The deadline to complete the interest survey is May 1, 2021.

- Interest survey for students K-8: <https://forms.gle/xoCmicPeUsNm4aLp7>
- Interest survey for students 9-12: <https://forms.gle/432FNTxnKbSyHMnZ9>

Please note: The interest survey is not an enrollment form. An enrollment link for SAVI and the Titan Cyber Academy will be shared at a later date with all families who have expressed interest in this option. **If your student plans to attend school in person for the full 2021-2022 school year, no additional action is required.**

## Town Hall Meeting for Virtual Instruction

To better understand the district's virtual instruction options for the 2021-2022 school year, watch this brief video overview: [https://youtu.be/u3Kr7NbE\\_xQ](https://youtu.be/u3Kr7NbE_xQ).

Additionally, we will host a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, April 27, to help answer questions about SAVI and the Titan Cyber Academy. This meeting will be recorded for families that are unable to attend live and available on the district's Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SATVArchives>. The details to participate in the Town Hall meeting are listed below:

### Tuesday, April 27 – 6:30 p.m.

- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98026042326>
- Meeting ID: 980 2604 2326
- Join by phone: 646-558-8656

If you have specific questions or ones that are personal in nature, please contact either Dr. Shannon Howard at [Howards@sasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:Howards@sasd.k12.pa.us) or Mrs. Eloise Milligan at [Milligane@sasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:Milligane@sasd.k12.pa.us).

## Kennywood School Picnic

Shaler Area's Kennywood School Picnic is rescheduled for Wednesday, June 16, Tickets will be sold online only at [www.kennywood.com/shalerarea](http://www.kennywood.com/shalerarea). The school ticket price is \$29, and valid for admission to Kennywood on any one summer operating day during the 2021 season.

## **COVID-19 Summary**

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

- Two students at Shaler Area High School tested positive on April 9.
- One student at Burchfield Primary School tested positive on April 9.
- One student at Shaler Area High School tested positive on April 10.
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on April 12.
- Two students at Shaler Area High School tested positive on April 13.
- One student at Scott Primary School tested positive on April 14.\*
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on April 15.

\*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.

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