

GOOD NEWS



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Reopening Mission

The Syracuse City School District will keep students' health, safety and learning at the forefront of plans for continuous learning as we navigate the return to school in 2020-2021. We will communicate with families with a sense of urgency and a commitment to transparency as situations arise that may impact the location or schedules of educational activities.



We will prioritize the safety and well-being of every member of our team. The Syracuse City School District will provide support for faculty and staff as they adapt to the changing conditions of educating students through these challenging conditions.

School Reopening Overview

Pre-K through twelfth grade students will be starting the 2020-2021 school year with 100% remote instruction. Students will continue participating in remote instruction until at least October 2, 2020.

It is our goal to revisit state guidance, health considerations, community feedback and teacher input in October to plan for next steps.

Health Guidelines & Reminders for Students

When visiting school buildings, meal sites and should a hybrid model be initiated, please ensure that you have reviewed these expectations and protocols with your child. Children should be reminded:

- They will be required to wear a mask or face covering in school, including in shared spaces, like classrooms, hallways, bathrooms and more. Face coverings should cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the side of the face.
- They will be asked to stay home when sick. Students with a fever, cough, headache, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat or other symptoms should stay home.
- They will be reminded to wash their hands often using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, students will be asked to use hand sanitizer.
- They will be asked to social distance, remaining at least 6 feet (about two arms' length) away from others, and to avoid gathering in groups.



Visit the **COVID-19 Information** page on syracusecityschools.com for the latest updates on the 2020-2021 School Year.

**STAY CONNECTED
STAY INVOLVED**



syracusecityschools.com

MAILING ADDRESS

1025 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

725 Harrison Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families & Staff,

The start to this school year has been unlike any other. The pandemic has caused us to adjust our academic plans and embrace a 100% remote instruction model for all grades for the time being. First and foremost, I want to say thank you to the entire SCSD community for your support, feedback and understanding as we navigate through all of this together. Please be assured that we continue to review the latest guidance from local, state and federal agencies to ensure that we are making the best choices to keep our students, staff and community safe. We will adjust our plans accordingly as new information warrants, and we will communicate any changes to you as they occur.

Within this newsletter, we have included reminders for students and families about important changes to district policies as a result of the pandemic. These include new requirements for students such as mask wearing and hand washing; screening procedures for family members and other school visitors; digital resources available to students and families to help stay connected and engaged and more. You will also see highlights from New Educator Orientation. Our teachers and staff are working hard to ensure that they are prepared for this unique start to the school year and making sure their students are actively engaged.

As always, please check back often to our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for announcements, good news and the most up-to-date information impacting Syracuse City School District students and schools. Regardless of the state of the world right now, working together as a community, we will continue to lead our students to #SCSDSuccess!

Sincerely,



Visiting District Schools & Buildings


All visitors and staff to SCSD schools and buildings must currently adhere to several safety procedures and protocols, including but not limited to:

1. Wear a face covering (with mouth and nose both covered)
2. Consent to a temperature check and/or affirm that you do not have a fever higher than 100 degrees
3. Confirm that you are healthy with no COVID-19 symptoms
4. Confirm that you have had no known exposure to anyone who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19
5. Confirm that you are not currently diagnosed as having COVID-19 or waiting COVID-19 test results
6. Confirm that you have not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine
7. Confirm that you have not, within the last two weeks, traveled to any of the states listed by New York State as having travel restrictions
8. Confirm that you are aware of the CDC recommendation for handwashing and use of hand sanitizer



Important Dates

September 2020

- 14 First Day of Classes 
- 22 First Day of Autumn
- 23 Board of Education Work Session
- 26 Educational Foundation Recognition Breakfast
- 28 Board of Education Work Session

October 2020

- 12 No School (Indigenous People's Day/ Columbus Day)
- 13 Elementary and Middle School Interim Reports
- 13 Superintendent's Parent Council Meeting
- 14 Board of Education Meeting
- 21 Board of Education Quarterly Finance Work Session
- 26 Board of Education Work Session
- 28 Board of Education Work Session

Stay Connected with TalkingPoints

The Syracuse City School District is pleased to introduce a new communications platform, TalkingPoints, to all of our families. TalkingPoints is a free parent-teacher messaging app that translates messages from English into more than 100 languages. School staff will now be able to use TalkingPoints to communicate with you through a mobile app or text messages in your home language. To learn more, please visit www.syracusecityschools.com/talkingpoints or contact Manami Tezuka, Supervisor of Libraries, at (315) 435-4216.



Image credit talkingpts.org

School Notices

Student Information/Emergency Card

It is extremely important that your child's school has up-to-date information on your child, including an emergency contact. Every family will receive a pre-populated Student Information/Emergency Card in the mail. Please review the information on the card and make any necessary changes before returning it to your child's school. Note that throughout the school year, photographs, audio and/or video may be taken of students for use in district publications, on the website and/or social media or by news media. Parents who do not wish to have their children photographed or recorded must check the appropriate box on the current Student Information/Emergency Card and submit it to their child's school.

Syracuse City School District		STUDENT INFORMATION/EMERGENCY CARD		eSchool Office Use		Student #		Homeroom	
SCHOOL YEAR ____/____									
Dear Parent or Guardian:									
Please PRINT all information requested below and return this form to your child's school. Changes should be made as needed.									
Student's Name _____					Address _____				
City _____					Zip _____ Home Phone _____				
Guardian #1 Name _____					Where Employed _____				
Guardian #1 Home Address _____					City _____ Zip _____				
Work Phone _____					Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____				
Guardian #2 Name _____					Where Employed _____				
Guardian #2 Home Address _____					City _____ Zip _____				
Work Phone _____					Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____				
Every effort will be made to reach you in case of an emergency involving your child. Please list below the name, address and phone number of someone school personnel may contact in the event you cannot be reached.									
Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____					Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____				
Release my child ONLY to the following adults. ID required.									
Custody concerns REQUIRE a Court Order, Order of Protection or legal documentation. Special instructions/restrictions: _____									

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020



Asbestos Annual Notification

Agencies of both the State and Federal governments regulate asbestos in the public schools. With the enactment of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) in 1987, all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are required to identify asbestos-containing material (ACM) in schools and to formulate written plans to control and prevent the release of asbestos fibers in the future.

Buildings owned or leased by the Syracuse City School District have been inspected, and samples of suspect ACM have been analyzed by Environmental Protection Agency accredited laboratories. The results of these inspections are available in



school administrative offices. Included in these plans are specific operations and maintenance programs designed for each building for the control of asbestos.

Implementation of the response recommendations began July 9, 1989. Since the implementation of the AHERA Management Plan, the Syracuse City School District has conducted formal inspections at six month intervals and, in compliance with the law, will complete two more in the 2020-2021 school year in October and April. State and Federal mandates require that a triennial reinspection occur sometime within three years of the first AHERA inspection. The Syracuse City School District conducted a triennial reinspection in April 2019. The results of this reinspection can be found in each building in the AHERA Management Plan. As the District renovates buildings,

ACM is removed to the extent practical.

Syracuse City School District school buildings including support buildings that have been identified to contain ACM may have had some response action work completed in their buildings during the 2019-2020 school year. The details of those specific response actions have been documented in writing and can be found in the AHERA Management Plan located in the administrative office of each building.

If at any time the status or condition of any ACM is changed or disturbed through alterations, renovations or episodic release, it will be documented and Management Plans will be updated. We will continue to implement our Management Plans and alert the public about the District's efforts to control asbestos.

Notification for Pesticide Applications

New York State Education Law Section 409-H requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental and guardian relationships with students as well as faculty and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year. The Syracuse City School District is required to maintain a list of persons who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides and insecticide baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;



- silica gel and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the notification list. If you would like to receive prior notification of pesticide applications at your school, please complete the form below and mail to the Syracuse City School District, School Service Center, 214 Park Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13204; fax to 315-435-4936; or you can return the completed form to your child's school.

SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTIFICATION

If you wish to be notified, please complete the form below and print clearly so we can notify you.

CURRENT SCHOOL/ BUILDING NAME				
NAME		ADDRESS		
DAY PHONE	EVENING PHONE	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

#SCSDCares: Supports for Students and Families



Academic, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Support

The SCSD has many academic, social, emotional and mental health supports available to students. School Social Workers at each of our schools can help connect you and your child to in school and/or out of school supports that meet your needs. **Please call your child's school using the list below and ask to speak with a Social Worker.**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bellevue (315) 435-4520
Delaware Primary (315) 435-4540
Dr. Weeks (315) 435-4097
Elmcrest (315) 435-6244
Franklin (315) 435-4550
LeMoyne (315) 435-4590
Montessori (315) 435-4590
McCarthy @ Beard (315) 435-5855
McKinley-Brighton (315) 435-4605
Meachem (315) 435-4610
Porter (315) 435-4625
Salem Hyde (315) 435-4570
Seymour (315) 435-4645
STEAM @ Dr. King (315) 435-4580
Syracuse Latin (315) 435-4606
Van Duyn (315) 435-4660
Webster (315) 435-4670

PK-8 SCHOOLS

Edward Smith (315) 435-4650
Frazer (315) 435-4555

H.W. Smith (315) 435-4490
Huntington (315) 435-4565
Oasis Academy (315) 435-6226
Roberts (315) 435-4635

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Brighton Academy (315) 435-4535
Clary Middle (315) 435-4411
ELMS (315) 435-6416
Grant Middle (315) 435-4433
Lincoln Middle (315) 435-4450
Syracuse STEM @ Blodgett (315) 435-4386

HIGH SCHOOLS

Corcoran (315) 435-4321
Henninger (315) 435-4343
ITC (315) 435-4300
Nottingham (315) 435-4380
Promising Futures Leadership Academy (315) 435-4135
PSLA at Fowler (315) 435-4376

Bullying

If you or someone you know is a target of harassment and bullying, including cyberbullying and/or discrimination by employees or students on school property or at a school function you can report it using the *DASA Complaint Form*, available on the school website (Student Support page) or in the main office or the counseling office of your school. If you have any questions, please contact your school DASA Coordinator (listed on school webpages) or Student Support Services at **(315) 435-6327**.

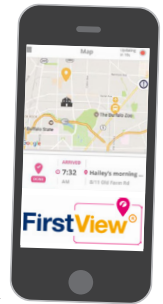
Attendance

Do you need help with your child's attendance? Please give us a call at **(315) 435-4146**. Some of the things we can help you with include transportation, school refusal, immunizations, or if you are unsure if your child should stay home.

FirstView® Bus App

Be a part of your child's journey to and from school every day with our bus tracking app FirstView®.

- Bus arrival time estimates
- Live tracking
- Alerts for when the bus is a chosen distance or number of minutes away



Download the FirstView® app to your smartphone and register using your child's ID and a security code which can be obtained from your child's school. For questions, please call 888-889-8920.

How to File an Appeal for Transportation

The School Board Eligibility Policy requires that a student reside more than 1 mile from school to qualify for bus transportation in grades K-8 and more than 1.5 miles from school for grades 9-12. This includes day care providers. A parent may fill out an appeal packet if they do not meet the district's policy. The appeal committee will only consider distance as criteria for filing an appeal. This includes day care providers. A parent may fill out an appeal packet if they do not meet the district's policy of 1.5 miles. The appeal committee will only consider distance as criteria for filing an appeal.



1. Appeal packets may be acquired at the student's school, online at www.syracusecityschools.com, or from the SCSD Transportation Center
2. The appeal packet consists of two forms: one to be filled out by the parent/ guardian and one to be filled out by the school principal
3. Submit packet to the Transportation Center by fax (435-5854) or mail (369 6th North St. Syracuse, NY 13208)
4. Transportation will notify parent/ guardian of the appeal hearing date and time
5. Parent/ guardian attends the appeal hearing
6. Committee meets and parent/ guardian is notified of the decision within a week

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020



SCSD Educational Foundation Virtual Recognition Breakfast

We hope you will consider joining us virtually for the SCSD Educational Foundation's 17th Annual Recognition Fundraising Breakfast on September 26th! The event will include a look at the grant projects funded in SCSD schools last school year, and this year's Educators of the Year will be recognized.

In partnership with WCNY's Online Viewing and Engagement Experience (OVEE) platform, a virtual Recognition Breakfast Watch Party will begin streaming at 10:00 am. It will be preceded by a preview introduction on

WCNY-TV at 9:30 am. To make a reservation for the Virtual Watch Party, please visit <https://ovee.itvs.org/screenings/z2k1n>.

Congratulations to the 2020 Educators of the Year: Carol Thresh, 1st Grade Teacher at Franklin Elementary School (recently retired); Kyle Voyer, Special Education Teacher at Clary Middle School; Rachel Murphy, Director of SCSD Food and Nutrition Services; Robert Leslie, Director of SCSD Career and Technical Education; and Roger Sanford, Recreational Aide/Food Service Helper at Meachem Elementary School. The 2020 Recognition Awards are being presented to Bankers Healthcare Group, as well as District Volunteer Amanda Murphy



Reminder: Digital Resources

During these unique and challenging times, there are many digital resources available to students to help them stay engaged and connected. See below for a handful – and contact your child's teacher or school directly with questions or for more information!

Seesaw **Grades K-5**

Learning System

Download the **Seesaw App** onto your computer and/or phone. You can find Seesaw by logging into **Clever**.



Canvas **Grades 6-12**

Learning System

Download the **Canvas Student App** onto your computer and/or phone. You can find **Canvas** by logging into **Clever**.



Teams Video Conferencing

Conferencing **Grades K-12**

Download the **Teams App** onto your computer and/or phone. You can also log onto **Clever**, select **Office 365** and then click on Teams.



Zoom **Special Education**

Our Special Education Department will utilize **Zoom** for related services including OT, PT, speech, etc.



Clever

Students have a variety of high quality online resources available to them by logging into Clever using a **district login ID** and **password**. Students can access Clever by visiting syracusecityschools.com and clicking on **'Library'**. Use any internet connected device (Google Chrome is the recommended browser).

Communicating with School

Emailing Teachers

Do you need to email your child's teacher? If you do not have their District email address, please call your child's school.

Messaging Teachers

Parents/ guardians may reach their child's teacher using the **TalkingPoints** messaging app. This app allows you to communicate in your home language!

Alerts & Announcements

Website

Visit syracusecityschools.com for news updates and announcements related to COVID-19. Check your child's individual school page often as well for updates.

Calls and Texts

Text **Y** to **67587** in order to receive important voice messages and texts from the District and your child's school.

District Email Updates

Want to receive regular emails with announcements, good news and more from the District? Visit syracusecityschools.com/signup and submit your email address to get started.

SchoolTool

Double check your child's phone number, address and emergency contact information on **SchoolTool** annually. Please also update their account any time their information changes. Visit syracusecityschools.com and click on **SchoolTool Parent Portal** to access.

Alumni Spotlight

Tajuana ('Tae') Cerutti-Brown

SCSD Schools Attended

McKinley-Brighton, Dr. Weeks, Frazer, Corcoran ('05)

College and Major(s)

University at Buffalo (SUNY): English and Communication, B.A.; Buffalo State College (SUNY): Multidisciplinary Studies: Public Relations Management, M.S.

Career Path

I currently serve as the Public Information Officer for the City of Syracuse in the Office of the Mayor. I help to disseminate information to the public. The path to my current position was not a straight one. I actually ended up doing Equal Employment Opportunity workforce compliance for almost 6 years prior to this job. I honestly thought that working in another field for such a long period of time meant that that was the new career path I was to continue on. Out of a desire for change, I began to look for different opportunities doing communications work similar to what I was doing before returning home to Syracuse in 2013. Although I was somewhat out of practice, I began to think about the kind of work I really enjoyed, which was community relations-related, and sought those opportunities. I took a leap of faith, started applying for new jobs and I landed the opportunity to work under the Walsh administration. My plan during my undergraduate studies was to gain as much internship and real world experience as possible while still in school in order to get a great job after graduating. It didn't happen that way, so I figured that I was supposed to be where I was in the season of my life that I was in. That was the case but for each season in my life. I got where I am today in a very roundabout way but I learned a lot in the process.

The coolest thing about my job is...

the new perspective from which I get to see Syracuse. I get to learn a lot about the people, places, communities, cultures, history, events and initiatives that make this city all that it is. I've learned more since being in my current position than I have as someone who was born and raised here.

**The most valuable thing I learned in school is...**

you can debate about anything that has been established as "true" or "factual" as long as you present evidence from research and logic that supports the conclusions.

I'm proud to be a SCSD graduate because...

it is a part of my history and without my history/experiences, I would not be who I am today.

One piece of advice I'd give to SCSD students is...

work hard today for your future. Know that indirect paths may not have been in your plans, but you'll ultimately end up where you are supposed to be. The interim experiences are there to help you grow in one area or another.

Student Spotlight

Henry Zhe-Heimerman

Grade & School

7th Grade at Ed Smith

Extracurricular Activities

School musical, school math group (Math Counts), band (plays piano and trumpet), orchestra (plays violin)

Favorite class

Math, because it's really fun and challenging. It's not super serious or overly difficult for me.

Favorite Teacher

Mr. Netti (5th grade math teacher) – he was fun and had lots of incentives and was always making jokes in class but still taught us a lot. He really made the material fun to learn.

Favorite thing about your school

There's a sense of community at Ed Smith. We'll all rise up behind an idea... our whole school supports each other and that's really fun to see. We did the Climate Strike one day, and we had kids from different grades and even teachers helping us – it was cool to see the whole school working together.

Proudest achievement

I'm proud of how much I've done with my music – I did NYSSMA for trumpet and piano and was really proud of myself because I had worked really hard for it.

Hobbies outside of school

I really like to play piano and other instruments... not even learning the music for school – just having fun and learning music that I want to learn for myself. I definitely want to keep music in my life, even if it isn't what I go to college for – it will always be a part of me.

Coolest thing learned in school

I wouldn't have started any of the instruments I play without school. I started piano in first grade, violin in third and trumpet in fourth.

Advice for other students

One of my favorite things to think about is that being 'just okay' is not okay. I want to improve on something until I'm confident that I'm good at it. If someone asks me to do something, I know there's a difference between being okay at it and being good at it. You have to practice something to become better at it, so you always have to keep yourself motivated!

Henry was nominated by Teaching Assistant LaTeashea McNair, who said, "Henry is a very talented music student who goes above and beyond helping staff and students in need of musical assistance. He learned a song within a week after being given sheet music to assist us in the Black History Celebration and I am very grateful for his humbleness and kindness to jump right in to help!"





MISSION

To build, support and sustain school communities that provide all students with a high-quality education that prepares them to graduate as responsible, active citizens ready for success in college and careers and prepared to compete in a global economy.

VISION

To prepare and inspire all of our students to innovate locally and contribute globally.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Katie Sojewicz, *President*

Mark D. Muhammad, Ed.D., *Vice President*

Tamica Barnett

Pat Body

David Cecile

Derrick Dorsey

Dan Romeo

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jaime Alicea, *Superintendent*

Patricia Clark, *Chief Ombuds/ Student Support Services Officer*

Dean DeSantis, *Chief Operations Officer*

Laura Kelley, Ed.D., *Chief Academic Officer*

Christopher Miller, Ed.D., *Chief Human Resources Officer*

Timothy Moon, *Chief Accountability Officer*

Suzanne Slack, *Chief Financial Officer*

Monique Wright-Williams, *Chief of Staff*

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Syracuse City School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it is committed to providing equal access to all categories of employment, programs and educational opportunities, including career and technical education opportunities, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, Native American ancestry/ethnicity, creed or religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, disability or any other legally protected category under federal, state or local law.

Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

Civil Rights Compliance Officer
Syracuse City School District
725 Harrison Street • Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 435-4131
Email: CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us



>> Share your questions, comments or concerns 24/7 using the Let's Talk tool at www.syracusecityschools.com

SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
1025 Erie Boulevard West | Syracuse, NY 13204

Non-Profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Syracuse, NY
Permit 2563

New Teacher Orientation Held Virtually



About 200 new SCSD teachers recently attended the first-ever virtual New Teacher Orientation, where they learned about their curriculum and creating lessons that encourage a culture of learning in digital environments, culturally responsive education and more. They spent time working closely with their Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) consultants, who facilitated virtual learning groups. They also learned about how to work virtually and how to manage a hybrid environment for when the District makes a shift to that model of learning.

"We decided early on to hold this event virtually, because we were unsure of what the status of the health of the community would be by August," SCSD Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Chris Miller said. "We planned a combination of synchronous and asynchronous work that is focused on preparing educators for their students, and it is all work that they can use in the first few weeks of instruction."

#SCSDGivesThanks for these new educators and their participation during these unique times; as well as for our Human Resources team who planned this engaging online training program!