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Director of Special Education Programs

## CAPE COD COLLABORATIVE

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June 22, 2020

Dear STAR Families,

As this school year comes to a close, we can look back and honestly state it has been a year like no other! The rapid change required for delivering instruction and maintaining relationships and communication has been a constant challenge. Together we have been able to re-establish a routine, maintain communications and provide continued programming and services to our students. We now have the challenge to begin the re-opening.

Planning includes ensuring that safety precautions are in place within the environment and ensuring that training for staff occurs prior to opening. The resumption of In-person programming requires that we have adequate staff available to work with the students who will attend and that we have appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for the safety of staff and students. We are well on the way towards opening school on a limited basis for summer programming.

### Extended School Year Program (ESY)

- Remote Learning: As we previously shared, summer Extended School Year will begin remotely for all students on July 1st.
  - The program will run from July 1st to Aug 20th for those *students continuing remotely for the entire summer*.
  - Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) have been updated for ESY and are attached if your child has ESY on their current IEP.
- In-Person programming: Summer ESY for students migrating to in-person participation, will begin on July 20th on an abbreviated schedule and continue until August 13th. At this time, we are not able to effectively bring all students back for “in-person” programming at the same time.
  - Students will be assigned to one of two sessions: 9:00-11:00 **or** 12:00-2:00
    - Student schedules may be 2 days, 3 days or 4 days.
    - Student schedules are partly structured to ensure appropriate staffing to meet your child’s needs on the identified days of their attendance.
  - Individual student schedules (for those families that have communicated they will be comfortable sending their student) are attached.
  - Some families have opted not to send their child and their program will remain remote for the ESY period.
  - Your home district has been notified of the proposed schedule.

- Parent Information Session
  - Anita, Julia and Marette will host an optional Zoom session to answer any questions parents may have about summer in-person sessions.
    - Wednesday July 15th - Time to be scheduled
    - We will forward the time and log in information closer to that day.
- Families will be contacted by the school nurse (prior to the start of ESY) to confirm that we have up-to-date emergency contact information. Families will be asked to attest to safety precautions prior to sending their child each day. This will likely include:
  - Daily temperature check at home to assure your child does not have a fever above 100.0°F
  - Daily check at home that your child does not present with a cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms (outside of their normal baseline)

**We ask families to follow these steps during the summer in-person programming as we continuously refine safety guidelines and protocol.**

- COVID-19 information
  - Please review information related to symptoms, spread, etc. is available on the CCC website and the CDC
    - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>
    - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Daily pre-screening at home - Daily Health checks
  - We ask that a family member take a daily temperature and check for a cough, respiratory; gastrointestinal symptoms, etc.
  - If your child is displaying any symptoms that are outside of their typical baseline (e.g. temperature over 100°F), please keep them home.
- Health Precautions
  - Given current guidance regarding COVID-19, please note that there will be minimal leeway for students presenting with symptoms related to COVID-19 (such as respiratory or GI illness and any student with a temperature over 100°F) to remain in school.
  - You will be contacted to pick your child up at school should any questionable symptoms be identified. If a student is unable to be picked up within the hour, we may be required to call 911 (Emergency Medical) for assistance.
  - We understand the hardship this may cause, but given the nature of an airborne virus such as COVID-19, this is necessary during this time.
- Attendance
  - We ask that you call in to report your child as absent if they will not be attending as planned.
  - Although not required, it is helpful to let the school nurse know if the absence is COVID-related. All confidentiality will be maintained.
- Contact Information
  - All families must have up-to-date contact and emergency contact information on file.
  - All students should have up-to-date health information on file.
  - A Program Nurse will be reaching out to each family to review the information we have on file to ensure that we have accurate information.
- Visitors to the building
  - General visitors during the school day are not allowed at this time.
- Items from home discouraged to the extent possible

- Items from home that students bring to school are discouraged when at all possible.
    - This does not include snacks or personal items needed for school.
  - Pillows / blankets or any soft items that cannot easily be wiped down should not be brought to school at this time.
- Food items/snacks will not be shared items within a classroom
  - When possible, please send snacks individually for your child
- Masks
  - Many of our students will be able to wear masks, but some given their health and/or type of disability, may not be able or expected to wear masks.
  - For those students that can, we ask you to send in at least 2 cleans masks daily for your child - one they will be wearing, and a 2nd for change after eating and/or if mask is soiled
  - All staff will be wearing masks
- Physical Distancing
  - We will strive, to the extent possible, to maintain physical distancing.
  - Many students within our school population require direct care for eating and self-care routines or other physical assistance. Staff will utilize safety precautions and wear personal protective gear (e.g. masks and gloves), but may need to be less than 6 feet apart to administer appropriate care and support.
  - Some students with cognitive disabilities may not understand the concept of physical distancing, even with direct instruction, and may not be capable of effectively or consistently physically distancing from other students.
- Hygiene / hand washing
  - Students will be instructed to wash their hands at multiple points throughout the day. Students may utilize a sink/water/soap or may be directed to utilize hand sanitizer (e.g. Purell).
    - Some examples: Arrival, in between activities, before/after eating, before/after toileting, after coughing/sneezing, prior to dismissal.
- Transportation
  - Your sending school district has been notified of this schedule for arranging transportation...
  - If you choose to drop off or pick up your child, we ask that you wait in the loop out front and a staff member will greet your child to walk into school.
    - Please contact Julia Bryant if you have any questions.
- Time Out spaces
  - Our protocols will remain the same for students that need to be separated from an activity or a peer group due to interfering behavior that is unsafe to themselves or to others or disruptive to the learning of others.
  - Students will be asked to take a break in a designated area or walk to a break in another space/classroom.
  - Break / Time-out areas will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. .
- Physical Intervention / Restraint
  - Our protocols will remain the same for students that need physical assistance, such as those requiring hand-over-hand assistance or assistance with self-care routines. Staff will utilize personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, mask and if needed - gown or clothing covering and/or face shield).

- Our protocols will remain the same for students that need physical restraint when all other de-escalation techniques have not been successful and a student is a danger to themselves or others. Staff will continue to utilize strategies trained through the (Quality Behavioral Systems) QBS Safety Care Model. Staff will utilize personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks and if necessary - a gown or clothing covering and/or face shield).
  - Staff will continue to utilize physical restraint as a last resort.
- Students that intentionally target staff with bodily fluids (e.g. spit intentionally at staff) will require a parent be contacted immediately. The purpose will be to determine if it is safe and appropriate at this time for the student to continue to attend school in-person. It may be that remote learning opportunities would be more appropriate as safety measures are further assessed.

If you have any questions or concerns with the information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Julia or Murette.

We do not know in detail what the fall will look like for schools, but we are moving ahead with our planning and will continue to make adjustments as new guidance and directives are given to us by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). We will send updated information as it becomes available.

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