

Seward High School

*A Northwest Accreditation Association Member School
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District*



PO Box 1049
Seward, Alaska 99664
907-224-9044
907-224-3306 (fax)

December 17, 2020

Greetings from Seward High School

As I'm sure you're aware, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's Board of Education voted on Monday, December 7th, to allow students to attend school in person even if the community remains in the Red. **This will begin on Tuesday, January 19th** after the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. However, **if community transmission rates continue to decline**, then we could potentially **bring students back into the building as early as Monday, January 11th, or earlier if we were to drop into medium risk levels again**. In order to ensure that the staff at Seward High can more effectively maintain the Health Mandates—distancing, masks, and hand sanitizing—while there is still community spread of the COVID-19 virus, we have established an A and B cohort and will allow each to come in for a portion of their weekly instruction.

Seward High's A and B cohorts were established by course priority—college, scholarship requirements, and singletons in our Master Schedule. However, there is built-in flexibility to move some students back and forth according to SPED/I-Team recommendations, and family requests. Further, families still have the ability to keep their child(ren) 100% remote.

Seward High will be on the following weekly schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A Cohort	A Cohort	A/B Cohorts	B Cohort	B Cohort
1-4 Block	5-8 Block	100% Remote	1-4 Block	5-8 Block

The Wednesday remote schedule will allow custodial staff to do a complete building sanitation regimen between the two cohorts.

The In-person school day will remain 7:50-1:50 so that teachers can continue to provide equitable learning opportunities for our 100% remote learners. Finally, all courses in Seward High's Master Schedule will be blended on a 20% in-person/80% distance-deliver weekly basis. This means that access to new learning will largely occur remotely while in-person time will focus primarily on guided practice of learning outcomes and social-emotional learning.

Please know that Seward High also received an HVAC upgrade during the week of Thanksgiving. There are micro-fiber filters on all of our air handlers that provide significant improvement to the building's air filtration. Also, with the new Smart Start Revisions, students will be required to **wear masks for their entire time on campus**. The only time they'll be able to remove their masks are when they are actively eating or drinking or when they are alone in a physical space. Finally, **physical distancing by 6' minimizes the potential of COVID-19 close contact exposure**. Everyone is required to keep a 6' distance, or maximize distancing in small spaces. Some exceptions will occur when physical assistance is required, when it is academically necessary within cohort groups, or when square footage of rooms does not allow it.

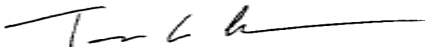
Please recognize that mitigation does not imply our expectation that there will be NO positive cases at Seward High School. To mitigate means to minimize or contain. We fully expect that it is only a matter

of time before we have a positive case inside the building. When this happens, we will conduct our contact tracing, closure, and sanitation of impacted areas of the school with an eye towards reopening as soon as we're able to do so as safely as possible. We ask that you give us patience and grace as we work through the challenges we know we will continue to face. If you are not directly contacted, in these circumstances, then your child(ren) were not identified as close contacts and you shouldn't have to worry. We will work directly with the impacted individual(s) on our communication plan and follow strict confidentiality if that's what positive cases, or their families, request.

Finally, we ask that you do your part! Continue to mask up, avoid large gatherings, maintain physical distancing and keep our community infection rates low. IF the Eastern Peninsula returns to the Yellow or Green categories, THEN we will be able to allow ALL of our students to attend classes in-person as per the Smart Start Plan with which we began the school year. This includes our ability to run our Winter Sports!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. You can reach me at (907) 224-9066 or at twalker@kpbsd.k12.ak.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevan Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trevan Walker, Principal