

A photograph of the Somerset Berkley Regional High School building, a large brick structure with white columns and a pediment. The building is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway and a small tree. The image is partially overlaid by a dark blue banner at the top and a white box at the bottom left.

# Raider Family News

2020-2021 School Year  
Volume 1 Issue 3

Somerset Berkley Regional High School  
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[www.somersetberkley.org](http://www.somersetberkley.org) 508.324.3115  
Dr. Susan Brelsford - Principal

Greetings students and families,

Last Sunday, I sent all students an email discussing a post that I had seen (yes, on Facebook) from a fellow principal, Mark Gonyea, who stated that lemonade was not a natural substance. It was created by innovators who looked at a bunch of lemons and decided to make something useful out of them. It probably took a few times before he/she perfected it. He likened this to this school year. This year, we were presented with a bunch of lemons, and the lemons are now in our hands. The question I asked our students and teachers was "What kind of lemonade can we make from this fresh new year of lemons?" I encouraged everyone to bring a positive attitude and try, as best as we can, to be flexible and keep smiling. I am so proud of our students and faculty for rising to this occasion. There were (and are) certainly bumps in the road and things are not perfect, but every day, we are making improvements and strides in this process. One student emailed me last night stating "the first few days went well, actually all the teachers are getting to know us better, virtual learning is brand new but we have to take the lemons that were thrown at us and make it into lemonade." I appreciate his comments and commend all of our students and families for their positive spirit, energy and commitment to education. In this edition of Raider Family News, you will find information from our health office, food service provider, information on our Virtual Phys. Ed course, study hall expectations, and the District Face Mask Policy. Please be on the lookout next week for a virtual tour of our school building, so that you can see the modifications and safety measures we are taking as we prepare for students to come back in the hybrid model. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. WE MISS YOU and look forward to welcoming you back to the building soon!

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Dr. Susan Brelsford  
Principal

**“Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person’s life.”  
– Jackie Chan**

## Greetings From Your School Nurses

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are excited to welcome our students back to school. As always, the health, safety, and well being of our students and staff is a top priority. We are working diligently and collaboratively to ensure that the proper safety guidelines are being followed. Please know that prior to your child attending on site learning, you will be given more information regarding our new health and safety procedures.

As per CDC, Mass DPH, and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines there are protocols that must be followed.

**PLEASE do not send your student to school if they have ANY of the following:**

- Fever 100.0 F or higher, chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known causes, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

If your student presents to the Health Office with any of the above symptoms, please be advised that a phone call will be placed to dismiss your student. You will be advised at that time what the appropriate measures are to have your student return to school safely. While awaiting dismissal, your student will be placed in a separate waiting area with proper supervision.

More health information will be sent to families in the following weeks. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work together during these challenging circumstances.



## Virtual Physical Education

On Wednesday afternoons, from 12:55-2:05 p.m., students will be participating in “asynchronous” learning. This will begin next Wednesday, September 23, 2020. On this day, students will receive a “Virtual PE Module” from Mr. Francis and Mrs. Medeiros who are your instructors for this class. There will be ten modules in all. We are giving students this time to complete these modules however, it is not mandatory that they are completed on Wednesday afternoons. The expectation is that the first five modules be completed by the end of term 1 (November 13, 2020) and the second five modules be completed by the end of term 2 (January 27, 2021). **This is a mandatory class that counts as the physical education graduation requirement.** It is a course that you will pass/fail based on completion of the ten modules. Clearly, there are more weeks in the term than modules. Students are also encouraged to work on group projects, community service hours, Capstone projects and other school related assignments.



*Walking Track*



*Performing Arts Center (PAC) Lobby*

## Study Halls

Due to the fact that we must track daily attendance, students who have a period 1 class on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday AND students who have a period 5 class on Tuesday and Friday must log into a google classroom so that we can track that they are in school for the day. Once attendance is taken, they can log out and work asynchronously for the remainder of the period (without teacher supervision). Students who have a study hall any other period (2, 3, 4, 6 or 7) do not need to sign into a class and may work asynchronously for the entire period. Students who need to log on have been sent google classroom invites by their assigned study hall teacher. When we are in the hybrid model, in-person students will report to study halls during the school day.

**“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.” – Princess Diana**

## Attendance

This year there are four attendance codes that will be utilized for tracking purposes. These codes must be utilized per state guidelines.

P = present in the school building

A = absent from the school building

VP = virtually present

VA = virtually absent



**Welcome Back!!!**  
**Somerset Berkley High School and Chartwells Introduces Plans for**  
**Serving Up Happy and Healthy at Mealtime**  
**For the new school year of 2020-2021!!!**

As students head back to Somerset Berkley Regional High School (SBRHS) for the 2020-2021 school year, one thing that won't change is Chartwells K12's commitment to creating the best dining experience for students while keeping mealtime a safe, happy, and healthy experience for all. In addition to serving foods kids love to eat and offering great-tasting menus developed by Chartwells chefs and dietitians, health and safety remains the top priority for the kitchen staff at SBRHS. Chartwells has been working collaboratively with the district to determine what plans will fit best for each school regarding a safe environment to serve meals.

For SBRHS, the Hybrid Model has been approved by the School Committee with schedule as follows:

Cohort A- In Person Mon / Tues / Remote for Cohort B

**All Remote Wed**

Cohort B- In Person Thurs / Friday / Remote for Cohort A

***Through a federal grant from the USDA, Somerset PS and Somerset Berkley RHS students can all receive free breakfast and lunches until December 31, 2020, or until federal funds run out, which may be prior to Dec 31. At that time, the normal school lunch program with meal pricing and free and reduced eligible students would resume. For this reason, we will still ask that you complete the Meal Application, and we will also alert families if they qualify for Free status if they are directly certified, as we do each year.***

The Breakfast & Lunch Program will be offering meals to all SBRHS students **daily when school is in session, as well as for Remote Learning Students**. All Remote Meals will be served at North Elementary (580 Whetstone Hill Road, Somerset MA) from 10:00am -11:00am & 1:30pm -2:30pm Monday – Friday. Scheduled days off or holidays/weekends will not be included in the service.

**HELPFUL INFORMATION:**

**PAYMENTS-** **If you would like to have funds available for your students to purchase A la Carte items:** To avoid your student and kitchen personnel having unnecessary contact, the best method is to prepay for student meals in advance using the online payment service at ([MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM](https://myschoolbucks.com)). **My School Bucks can provide you unlimited deposits to your student(s)' account for one low annual fee!** If paying by cash or check, payments may be dropped in a drop box at each register for contactless payments. The payment envelope should be sealed and should be labeled with student name and grade. All payments will be picked up daily and posted by the next school day. Parents and guardians may view payments on your MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM account.

***These are the meal prices for SY 2020/2021, once the federal grant for UNIVERSAL free meals expires on or around 12/31/20. There is no change in pricing from last school year. Any student that qualifies for free or reduced through direct certification or meal application would maintain those benefits even once the federal grant expires***

Full Paid Meal prices for SBRHS **Breakfast** \$1.25 **Lunch** \$3.00

Reduced Price Breakfast \$.30 for all; Reduced Price Lunch \$.40

For Menus & offerings please visit at [Click Here](#).

Charge Policy- [Click Here](#): Section-J / under JQ\_A

The monthly menus will be posted online [Click Here](#).

#### **MEAL SERVICE NOTES:**

- Café meals will be served in the Student Dining Center. Each student will have an assigned seat and table that is socially distant from their peers. The students' seat and table will require each student to check-in by QR codes to promote contact tracing for each seat and table. Café tables and seats will be sanitized after each lunch by students, and custodians and at the end of each lunch period.
- We will start the school year with 2 menu choices per day for each meal, for all schools and grades.

#### **BREAKFAST SERVICE:**

- Breakfast will be served in the Student Dining Center and eating areas will be sanitized after each breakfast by students and custodians.

#### **LUNCH SERVICE:**

- **Lunch meals** will ALL be served in Student Dining Center. All meals will be pre-packaged. All students will eat in assigned eating areas that are spaced six feet apart and facing in the same direction. This allows for adequate social distancing so that students will be able to remove mask and enjoy their meal.
- **Remote Learners** – All parents/ students may pick-up daily remote meals for Breakfast and Lunch at North Elementary (580 Whetstone Hill Road, Somerset MA) from 10:00am -11:00am & 1:30pm -2:30pm Monday – Friday. Scheduled days off or holidays/weekends will not be included in the service. Remote meals are available to all children ages 0-18 years of age regardless if they are students of Somerset Berkley Regional High School.
- For Menus & offerings please visit at [Click Here](#).

While the logistics and location for how meals will be served is different, students, staff and parents can have peace of mind knowing that our plans are rooted in the most stringent health and safety practices aligned with federal and state regulations, along with local health department recommendations.

All Chartwells K12 foodservice associates will also participate in COVID-19 specific training, undergo health screenings before each workday and follow strict guidelines for glove, mask and physical distancing protocols. Enhanced cleaning and sanitation measures help assure the safest environments possible.

### **Innovative Food and Nutrition Education Programs**

Food is a big part of everyone's well-being, and students need a place to eat where they can connect with others, recharge, and enjoy a sense of happiness in their school. Chartwells' team of chefs and dietitians have created menus featuring kid approved foods in on-trend recipes that encourage food discovery. Chartwells at Somerset Berkley Regional High School strives to inspire healthy eating habits and spark a culinary curiosity to last a lifetime through fun and engaging programs, which they will continue to adapt to the current environment. We are looking forward to re-introducing some of our great programs like Farm to School, Student Choice, Mood Boost and Discovery Kitchen later this school year!

### **About Chartwells K12**

Chartwells K12's goal is to make sure students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier than they came in, by serving food kids love to eat and creating custom dining programs. With more than 16,000 associates in 4,100 schools, ranging from large public institutions to small charter and private schools, Chartwells K12 is built on decades of food, education and operational experience driven by top culinary, nutrition, wellness, and sustainability talent. For more information, visit [www.ChartwellsK12.com](http://www.ChartwellsK12.com).

We look forward to seeing our students very soon, make them smile, and to be an important part of their day!!

Please contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,

### **Jason Morency**

Somerset Public & Somerset Berkley

Director of Dining **Services**

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## Somerset Berkley Regional School District Face Mask Policy

The Somerset Berkley Regional School District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

The individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- is incapacitated;
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

In addition, masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced:

- during mask breaks;
- while eating or drinking;
- during physical education classes;
- while outside.

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face coverings for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.

Masks can be disposable or reusable and will need to:

- fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin,
- be made with at least 2 layers of breathable material,
- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, and be secured with ties or ear loops

Based on guidance from health authorities, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face covering containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate masks. If a staff member or student does not have a mask, they will be provided with a mask by the school district.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 -  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Considerations for Wearing Masks -  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>  
 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>  
 Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! –  
<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

SOURCE: MASC – August 2020

*Adopted by the Somerset Berkley Regional School Committee September 1, 2020*  
*Amended by the Somerset Berkley Regional School Committee September 15, 2020*

