



Saranac Central School District

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August 16, 2021

Good morning,

I am reaching out to announce a schedule change for the upcoming school year and to provide some information about the plans for the fall. First let me talk about why a change to the schedule is necessary.

- Since I arrived at Saranac, I have been confused about our Elementary buildings having different start and end times. I also learned that these different times were causing Saranac Elementary students to be educated approximately 15 minutes less per day than our Morrisonville Elementary students. These 15 minutes have been causing the district to struggle in reaching the required 900 hours of instruction per year at the Saranac Elementary building.
- We should not have one elementary building of students being educated 15 minutes less a day.
- If we can't meet the requirement of 900 hours for elementary students and 990 hours for MS/HS students, we jeopardize our state aid.
- There have also been a couple of different issues arise with the two elementary buildings not being aligned. At times it has been difficult to coordinate trainings/meetings between buildings and this also caused difficulties for Morrisonville to host afterschool clubs (as did our bus driver shortage and it continues to cause problems).

In the end this has become a necessary change. Unfortunately, it is not as simple as only changing our Elementary buildings schedule. Aligning the Elementary buildings will have a direct effect on the MS/HS. During a study of routes and necessary time for transporting our students our transportation department found that it would need 1 hour between the Elementary runs and the MS/HS runs. This would then push back the arrival and dismissal times for the MS/HS. We are trying to avoid pushing the MS/HS schedule too far back to avoid students who are involved in extra curricular activities having to miss any more time from their last period class.

With all that in mind we have come to the following schedule that will be implemented this coming school year:

	Elementary Buildings	MS/HS Buildings
Arrival:	7:20am	8:20am
Dismissal:	1:35pm	3:08pm

I will continue to work with my teams and assess this situation as we move forward this year. We will also continue to work to limit the impact on our students who will need to leave their last period class due to extracurricular activities.

I wish I would have been able to get this information out sooner, but I also wanted to take the time to see what this year might look like. I also wanted to give my staff the time to conduct their studies of the schedule and our bus routes to get it right.

2021/22 School Year

I have been working with my teams to create a plan for the upcoming school year with the main goal being getting all students back into our buildings safely. We were awaiting guidance from the NYSDOH as we were initially told that it was being prepared. We then heard last week that there would be no guidance coming from the NYSDOH. The week then ended with some guidance from NYSED. This guidance was intended to stay aligned with the most recent CDC guidance.

I want to take this opportunity to provide some information about how we plan to proceed this year. I want to make sure everyone is aware that we are still waiting to hear from our local Health Department for final guidance on our plan. Here are some important highlights of how we plan to operate this coming school year.

- **Masks** – All students, faculty, and staff will always wear masks when they are in doors. Masks will not be required when they are outdoors.
- **Social Distancing** – All students, faculty, and staff will be socially distanced three feet in all areas and activities when it is possible.
- **Busing** – Masks will be required by all students and staff anytime they are on a bus. Windows will be kept down as much as possible for air flow. Students will be encouraged to sit with family members as much as possible. Social distancing on buses will be required whenever possible.
- **Remote Instruction** – There is currently no plan to provide remote instruction for students. If your child has a medical condition that would prohibit them from attending in-person instruction, please contact their principal as soon as possible so that we can develop a plan for instruction. Throughout the school year we will continue to work through any situations that require quarantine.

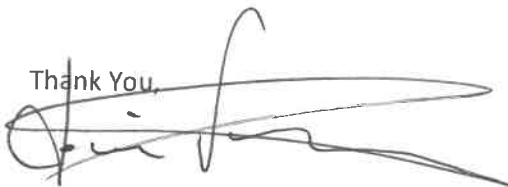
The CDC has been very clear in its guidance that we should make in-person learning a priority and that none of our plans should prohibit us from returning all our students back to in-person learning.

I do not anticipate any significant shifts from this plan once we get final thoughts from the CCHD. If their feedback does require some changes, I will send that information out immediately. Also, you can expect to receive other updates from the appropriate Principal's office in the coming weeks.

I am hopeful that this year can be much more like a typical school year, but it will be important to be ready to shift in any necessary direction dependent on the circumstances present in our community. We will continue to stay aligned with guidance from the appropriate health officials.

Thank you for your continued help with our efforts to keep our students safe while we provide the best education program possible. As always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. I hope you can enjoy these last weeks of the summer and I look forward to seeing our students back in our buildings.

Thank You,



Javier Perez

Saranac Central School Superintendent