

Charlotte Elementary School

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“Where it Takes a Community to Educate a Child”

August 31, 2023

Dear Charlotte School Students and Families,

The Charlotte School Department is very happy to announce that beginning on August 31, 2023, all students will go back to school. Please note, there will be no Remote Learning option for the 2023-2024 school year. Circumstances may change due to recommendations and/or requirements from the CDC and/or Maine Department of Education as a result of recorded outbreaks.

We will remain in person throughout the school year and implement Remote Learning only if absolutely necessary. Therefore, we ask that families please support this goal by keeping students home who display symptoms.

2023-2024 Reopening Plan

1. **Masks/ Face coverings:** The Charlotte School Committee will not require students and/or staff to wear masks or face coverings inside the building or during outdoor activities. Wearing masks/face coverings is optional, up to the discretion of families. If families prefer students to wear a covering, students will be encouraged to do so. One exception stands, as required by Federal CDC and State DOE Mandates.
2. **Physical distancing:** As of July 9, 2021, the Maine CDC lifted all physical distancing requirements in schools. Students will be encouraged to practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
3. **Hand Hygiene:** Hand hygiene practices will be followed at the school. Sanitizing stations are available throughout the school and regular handwashing practices will be encouraged.
4. **Sanitation:** Custodial staff will continue to practice daily sanitization protocols to disinfect the school building, as well as equipment, to reduce the spread of infectious germs. Classrooms and general areas will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day. The Charlotte School bus will be sanitized multiple times a day.

5. Food Service and Cafeteria:
 - a. All students will come to the cafeteria and proceed through the line as they receive their meal. The school cafeteria will be set up to provide additional space for students during meal times. Custodial staff and food service personnel will follow hygiene and safety best practices.
 - b. A new electronic system will be implemented this year, called Meal Time. All students will have an account, accessed by their own swipe card. The system will keep track of student meal counts, extra milk purchases, and funds. Parents will be able to deposit funds directly on the student's account, or bring money to the office. During the 2023-2024 School Year, all students will again be eating free under the summer lunch program. Students will have to pay for extra milk, if chosen, at \$.45 per carton.
6. There will not be a Remote Learning option for students during in-person instruction.
7. Illness Monitoring and Response:
 - a. At Home Screening: All students and families, as well as staff, will complete a daily self-assessment prior to coming to school. Please reference the COVID-19 symptom checklist for guidance.
 - b. Displaying Symptoms: The Maine CDC COVID-19 checklist will be used and families should follow the recommendations outlined.
 - c. Returning the School after an Illness: Maine CDC guidelines will be followed.
8. Returning to School after Travel: Requirements set by the Maine CDC and Maine Department of Education will be followed.
9. Volunteers will be welcome into the building adding to the educational value of the school and its students. Volunteers need to be vaccinated and will be required to follow CDC and Maine DOE guidelines, as well as school best practices.

Please keep in mind that as guidance changes, these requirements may change as well.

Response to Learning Gaps

As a result of the pandemic, we realize there may be learning gaps that need to be addressed. Staff will be using data to assess these gaps and work with students and families to provide interventions and additional learning opportunities, as needed.

Please contact the school for questions.

Sincerely,

Principal, Charissa LaFreniere