

Sussex Academy
2021-22 Reopening School Plan
Updated March 2022

Our Guiding Principles:

#1 Keep Everyone Safe

- Use the CDC recommendations and DOE guidelines to guide planning efforts particularly for any in-person instruction

#2 Provide an Excellent Educational Experience

- Develop a comprehensive, continuous professional learning plan to prepare staff for providing the best educational experience possible
- Leverage learning platforms to provide seamless and equitable learning opportunities
- Prepare our instructional program to meet the educational needs of all students
- Create a schedule that allows for a possible transition back to everyday brick and mortar instruction

#3 Support Students and Staff Socially and Emotionally

- Develop and implement comprehensive action plan based on SEL competencies and input from planning committee so everyone feels safe, socially and emotionally connected to one another and learns self-care methods
- Connect students to their teachers and classmates
- Commit to building school community
- Provide mental and behavioral health support
- Preserve meaningful in-person and virtual events

Guiding Principle 1 - Keep Everyone Safe

Sussex Academy returned to school with a full, in-person school re-opening. Staff began staff development days on August 30, 2021. Students' first day of classes was Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Classroom Safety - Expectations

Sussex Academy is committed to keeping all staff and students safe. We have instituted the following practices:

- Classroom doors will remain open (during the school day when classes are in-session) for students and staff to enter without having to touch door handles. A teacher may have their door closed during their planning period.
- Desks will be coordinated to be at 3-ft apart, when possible, facing the same direction and assigned to students within the classroom
- All rooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, and desk cleaning supplies. Students may use supplies to clean and sanitize their areas during transitions. It is recommended that each student has a back-up mask. However, one will be supplied if he/she doesn't have one.
- Students will be expected to follow the State's mask requirement on school busses and in school buildings at all times.
- All students will eat lunch during their 3rd period class. Table-seating will be limited to ensure for proper distancing. Outdoor seating will also be available during lunch.
- Staff and students **MUST** stay home if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19
- To the extent possible (and weather permitting), some staff will engage in outdoor teaching and learning activities

Guiding Principle 2 - Provide an Excellent Educational Experience

Professional Learning

Sussex Academy staff is committed to providing the best educational experience for all students. This level of commitment insists that our staff participate in top-notch professional learning experiences so they can in-turn, provide students with great learning. To that end, our staff will be participating in a plethora of learning opportunities to use all educational technology platforms, tools and software aligned to their content areas so we are meeting the needs of all Sussex Academy students.

Learning Platforms

Schoology will be used as our learning management platform. Schoology allows our staff to seamlessly communicate and share educational information with students and parents.

GAFE (Google Apps for Education) will also be used as it integrates with Schoology as well. GAFE allows teachers to work asynchronously with students and parents, share videos, assessments, and create training/courses

Communication and feedback loops

It is important to our educators that we are constantly growing professionally from feedback and communication from our students and parents. To that end, we will be developing opportunities for students and parents to communicate with us on a weekly basis. This data will be used to refine professional learning opportunities as well as immediate adjustments needed to teaching and learning when warranted. All gradebooks will be updated **weekly**.

Weekly check-ins

Sussex Academy has implemented a protocol/process to alert academic/school counselors of students who may be in need of additional academic and/or emotional support. Implementation of this protocol will ensure we are addressing students' needs immediately.

Guiding Principle 3 - Support Students and Staff Socially and Emotionally

Sussex Academy is committed to promoting self-care, equity and access to supports and healthy connectedness and relationships with one another to live our best lives. In order to achieve this, we have a team developing plans to ensure we are following the Social-Emotional competencies generated by a committee from the Department of Education. The pandemic has put tremendous stress on all stakeholders and our staff is working diligently on plans to support our learning community.

The school schedule allows staff to truly focus on the needs of a smaller cohort of students, work collaboratively with their colleagues and participate in continuous professional learning opportunities. Our schedule also supports our students to focus on a smaller number of classes and engage more deeply and connect with their teachers and fellow students.

We will continue to develop our comprehensive plan to bolster our efforts surrounding the best social and emotional supports for students.