



**Dr. Ronald G. Taylor**

Superintendent of Schools

Tel. (973) 762-5600 x1820/Fax (973) 378-9464

[rtaylor@somdsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:rtaylor@somdsd.k12.nj.us)

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January 11, 2021

Hello SOMSD Families,

Next week students will begin returning to our schools and classrooms for in-person instruction. Starting today and tomorrow, teachers have the option of voluntarily returning to their classrooms to teach and begin classroom preparation. On Wednesday, January 13, teachers will be back in their school buildings to teach virtually from their classrooms and to prepare for students returning for hybrid instruction.

In preparation for the implementation of our hybrid model, this week's instructional schedule will have some changes. See below:

- **Wednesday, 1/13 - District-wide Asynchronous Day:** No live virtual instruction will take place, self-guided student instruction will be provided via Canvas and may include pre-recorded video lessons, independent game-based learning tasks, or pre-assigned work/assessments.
- **Thursday & Friday, 1/14 - 1/15:** **No afternoon conferences will be held,** your child's teacher will provide more information on your child's schedule for this time.

These modifications will allow time for teachers to reacclimate to their classrooms, learn new procedures and protocols for entering their buildings, test their technology and to begin classroom set-up for returning students. The school-level schedules below provide additional details on the re-entry schedule.

**Also, please note, that by the end of the day tomorrow, Tuesday, 1/12, your child's cohort placement designation letter will be uploaded to your PowerSchool parent portal. As shared in previous communications, if you need help accessing or have forgotten your login information, email: [parentportal@somdsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:parentportal@somdsd.k12.nj.us).**

### **Reopening School: Hybrid Model for all SOMSD Schools:**

More than 98% of families submitted their preference for return to school instruction. At the elementary school level (PreK - 8) the breakdown is: 64% hybrid / 36% virtual; at CHS the breakdown is 61% hybrid / 39% virtual. In the hybrid model, most class sizes will average 6 - 10 students per class (possibly lower for classes that have smaller class sizes).

Students will wear face masks while in school with appropriate breaks depending on the age as outlined in our reopening plan (gaiters, bandanas and masks with valves are not permitted). Please review the District's **Return to School FAQs** for reminders on face masks and other important questions: [\[https://bit.ly/SOMSDFAQS\]](https://bit.ly/SOMSDFAQS)

### **Building Reopening & Re-entry Schedule:**

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD – 525 ACADEMY STREET – MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040

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As shared in previous communications, Phase 3 re-entry will begin with hybrid students in grades PreK - 2, 6th and 9th returning in small groups starting on January 19; the following week, our remaining elementary and HS students will begin their return to in-person instruction. See below for a detailed re-entry schedule for elementary, middle, and high school students for the weeks of January 11 - 25.

**Cohort Key:**

Cohort A: \*Students by last name A-L, 2 days in person (Mon/Tues)

Cohort B: \*Students by last name M - Z, 2 days in person (Wed/Thurs)

Cohort C: ELL/Special Services Students, 4 days a week (Mon. - Thurs.)

*\*Based on # of students per cohort, sibling preference and other variables, cohorts by schools will not always follow alphabetical order conventions for splits*

**Elementary School Schedule for the weeks of January 11 - January 25**

<b>Wednesday, 1/13/21</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Return to Building for All staff - District-wide All Asynchronous Day (to allow classroom set-up)
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday, 1/14 - 1/15/21</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Return to Building - Virtual Live Instruction; NO afternoon Conferences (to allow for classroom set-up)
<b>Monday, 1/18/21</b>	<b>HOLIDAY - District Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday, 1/19/21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The first day of hybrid instruction</b> - PreK - 2 only (Cohort A and Cohort C) return to school buildings</li> </ul>
<b>Wed., &amp; Thurs., 1/20 - 1/21/21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PreK - 2 only Cohort B (cohort C continues): Hybrid students return to school buildings</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, 1/22/21</b>	<b>All Virtual Day</b> (Teachers provide live instruction to all students; teachers can work from home)
<b>Week of 1/25/21</b>	<p><b>Phase 4 begins:</b> All remaining elementary grade students who opted for hybrid instruction return for in-person instruction to school bldgs. In AA/BB cohort model (2 days in-person / 3 days virtual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cohort A: Mon., &amp; Tues.,</li> <li>● Cohort B: Wed., &amp; Thurs</li> <li>● Cohort C: Mon, Tues, Wed &amp; Thurs</li> <li>● Fri., 1/29: All Virtual Day</li> </ul>

### Middle School Schedule for the weeks of January 11 - January 25

<b>Wednesday, 1/13/21</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Return to Building for All staff - District-wide All Asynchronous Day (to allow classroom set-up)
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday, 1/14 - 1/15/21</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Return to Building for All staff - All live instruction for middle school. <b>NO afternoon conferences</b> (to allow time for classroom set-up for teachers)
<b>Monday, 1/18/21</b>	<b>HOLIDAY - District Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday - Thursday, 1/19 – 1/21/21</b>	<p><b>The first week of hybrid (in-person) instruction for 6<sup>th</sup> graders only (All Cohorts: A, B and C):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All Hybrid In-Person 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Orientation for both cohorts in buildings</li> <li>● Virtual (remote) only 6<sup>th</sup> graders: All Day Asynchronous</li> <li>● 7th and 8th graders continue with virtual live instruction</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, 1/22/21</b>	<b>All Virtual Day</b> (Teachers to provide live instruction to students; teachers can work from home)
<b>Week of 1/25/21</b>	<p><b>Phase 4 begins:</b> 7th &amp; 8th grade students who opted for hybrid instruction will return to school bldgs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cohort A and Cohort C: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mon., 1/25: School Orientation (cohort B and virtual only students will have all-day asynchronous learning)</li> <li>○ Tues., 1/26: Hybrid Instruction (live instruction resumes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Cohort B (cohort C continues): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wed., 1/27: School Orientation (cohort A and virtual only students will have all-day asynchronous learning)</li> <li>○ Thurs., 1/28: Hybrid Instruction (live instruction resumes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Fri., 1/29: All Virtual Day</li> </ul>

*(Related arts teachers who teach multiple grade levels will adjust accordingly with some periods async. and some live.)*

### CHS Schedule for the weeks of January 11 - 25

<b>Wednesday, 1/13/21</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Return to Building for All staff - District-wide All Asynchronous Day (to allow classroom set-up)
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday, 1/14 - 1/15/21</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Return to Building for All staff - All live instruction no afternoon conference (classroom set-up for teachers)
<b>Monday, 1/18/21</b>	<b>HOLIDAY - District Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday - Thursday 1/19 – 1/21/21</b>	<p><b>The first week of hybrid (in-person) instruction for 9<sup>th</sup> graders only:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cohort 1 Freshman will be in the building (Tues., 1/19 &amp; Wed., 1/20)</li> <li>● Cohort 2 Freshman will be in the building on (Th., 1/21 &amp; Mon., 1/25)</li> <li>● All other grades continue with virtual live instruction (both hybrid and virtual students)</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, 1/22/21</b>	<p><b>All Virtual Day</b> (Teachers provide live instruction to all students; teachers can work from home)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grads return for 11th &amp; 12th graders</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, 1/25/21</b>	<b>Freshmen Classes continue:</b> Cohort 2, 9th graders return to school. All other students continue with virtual live instruction (both hybrid and virtual students)
<b>Tuesday, 1/26/21</b>	<b>Asynchronous Teaching</b> - Due to PSAT's only 11th-grade students will be in the building
<b>Wednesday - Friday, 1/27 - 1/29/21</b>	<p><b>Phase 4 begins:</b> All CHS hybrid students (grade 9-12) return to school by cohorts (no more than 500 students will be in the school on a daily basis on in-person days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cohort 1 students will be in the building. All other students (both hybrid and virtual-only) will receive live instruction virtually</li> </ul> <p><b>Friday, 1/29:</b> All virtual day, live instruction (no students in the building)</p>