



North Stonington Public Schools

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Troy C. Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools

August 15, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hopefully, your children are beginning to get excited about the upcoming school year. As the new superintendent of North Stonington Public Schools, I am eager to work with our community, families, and school staff, in providing the best possible education for our students. Together we will ensure that each of your children feels safe, valued, and has a sense of belonging so they can learn their best.

You may have been wondering about the status of free meals (breakfast and lunch) for students. We are receiving a set allocation of dollars to offer free meals to students for a portion of the school year. However, families that qualify for reduced or free lunch **need to fill out the application for district reimbursement purposes** so that **their children continue to receive meals** when the funding is depleted. Please see the enclosed letter with frequently asked questions about free and reduced-price school meals.

In regards to COVID, we are not entirely out of the woods. Recent guidance indicates we will start the upcoming school year in the same manner as we ended the last one. Masks will **not** be required. If interested, see the following documents from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), State Department of Education (CSDE), and Office of Early Childhood (OEC):

(This letter is on our webpage, where you can click on the links below.)

Launching into Healthy Learning:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/Communications/misc-documents/Fall-2022-Respiratory-Disease-Prevention-Strategies-K12_08012022_FINAL.pdf

Operational Strategies:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Press-Room/Fall-2022-Operational-Strategies-K12_08012022_FINAL.pdf

If you would like to provide any input for our plan to keep everyone healthy and safe, please use the following link to comment:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdYtKxtp5-TM8LgDHFzeEU7sX1KeIXxAeS_Ck5Nr1dbIRD1A/viewform?usp=sf_link

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Please know that the first two days of school (September 6th and 7th) are **half days**, with the middle school/high school dismissing at 12:00 p.m., and the elementary school dismissing at 1:00 p.m.

The First Day of Preschool is Thursday, September 8th

Additional information for the school year 2022-2023 will also be posted on the district website, <http://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/>, such as bus schedule, FAQs about Free and Reduced-Price Meals, etc.

Respectfully,

Troy Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools