What is the plan for school?

We are looking forward to welcoming students back for in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year, and we have some important information to share as we prepare to return:

★ Our first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 7th. [2021-22 School Calendar]

★ Masks will not be required inside our buildings for students and staff PreK-12 when our county is at low risk, as determined by district administration and the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department.

★ School hours are as follows:
  - Elementary and Middle School (PreK-8th Grade, including GSRP): Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:15am - 3:25pm with Wednesday hours being 8:15am - 1:00pm.
    *Families may request no-cost care from 1pm - 3:25pm
  - High School: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:15am - 3:25pm with Wednesday being a remote learning / credit recovery / enrichment day.

★ The PreK - 12 Open House is Tuesday, August 31st from 5pm - 6:30pm *Attendees will have a chance to win prizes and receive FREE admission to the home football game on Thursday, September 2nd!

★ School Supply Lists - You can find these posted on the district’s website after August 1st.

★ The Parent Meeting for Fall Athletics will be Sunday, August 8th at 6:30 pm in the HS Cafeteria. *The first Sports Boosters meeting of the year will follow immediately after.

★ Transportation to and from school is available for in-district students. [CDC Guidelines] require masks be worn on public transportation, including school buses.

★ Student Technology - Chromebooks will be handed out to 6th-12th graders the 1st week of school.

What will school look like when we are considered “Low Risk” for COVID transmission?

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION:
The COVID-19 virus is not gone, but in our community and our school we are in a much better place than we were just one year ago because of a high percentage of community members, staff and students who are vaccinated. We will be following safety guidance from both our state and local health departments under the MIOSHA Preparedness Response Plan called [MI SAFE START PLAN]. Under this plan we are currently in Phase 5 which is considered contained, or low risk, for COVID transmission. In alignment with the state’s [MI-BLUEPRINT] (a comprehensive student recovery framework developed by the State of Michigan), our staff has designed expansive supports, services, programs, and resources for all students. We want all families to know that we will meet your child(ren) where they are while also letting go of the mindset that they all have “missed so much.” Our goal is to align instruction to match what our students needs actually are, because we cannot recover if we spend time and energy looking backwards. Below is more information regarding what school will look like at each grade level:

- **Pre-K-5th Grade:** This year we are again offering free GSRP to eligible 4-year-olds. School-age students learn in multi-age cohorts: two Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten classes, two Kindergarten/1st, two 2nd/3rd, and two 4th/5th grades. Classrooms have assistant teachers to support students.

- **6th-8th Grade:** We have fully reimagined Suttons Bay Middle School courses, staff, and spaces to provide students with a creative, connected learning community.
What school will look like when we are considered “Low Risk” (Continued)

- Our calendar for this year includes early release days for K-8 students on Wednesdays throughout the year. Staff will use this time to plan, collaborate, evaluate student data, and design innovative learning experiences. K-8 students will be released at 1:00 PM every Wednesday (after lunch), and families will have the opportunity to enroll in no-cost care for students from 1:00 PM to 3:25 PM. This option is designed to support families that need their child(ren) in school during that time each week and provides an engaging and fun program for our K-8 students. *Please visit TINYURL.COM/SBWEDNESDAY21 to request care for your children on Wednesdays.

- **9th - 12th Grade:** We will offer a block schedule that will run “college style” with most classes being a semester long, as opposed to year long. Students will have an advisory and four classes. All of their core classes and electives will meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. High School students will learn remotely again this year on Wednesdays. Here is what that will look like:
  - The big change for this year is that our campus will be open all day on Wednesdays to students that need support, tutoring, or individualized attention.
  - All high school students will be assigned a virtual class each semester and are expected to work on those assignments on Wednesdays along with any assignments for their other classes. By structuring the high school schedule like this it helps us increase elective choice and academic rigor while also allowing for flexible learning.
  - Also, any high school student who did not complete or pass a class last school year will be enrolled in Wednesday’s credit recovery classes. This is one way we plan to address academic recovery from last year.
  - Students enrolled in CTC programs can expect to attend each morning, Monday - Friday. Information about their specific plans and protocols for in-person instruction will be shared to families before the start of school.

**COMMUNICATION** We will communicate with you the same way as last year with weekly newsletters from your principal(s), district emails with important information as it arises, social media posts on both the school and athletic departments pages, and regular updates to the district website.

**PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** Last year we couldn’t get together as a whole school community, and we plan to change that this year. We are focusing on building community and supporting each other through PTO for K-8 families and Sports and Band Boosters for 6-12 families. Information on how to get connected will be available at the Back to School Open House.

**TRANSPORTATION** Bussing will be available to families five days per week, and masks will be required for everyone on the bus per CDC Guidelines. We ask that every family complete the transportation form to let us know if your child(ren) will be riding the bus to/from school this year. Bus routes will be posted by our Open House on August 31st. *Due to COVID impacts, we are asking families to please consider driving to and from school each day when possible.

**ATHLETICS** We are returning to full athletic offerings for students, and will follow all MHSAA guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year. Elementary athletic opportunities will be available this winter as well.

**CREATIVE ARTS**

- **Music and Band Program:** SBPS is planning a full return to band for 6th - 12th grade students which will begin with a Summer Band Camp before schools starts. Our new Band Teacher, Mr. Dawson Peek, will be inviting all former and current band students to attend camp and a virtual “Meet and Greet” on August 2nd. Stay tuned for more information there. All students in grades K-5th will participate in a music and creative drama class that is new to us this year.

- **Art:** Mrs. Hall will teach K-12 art and Mrs. Vitale will teach art to 9-12 grade students.

- **Drama:** We are planning an all-school production this school year for 3rd-12th graders to participate in. More information will be available after the start of the school year.
### What will school look like if we move to “Moderate or High Risk” for COVID transmission?

In the event of an increase of COVID-19 cases in our area, including variants, we would work directly with our state and local health departments to assess the health risks to our students and staff. We will notify you of any changes to our health and safety procedures and/or learning delivery models. To make sure we are prepared to continue learning, these are the steps we are taking to start the year:

- **✓** We will incorporate many of the ideas, concepts, programs, and structures that we found to be highly effective in 2020-21. We value consistency and predictability in our learning plan for this year so that our students, staff, and families know what to expect.
- **✓** We will start the year off with all students in grades K-12 using some of the same programs, tools and routines that may be used if we have to return to remote instruction. This would include the use of **Class Dojo** and **SeeSaw** for K-5th graders and **Google Classroom** for 6th-12th graders. There will continue to be one school-wide website to go to for links to student assignments by grade.
- **✓** We will communicate with families immediately in the event of changes to our health and safety procedures and learning plans. District Administration will work with the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department to determine what mitigation procedures and strategies will be required when in moderate or high risk of COVID transmission. It is very important that we have your correct contact information so we can get this information to you when necessary.

### District Wide Personal Hygiene and Cleaning of the Facility

**THESE MEASURES WILL BE FOLLOWED THIS YEAR REGARDLESS OF OUR RISK LEVEL**

**Face Masks:** Any student, staff member, or visitor may choose to wear a mask while in school. The school has both reusable and disposable face masks for those who request one. Please note that if the district is mandated to require masks by the local, state or federal authorities, we will comply.

These are the hygiene and cleaning measures we plan to continue for this school to help mitigate the spread of the virus:

- **✓** Each classroom K-12 will have a hygiene protocol for hand washing/sanitation, and main entrances and shared/open spaces will have sanitation stations as well.
- **✓** Teachers will teach students about proper cough/sneeze hygiene and hand washing on the first day of school, and reinforce weekly or more often as needed.
- **✓** Sharing school supplies will continue to be limited, and each student will have their own supply box for materials.
- **✓** Classroom teachers will work with administration, support staff, and custodial staff to wipe down the students’ desks frequently with an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- **✓** Playground and athletic equipment will be cleaned regularly.

**Other health and safety measures in place:**

- **✓** Beyond cleaning of the facility we will do our best to maintain to least a 3-foot distance between students in the classroom.
- **✓** Teachers will be encouraged to take their students outside and open classroom windows while the weather permits.
- **✓** We have invested nearly $1M in HVAC upgrades throughout the district through bond funds to improve the circulation of clean, fresh, and filtered air throughout our buildings.
- **✓** We will continue to conduct daily health screenings of our staff and students to monitor for any illnesses or other health issues.