



Stratford Road Elementary School

33 Bedford Road
Plainview, New York 11803

(516) 434-3389
www.pobschools.org

Alison Clark, Ph.D.
Principal

Lynn Winters
Assistant Principal

August 2020

Dear Stratford Road Families:

Welcome back! As the summer winds down, we hope you and your family are doing well and had time to create new memories while enjoying your time together. The first day of school is on:

Tuesday, September 8- Grades 1-4

Wednesday, September 9- Kindergarten

The beginning of a new school year is always very exciting as school supplies are gathered and children prepare to see teachers and friends. One important way you can help your child to get ready for school is to encourage reading. Take a look at what the [Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library](#) has to offer to help your child end the summer with a good book to bring to school.

As school begins, we will place a focus on health and safety procedures as well as social emotional learning and support. You will get to meet your child's teacher and learn about the curriculum and classroom routines at our Virtual Back-to-School Night which will take place on Tuesday, September 22. For the first day, our faculty decided upon just a few items that your child(ren) should bring in their backpacks: one notebook, one folder, 3 pencils, box of crayons, book to read, healthy snack, and a fully-charged Chromebook. If your child does not have a Chromebook, please complete the [link](#); they will be distributed once school begins.

Throughout the year, we will share information with you about ways to support your child at home and keep you up-to-date about happenings at school. You will also find out about plans and goals of the Stratford Road PTA. An effective, well-rounded education is one that introduces children to cultural and aesthetic arts. Many of our cultural arts programs, such as the circus and author visit, are available due to the dedicated efforts of our PTA. Please continue your support as you participate in fundraisers and volunteer to ensure successful events.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENER

Due to the pandemic all teachers, staff and students are required to complete the POB Daily Health Screener form. Parents are required to complete the form daily for their child/ren

to ensure that they do not have COVID-19 signs/symptoms, and/or a fever of 100 degrees or higher. More information will follow prior to the start of school.

MASKS and SOCIAL DISTANCING

All students, teachers and staff are required to wear a face mask while at school. Please send your child in with a mask. We ask that you discuss the importance of wearing a mask with your child. Mask breaks will be provided throughout the day for our students. We will also be practicing social distancing while in school. Your child's teacher and building staff will discuss what social distancing will look like in the classroom and in the school. It is expected that students will follow these procedures and we ask you to partner with us in this endeavor.

Please see to it that your child does not wear any hanging articles or jewelry to school. Hanging earrings, chains, necklaces, money holders, etc., pose a potentially dangerous situation, particularly during gym class or recreation. Please have your child wear appropriate footwear to school. Sneakers are required for PE and Recreation.

ABSENCE AND LATENESS

Our district has a First Alert Program at each of the elementary schools. **It is essential that the school be contacted when a student is absent. PLEASE CALL THE FIRST ALERT NUMBER, 434-3405 (which is on 24 hours a day) by 9:30am on the day of your child's absence** and provide your child's name, reason for absence, date of absence, and teacher's name when you leave your message. **Please note:** The First Alert number is only to be used to report absences or late arrivals. All other calls should be directed to the school's primary telephone number, 434-3389.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

All K-8 students are eligible for bus transportation. Bus information is available through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Change of buses (only for emergencies) must be authorized by the Transportation Department. Please note that, according to school district policy, students are NOT permitted to go on any bus other than their assigned bus, or get off their bus at any stop other than their own. This year, students whose last name begins with letters A-K will arrive at school at approximately 9:00 am, and students whose last name begins with L-Z will arrive at approximately 9:30 am.

- Children residing in the same household will be seated together
- Students will be required to wear a mask
- Students will be seated one per row
- Social distancing procedures will be observed while students are embarking and disembarking the bus
- Buses will be loaded from back to front

All buses will be met by staff members who will greet the students as they arrive. Staff members will escort the students to their classrooms. Staff will be on hand to help direct students. Kindergarten students are to come to school wearing the bus tags that you received in the mail from the Transportation Department attached to their backpacks.

Additionally, kindergarteners will also have six stickers, also contained in this mailing. We ask the parents of our kindergarteners to fill out each sticker and place one on their child's shirt for the first six days of school.

If your child will not be taking the bus for the year, please complete the [form](#) by September 1.

ARRIVAL

This is an overview of our new procedures. Additional information will be sent next week.

BUS STUDENTS

If your child is taking the bus you should be at the bus stop about 10 minutes before its planned arrival.

WALKERS AND CAR LINE

If your child is a walker or car line in the morning, drop-off is between 9:10-9:25am; he/she should arrive **no** earlier than 9:10am as we are admitting students taking the bus. Your cooperation is expected and appreciated. If you are unable to come within that time period, you may bring your child after 9:35am. There will be a staff member on duty to escort the children into the school.

DISMISSAL

Any changes in dismissal plans must be shared with school staff **prior to 1:00pm**. Please write a note to your child's teacher, and Child Care if necessary, to inform us of a change. Your note must specify if your child will be on the car line or walker line. Please DO NOT email any dismissal changes to main office staff or classroom teachers.

To make dismissal procedures as smooth as possible, we ask that you discuss arrangements with your child so that he/she knows what to expect. Writing notes and talking with your child will help alleviate uncertainties he/she might have and will allow for buses to leave on time. Making changes during the school day often causes unnecessary stress and anxieties for a child. It is strongly recommended that you maintain consistent dismissal plans with your child.

Walker and carpool dismissal will take place between 3:10 and 3:25. Staff will be on duty to supervise dismissal.

HEALTH OFFICE INFORMATION

State law requires all children entering grades K, 1 and 3 have a complete physical examination. The date of the exam must be after September 4, 2019. A dental visit is required as well. Please return the completed forms by October 9, 2020. The Health and Dental forms can be accessed on the [POB District website](#). Please return completed forms to the school Health Office prior to October 9, 2020. If your child requires administration of any medication (including emergency medication) during school hours, please complete the Medication Administration form which can be found under "Parent Forms/Resources."

Part A must be filled out by a parent/guardian. Part B must be filled out completely by the prescribing physician. The completed Medication Administration form and brand new unopened medication must be dropped off to the school nurse by an adult. Students are not allowed to carry any medication at any time, not even over the counter medication such as cough drops. Expiration dates should extend beyond the school year. If your child has severe allergies requiring use of an Epi-Pen, please contact the Health Office. All medications can be dropped off by appointment only. Please email or call Ms. Hutzel, R.N. to schedule an appointment for medication drop off (lhutzel@pobschools.org or 434-3389).

LUNCH SERVICE

All students will have the opportunity to purchase a school lunch from Whitson's Food Service program. Parents will need to order their child's lunch ahead of time and food will be delivered to the classrooms. Food service will be in operation beginning on Tuesday, September 8th. The lunch menu is available on the POB website under the "For Parents and Community" tab. Lunch will be in the classrooms for all students. We will maintain our procedures for food in the classroom as we always have for snack time and now lunch time.

BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE

Morning and after-school child care are available at a per-hour charge. This is a district-run program which provides a safe, supervised area before and after-school hours when school is not in session. For additional information, you may contact Cheryl Dender at 434-3124.

SAFETY

The safety and security of all students and staff is a priority. Due to the pandemic we are limiting visitors to the school building. If you need to come to the school to drop off items, please be sure to contact the school before visiting by calling 434-3389.

SCHEDULES FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING AND REMOTE LEARNING

Instruction for students who are enrolled in In-Person and Remote Learning will take place at the same times. The schedule is available on page 16 of the Reopening Plan on the District's webpage.

Over the next week, information will be posted on the district/school/PTA websites, including free and reduced lunch applications and PTA/SEPTA memberships. In addition, please visit our district and school website over the next week for additional information:

- Stratford Road Monthly Calendar
- Back-to-School Night
- School Supply Lists
- Elementary School Parent Handbook
- Code of Conduct
- Music Association of POB
- Wellness Policy Guidelines
- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Although we know your children are eager to see their classrooms, we are unable to permit any visits to the school. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

Educator and author Dorothy Cohen wrote in her book, *The Learning Child: Guidelines for Parents and Teachers*, that “the heart of any educational experience lies in the interaction of people with each other and with their total environment.” Thank you in advance for your full cooperation regarding this information. We look forward to working closely with your family and a year full of success and positive accomplishments. Enjoy the remaining days of your summer.

Sincerely,

Alison Clark, *Principal*

Lynn Winters, *Assistant Principal*