



SOUTH WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Bobcats

Principal

Frank Rizzuto

Associate Principals

Elizabeth Devaney

Tera Harlow

Timothy Zeuschner

Director of Athletics

David Sytulek

August 10, 2020

Dear SWHS Families,

As Dr. Carter mentioned in her most recent communication to families, South Windsor High School will be utilizing a “hybrid schedule” to begin the school year. Students who select the hybrid option will be placed in one of two “cohorts” according to last name (students with last name A - K will be in the **Maroon Cohort**, students with last name L - Z will be in the **Gold Cohort**). When one cohort attends school in-person, the other cohort will be “attending” classes virtually and vice versa. Attendance will be taken for each period for both cohorts (students joining in-person or virtually). Blended family households who have children with different last names can be cohorted by household--the process for families with this need will be provided in a future communication this week.

FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE OPTED FOR FULL-TIME DISTANCE-LEARNING:

Students who have elected full-time distance-learning will virtually attend their class schedule just like those students who will be participating in the hybrid schedule. The difference is, they will be attending all of their classes virtually and will not be attending the physical building. Just like students in the hybrid model, attendance will be taken for these students.

DISTANCE-LEARNING IMPROVEMENTS:

Whether in hybrid or full-time distance-learning model, all students will be experiencing a form of distance-learning. Below are some of the improvements we have made to the distance-learning procedures:

- Unlike this past spring, all virtual classes will be mandatory to attend. Teachers will hold their classes for the students who attend the building and simultaneously for those students who are at home using Google Meet. In short, the instruction students will be receiving at home will mirror live instruction.
- Student attendance will be taken and parents will be notified of these absences.
- In many instances, teachers will use additional technology tools to further supplement their instruction including Screencastify, EdPuzzle, and/or FlipGrid.
- Professional Development time will be provided at the beginning of the school year for teachers regarding various technological platforms (and will remain available throughout the school year).

NEW BELL SCHEDULE:

Returning SWHS students and families will notice that the bell schedule looks different from the past. SWHS will be utilizing a “block schedule” for the 2020-21 school year for a couple of reasons--this maximizes safety by reducing the number of passing times *and* it will allow students and staff to better transition to a full distance-learning model for all students (if that were to become necessary). To begin the school year, the first four days of school will be considered “A” days, and for the second week of school, all days will be considered “B” days. Students who have an A/B schedule for one or more of their periods will receive further direction on this topic during their first week of school.



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REVIEW OF COURSE SCHEDULES:

Due to our present circumstances, we may experience different instructional scenarios ranging from the current plans of a hybrid schedule, to possibly distance-learning for *all* students, to a potential return of all students at some point (if deemed safe). Because we lack the ability to predict if/when these transitions may take place, it is extremely important that students feel comfortable with their course schedule regardless of the instructional scenario we are in. All students have been given access to view their class schedule in PowerSchool for the 2020-21 school year. I strongly encourage families to discuss course schedules taking the following items into consideration:

- the *number* of courses being taken,
- the *types* of courses selected,
- the *level of rigor*,
- your child's anticipated comfort with these courses in **any** instructional scenario.

I recognize it may be difficult to predict one's "anticipated comfort" but I believe in the importance of these conversations. We do not want students (or parents/guardians) to feel any more stress than they may already be feeling. If you feel that discussing a change to your child's schedule is necessary and wish to consult with your child's counselor, our school counselors will return to their offices on Tuesday, August 18th. They can be reached by email and their contact information can be [found here](#).

COMMUNICATION:

SWHS families can expect to receive communications primarily through the SchoolMessenger or Naviance platforms. It is extremely important that we have the most current email address information to ensure families are receiving school communications. We also ask that any home address, phone number, or email address changes/updates be provided to us as soon as possible. Please email Christine Hanchuk at chanchuk@swindsor.k12.ct.us with any updates.

BOBCAT STRONG:

I was hoping my kick-off communication for the 2020-21 school year would contain a blend of information that was not subject to change, important "save the dates" for the first few weeks of school, and enthusiasm for the start of a new school year--these are challenging to accomplish due to the impact of COVID-19. The continual uncertainty revolving around our present reality remains unsettling, but there are some topics *I am* certain of and they include the following:

- We have been working hard to create the safest environment possible for students and staff.
- Staff are planning to provide the best possible educational experience for students with the "whole child" in mind--rooted in academic growth as well as emotional, physical, and mental wellness.
- No matter the instructional scenario or setting, we will make the best out of a very challenging set of circumstances.
- We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2024. This was not how we envisioned the start of the high school career for our newest Bobcats, but we are here to support their transition and welcome them to the high school!

I imagine you may still have questions. I will be providing additional updates this week so families are as informed as possible. In the meanwhile, if you have urgent questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's administrator or me as the principal. Be safe, be well, and be Bobcat Strong!

Associate Principal Liz Devaney (Grades 10 - 12, A - K) edevaney@swindsor.k12.ct.us
Associate Principal Tera Harlow (Grades 10 - 12, L - Z) tharlow@swindsor.k12.ct.us
Associate Principal Timothy Zeuschner (Grade 9) tzeuschner@swindsor.k12.ct.us

Sincerely,

Frank Rizzuto

Frank Rizzuto
Principal



Students in the hybrid option will be placed in one of two “cohorts” according to last name (students with last name A - K will be in the **Maroon Cohort**, students with last name L - Z will be in the **Gold Cohort**). When one cohort attends school in-person, the other cohort will be “attending” classes virtually and vice versa. In this format, students will participate in two days of in-person instruction and three days of distance-learning per week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maroon (A – K) In-Person	Maroon (A – K) In-Person	Staff Professional Development & All students learn from home independently & Individual Student Support as needed	Maroon (A – K) Distance Learning (attend classes virtually)	Maroon (A – K) Distance Learning (attend classes virtually)
Gold (L – Z) Distance Learning (attend classes virtually)	Gold (L – Z) Distance Learning (attend classes virtually)		Gold (L – Z) In-Person	Gold (L – Z) In-Person

WEEKLY BELL SCHEDULE FOR HYBRID

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday		Friday	
In Person	Distance	In Person	Distance	All Students Learn from Home Independently	Distance	In Person	Distance	In Person
“A” Day		“A” Day			“B” Day		“B” Day	
Period 1 7:25-8:25	Period 2 7:25-8:25	Staff Professional Development & All Students Learn from Home Independently & Individual Student Support as needed	Period 1 7:25-8:25	Period 2 7:25-8:25				
Period 3 8:30-9:35* *announcements	Period 4 8:30-9:35* *announcements		Period 3 8:30-9:35* *announcements	Period 4 8:30-9:35* *announcements				
Period 5 9:40-11:25 Lunch *lunch times will be provided	Period 6 9:40-11:25 Lunch *lunch times will be provided		Period 5 9:40-11:25 Lunch *lunch times will be provided	Period 6 9:40-11:25 Lunch *lunch times will be provided				
Period 7 11:30-12:30	Period 8 11:30-12:30		Period 7 11:30-12:30	Period 8 11:30-12:30				

September 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 LABOR DAY	8 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL MAROON COHORT (in person) ----- GOLD COHORT (distance-learning)	9 MAROON COHORT (in person) ----- GOLD COHORT (distance-learning)	10 MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)	11 MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)
14 MAROON COHORT (in person) ----- GOLD COHORT (distance-learning)	15 MAROON COHORT (in person) ----- GOLD COHORT (distance-learning)	16 Students Learn from Home Independently	17 MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)	18 MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)
21 MAROON COHORT (in person) ----- GOLD COHORT (distance-learning)	22 MAROON COHORT (in person) ----- GOLD COHORT (distance-learning)	23 CT SAT DAY FOR SENIORS Grades 9 - 11 Learn from Home Independently	24 MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)	25 MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)
28 YOM KIPPUR NO SCHOOL	29 MAROON COHORT (in person) ----- GOLD COHORT (distance-learning)	30 Students Learn from Home Independently	1 (OCT) MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)	2 (OCT) MAROON COHORT (distance-learning) ----- GOLD COHORT (in person)