Return to In-Person Learning 2020-2021

Please note:
As a living document, this plan is still under development.

Things are changing daily and many more details and topics will be added before students are back in seats.
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Dear Stone Bridge Families,

On Friday, March 13, we announced a school closure that we anticipated would be at the most five weeks in length. Little did we know that we would spend the rest of the school year in distance learning, let alone start the new school year in the same mode. Our teachers rose to the occasion and did their very best to translate Waldorf’s live, on-hands teaching to a digital model. Much like our students, we took to the task of “doing, learning, and adjusting.” We tried to remain as flexible and nimble as we could.

Though we had wished that by now things would be closer to normal, we are still called to be adaptive with the glimpse of students returning to campus just within reach.

There are a myriad of details operating a school and in this climate, the details have multiplied as the circumstances are more complex and the stakes are higher. In this Return to In-Person Learning Plan, we have tried to anticipate the needs that may arise. In many ways, our forecasted ideas and plans will be good, and yet there are many details that we cannot know until we are smack dab in the middle of the experience.

Thank you for all your support during these mercurial times. Please know we strive to do our best as we jump in and address the questions we have and respond to those we will discover along the way.

There could not be a better team of people who teach your children, help lead the school, and support the students. What an amazing group of individuals!

If you read this plan and have questions that are not answered, please contact me or the office. We are all still learning what we need to know.

With the hope that we will be up and fully running soon,
Maria Martinez
Administrator
GUIDING PRINCIPLES and RESOURCES

Guiding Principles

SBS has created this plan taking into consideration a wide range of input and requests. These overarching principles serve as our guide through the decision-making process.

- Ensure safety of staff and students while adhering to public health guidelines and responding to local COVID data
- Provide optimal learning opportunities for all students
- Include all stakeholders in solutions and goals for a successful return
- Address social emotional needs of students
- Address students most in-need

Resources

SBS’s Return to In-Person Learning Plan was developed in alignment with the following:

- Napa County Department of Health Orders
- California Department of Education Opening Guidelines
- Napa County Office of Education - Considerations for Opening Schools

and with consideration and input from the following:

- Staff Surveys
- Parent Reopening Surveys
- Student Surveys

Four Phase Reopening Plan

On August 22, the Stone Bridge School Charter Council, aka the SBS Board of Directors, approved a Distance Learning plan for the start of the school year. That plan consisted of four phases:

Phase One
Distance Learning

Phase Two
Hybrid 2-1-2 Minimum Days
Classes will be split into two groups: Group A and Group B. Group A will receive in-person learning for two minimum release days (Monday/Tuesday) and Group B will receive in-person learning for two minimum release days (Thursday/Friday). All students will participate in distance learning on days not receiving in-person learning.
Phase Three
Hybrid 2-1-2 Full Days
Classes will be split into two groups: Group A and Group B. Group A will receive in-person learning for two minimum release days (Monday/Tuesday) and Group B will receive in-person learning for two minimum release days (Thursday/Friday). All students will participate in distance learning on days not receiving in-person learning.

Phase Four
Full Day In-Person Learning
All students will attend in-person learning five full days a week.
Return to In-Person Learning Plan

Since the original plan was approved, the current numbers of COVID-19 (as of 10-12-20) have steadily decreased in Napa County. Based on the new monitoring system from the State of California, *Blueprint for a Safer Economy*, we are in the Red Tier (Substantial) and Napa schools are able to reopen. Informed by parent, teacher, and student surveys and much discussion amongst Faculty, we are looking at a gradual, tiered hybrid-learning transition that brings students back to campus utilizing a staggered timeline. Our youngest students, for whom distance learning is more challenging, would return to in-person learning first, followed by older grades over the next 2-½ months.

Students would follow the 2-1-2 model, attending school two days a week (Monday & Tuesday or Thursday & Friday) and all students would distance learn on Wednesdays. Distance Learning will continue for those families who are not able or ready to participate in in-person learning.

The proposed schedule would be:

- Kindergarten students return to campus: week of Monday, October 26
- First and Second Grades return to campus: week of Monday, November 9
- Third, Fourth, and Fifth return to campus: week of Monday, November 30
- Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth return to campus: after January 1, 2021

School days would meet the required instructional minutes.

Throughout the slow reopening, we will look at the following in deciding to move forward:

- how school reopenings are faring locally and nationally,
- if any outbreaks are occurring, and
- how the county is doing with COVID cases.
Health and Safety

The Health and Safety of our staff and students are of paramount importance to our school, and SBS is committed to follow the recommendations of State and local agencies. All recommendations are based on mitigating risk and follow the stages set out by our County Public Health Officer, Center for Disease Control, and other health and educational authorities. SBS will be flexible and responsive to change. Our cleaning and safety standards, by best effort, will adhere to current recommendations.

Safety on Campus

Transmission of COVID-19 varies with the age group and the strategy for preventing the virus is below:

Organizing Principles for Preventing COVID-19 Transmission by Age Group

Organizing Principle: Stable Cohorts
Organizing Principle: Physical Distancing & Face Coverings

- Less feasible to limit close contact and wear face coverings
- More feasible to maintain stable cohorts
- Greater need for in-person and group-based instruction with close contact to support social-emotional and academic development

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Face Coverings (In accordance with California and Napa County Public Health)

Face Coverings include cloth and disposable masks, face shields, and gaiters.

Staff: Face coverings are required in classrooms and public/common areas, such as hallways, break rooms, bathrooms and lounges, shared office space, and reception areas. Teachers may use clear face shields when engaged in instructional activities, especially when seeing facial expressions or lip movements is beneficial. Face shields must include a cloth drape attached across the bottom and tucked into the shirt.
Employees are not required to wear face coverings while alone in private offices or in situations where physical distancing can be maintained. However, please be sensitive to the fact that some individuals may feel more comfortable if a face covering is used along with physical distancing.

Both cloth and disposal face coverings, as well as face shields, are available for staff use and staff is welcome to wear their own face coverings.

**Students:** Per Public Health Order (both State and County), face coverings for students while on campus will be **required** for grades 3-8 and strongly recommended for students in grades K-2. Teachers may ask younger students to wear a mask while inside the classroom.

Face coverings should cover both nose and mouth and must comply with the SBS dress code to avoid logos, words, and distracting visual images. Masks with valves built into them are not permitted, as valves increase the number of respiratory droplets released in the air.

Face coverings will not be required while students and staff are engaged in eating or drinking. Recommended social distancing guidelines will be followed during these times. Teachers will allow for face covering breaks throughout the day where students can spread out and remove their face coverings, e.g. outside.

For minimum days, we ask that students come to school with a clean face covering daily, labeled with their name. The school will have extras on hand if one is needed.

For full days, we ask that students bring two clean face coverings per day, labeled with the child’s name. This enables one to be swapped out after lunch if it becomes dirty.

Training will be provided for students and staff in the proper use and etiquette of all face coverings. (This includes flyers, posters, and accessible videos.)

- How to wear/take off Face Covering Infographic ENGLISH
Visitors to Campus

To help prevent the potential spread of the virus and reduce the exposure to our staff and students, we ask that nonessential visitors, volunteers, and community members not enter campus unless an alternate option would not serve the purpose. We strongly recommend that parents/visitors contact the office by email or telephone, or arrange for a virtual/zoom meeting when needs arise.

Anyone entering campus will be subject to the same precautionary measures: a temperature check and COVID-19 symptoms self-check. If an in-person office visit is necessary, approach the main office door, use the hand sanitizer provided at door opening, and wait to be invited inside. Weather permitting, there may be a table outside the office door at which parents may drop off any paperwork, sign their child in or out, etc. Anyone entering the school office will have their temperature taken. Visitors to the office are limited to one family or one adult (plus children) at a time. Additional visitors are requested to wait at the taped standing points outside the office.

If a parent needs to speak to a teacher, they are advised to call, email, zoom, or have their child give a note to the teacher.

Signs and Messages

Signs that promote protective measures will be posted in visible locations throughout SBS. These include, but are not limited to, self-assessment of possible COVID-19 symptoms/exposure, when to stay home, proper use of PPE, access to training and where to obtain more information, and direction for hallways and common areas.

Physical Distancing

All individuals (students and staff) on campus will work towards maintaining at least 6 feet separation from others. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face coverings, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
Drop-Off

As visitors are discouraged on campus, there will be no long-term parking in the front or back lot of the school. Parents of students in grades 1-3 will drop-off students in the loop in front of the school and students of grades 4-8 may enter campus from the back asphalt.

We ask that parents not walk their students to the classroom. There will be school personnel at the gates to welcome your child and direct them to their classrooms. We recognize that not walking your child to class is not ideal. We hope to reinstate the personal drop-off as soon as possible.

SBS will have designated entrances to the school per grade.

- K-1: Will enter at the K yard gates on Los Carneros Ave.
- 2-3: Will enter at the gate in the lower grade area of the campus.
- 4-8: Will enter from the back asphalt and walk towards campus

Directional arrows have been placed on the ground for guidance.

*(More details to come)*

Pick-Up

Students will be picked up in much the same manner as drop-off, in the front loop or from the back asphalt. Teachers will bring students to these areas to be retrieved by a waiting parent.

*(More details to come)*

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Custodial staff at SBS have been thoroughly trained in the proper cleaning and disinfecting of the campus. Particular attention is given to frequently or “high” touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, desks, faucets, light switches) in classrooms and common areas.
**Bathroom Use**

The number of students in the restrooms will be limited based on the availability to social distance. Signs are posted at each restroom noting the number of individuals allowed. Disinfectant will be stationed outside the bathrooms and students will be asked to disinfect their hands as they enter and leave the restroom. They will also be instructed to wash their hands after using the restroom.

**Drinking Fountains**

Drinking fountains will be closed.

**Playground**

Napa County Health guidelines allow for the use of playground equipment with hand-washing before and after use.

**Recess**

Recess will be staggered and each cohort will be assigned a designated rotating area of the play yard. Activities with shared equipment will be suspended until considerations regarding safety are lifted.

**Meals**

Morning Snack will continue, dished out at the MPR kitchen and delivered to the students in the classroom.

Farm lunch will resume once SBS has moved into Phase 3 when students will attend school for a full day.

**Sick Bay**

An isolation area or sick bay is designed for any students who become sick during the school day as they await pickup from a parent or designee.
Symptom Assessment

Symptom assessment is per CDC guidance and students/families and staff need to self-screen at home or before entering campus. SBS will ask families to sign a commitment to conduct daily self-screening at home at the start of in-person instruction. Staff will conduct visual wellness checks of all students and take students’ temperature with a no-touch thermometer.

Staff entering the facility will also sign a commitment to conduct daily self-screenings at home and have their temperature checked in the office, along with acknowledging that they are not feeling any symptoms of COVID or been exposed to anyone with the virus.

Anyone, staff or student, who shows symptoms of COVID-19 will be denied entry to the school.
General Safety Reminders:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday). Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Safety in the Classroom

Home Wellness Check

All parents will be required to sign an agreement that a “passive” health check has been completed at home, which includes a temperature check and a look for any signs of illness. In this time of COVID and for the health and safety of teachers and staff, it is imperative that students with elevated temperature or any signs of illness remain at home.

If your child becomes sick during the school day, he/she must be picked up immediately.

Entry to Classroom

Students will line up outside the classroom standing on the physical distancing marks. Teachers will take each student’s temperature per the California and Napa County Public Health Departments prior to entering the classroom.

Scheduled Hand-washing/Sanitizing

Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival, before and after meals, before and after restroom and playground use, and regular intervals during the day.
Desks

If feasible, desks should be placed 6 feet apart and all face the same direction to minimize face-to-face contact. However, with cohorts in place, it is permissible to relax the 6-feet recommendation if it ensures all/more students receive in-class instruction. (e.g. if reducing to a minimum of 4 feet allows for more practicable cohort sizes). Face coverings and cohort stability are higher priorities if they allow for more practical utilization of physical spaces to provide in-person instruction.

Student Grouping

Students will be grouped into small cohorts with cohorts not mixing during the school day. Multi-class gatherings or all-school events will be suspended until group rules are relaxed.

Ventilation/HVAC

Whenever possible, windows and doors in classrooms, offices, common areas will remain open for fresh air circulation. The filters for our HVAC system will be changed at least once every 3 months. HEPA filters are in all workspaces with filters changed twice as often as required.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is an option for student instruction providing weather and air quality permit it and is conducted per teacher discretion.

Cleaning Supplies

Cleaning supplies will be provided in each classroom to clean desks and chairs after use.

Classroom Materials

All classroom materials will be used by individuals only and no materials may be shared by more than one student. Students will be asked to bring their own materials each day during hybrid learning.

Personal Items

Any personal items that are not necessary for the school day (including toys) should be kept at home without the expressed permission of the teacher. Water bottles and lunch bags are permissible.
COVID Testing/Protocols

Testing

SBS will be asking all staff to be tested before we return to in-person learning.

The recommended frequency for testing all staff members is every two months as practicable. Currently, testing can be done for free through Napa County Public Health and Kaiser. If neither of these are available, SBS has received federal funding that could cover the cost of testing and will also identify private sources for testing.

A staff member who has tested positive, has completed 10 days of isolation and remains asymptomatic should be removed for 3 months from the staff testing cycle.

Protocol for a Case of COVID or Exposure

In the event of a positive test result or an exposure to someone with COVID, the Napa County Public Health Closure and Notification Requirements for Schools is as listed below:
### Asymptomatic Untested
A student or staff member who had close contact to a laboratory-confirmed case patient and do not have symptoms.

**OR**
A student or staff member who refuse or are unable to be tested after close contact with a laboratory-confirmed case, despite recommendation for testing from NCPH, and do not have symptoms.

| • The student or staff member should be quarantined at home for 14 days after the last known close contact with the case patient. Testing is highly recommended. |
| • Student or staff members who develop symptoms of COVID-19 while in quarantine should contact their healthcare provider. Even if they are not tested, the same criteria for returning to school sites should be used as laboratory-confirmed cases. |
| • Cohort OPEN |

Source: CDPH Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace

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### When to Close a Class/School/District
**Guidance from California Department of Public Health**

Individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with the Local Health Officer. Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 10% of the total number of teachers/students/staff are cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school. The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data.

If a student/staff member has symptoms, they should be sent home with a recommendation to be tested. The school/classroom remains open until a case is confirmed positive. If the test result is positive, refer to page 16 for next steps. If the student/staff member is tested and the results are negative, the student/staff member can return to campus 3 days after symptoms resolve.

#### When to Close a Class
With public health, consider closing if one or more students or staff members is confirmed to have COVID-19

#### When to Close a School
With public health, consider closing if multiple “cohorts” or classes have confirmed cases OR 5% of all students/staff have confirmed cases

#### When to Close the District
25% or more of schools in a district have closed due to COVID-19.
When to Reopen a Class/School/District

Schools may typically reopen after 14 days and the following have occurred:

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Public health investigation
- Consultation with the local public health department

Returning to Work or School Following COVID-19 Diagnosis

Individuals who test positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and who have had symptoms, may return to work or school when:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
- At least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without use of fever-reducing medications), AND
- Other symptoms have improved.

Individuals who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 who never develop symptoms, may return to work or school 10 days after the date of their first positive test for SARS-CoV-2.

Requiring a negative SARS-CoV-2 test prior to returning to work or school is not recommended. Instead, employers and schools should follow the time- and symptom-based approach described above in determining when individuals can return to work or school following COVID-19 diagnosis.

Contact Tracing and Responsiveness

SBS and will work the County for contact tracing and may need to trace, track, recommend testing, and respond to students, staff, and family members who may exhibit symptoms of and/or test positive for COVID-19. Swift responsiveness to potential exposures of cohort members is critical to our ability to support on-going classroom-based instruction.
Community Safety Responsibility

Stone Bridge School will do its best to provide as safe an environment as possible for your children by mitigating the risks. Safety starts at home, however, and a successful return to in-person learning can only happen if parents are an active partner in the quest to keep our school open and COVID-free.

You can help by:
- Educating your child in an age-appropriate way about safe practices: thorough hand washing, no face touching, mask wearing, and social distancing when around those outside your immediate household.
- Reporting illness or exposure: If anyone in your family tests positive for COVID or if your child has come in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.
- Getting tested: If there is any likelihood that you have become exposed to COVID, pursue testing.
- Following the CDC, State, and local recommendations: practice physical distancing and wear a mask. Stay current with the Guidances in place to mitigate continued exposure and spread.

Information can be found at these websites:

Looking Ahead

Thank you for your support over the many months as we have adapted to offer a Waldorf Education digitally. We appreciate the difficulty we have all experienced and look forward to being together once again as a community.

Be well and safe.

“Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, and send them forth in freedom.”

— Rudolf Steiner