

# Shaler Area School District

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August 21, 2020

Dear Shaler Area families,

There has been a lot of work in the past week to prepare for the start of the school year. Our teachers are participating in professional development on the best practices for remote learning. Our custodial and maintenance department continues to prepare our schools to open to teachers and eventually students by installing items such as touchless paper towel and soap dispensers and hand sanitizing stations. And our technology department is working to clean and format hundreds of devices for the implementation of our districtwide 1:1 technology.

On Wednesday, the school board approved the revised 2020-2021 calendar, which sets the first day of school for all students as Tuesday, Sept. 8, and the last day as Friday, June 11. The full calendar is available on the district homepage at <https://www.sasd.k12.pa.us> under "Calendar Quick Links" on the right.

As we prepare for the first day of school, each building has scheduled a series of Back-to-School/Device Distribution events for students to come to the school to receive their textbooks, school supplies, and technology devices and meet their teachers in person. These events are as follows:

## **Primary Schools:**

- Thursday, Sept. 3
  - 1 to 3:30 p.m.
  - 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 4
  - 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

## **Elementary School:**

- Wednesday, Sept 2 — Grade 4
  - 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3 — Grade 4
  - 9 to 11:30 a.m.
  - 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3 — Grades 5 and 6
  - 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 4 — Grades 5 and 6
  - 9 to 11:30 a.m.
  - 1 to 3:30 p.m.

**Middle School:**

- Wednesday, Sept. 2 — Grade 7
  - 6 to 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3 — Grade 7
  - 8 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3 — Grade 8
  - 6 to 8 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 4 — Grade 8
  - 8 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.

**High School:**

- Wednesday Sept. 2
  - 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3
  - 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In order to comply with social distancing requirements and building capacity limits, advanced registration for a pre-selected time will be required. The sign-up form will be emailed the week of August 24. Please note that only one parent/guardian can accompany a student, face coverings must be worn while on school property, and social distancing must be followed. If you have any questions about these events, please contact your building principal.

Please note that if you have travelled to any of the [17 states identified by the state Department of Health](#) where there are high COVID-19 case counts, the Department of Health recommends that you quarantine for 14 days upon your return. If you are unable to attend the scheduled Back-to-School/Device Distribution events because of self-quarantine, please contact your building principal to make alternate arrangements to pick up materials.

Additionally, each building will release a building specific Town Hall presentation on Monday, August 31, to provide additional details regarding instruction and expectations for the 2020-2021 school year. More information will be shared through your building principal.

Finally, this week, each family received information about applying for free or reduced-price meals for students. The online application is located at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). If you need help accessing or filling out the application, please contact Sue McElhinny at [mcelhinnys@sasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:mcelhinnys@sasd.k12.pa.us) or your building's social worker. A list of the building social workers is available at: <https://www.sasd.k12.pa.us/PupilPersonnelServices.aspx>. More information and a link to the paper application is available on our website: <https://www.sasd.k12.pa.us/>.

Thank you all for your continued patience and support as we work together to prepare for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Aiken  
Superintendent of Schools

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