



## South Harrison Township Elementary School District

*Dr. James J. Lavender*  
Superintendent of Schools

*Dr. Scott J. Hogan*  
Principal & Director of Curriculum

April 15, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to return our 4th-6th grade students to school on Monday, April 19 to four-days of in-person instruction while maintaining the virtual option for those concerned about the current pandemic. The energy at South Harrison is indicative of a September school opening and we recognize how excited many of our students are about taking another step toward normalcy.

Since last month's announcement to increase instruction to four-days, we have received a number of calls and emails regarding details of our plans. As a result, I am sending today's communication to ensure important details of our plan are clear for the school community. In addition to the communication here, please refer to our [COVID-19 Virtual Learning and Supports Program Website](#).

### **Summary of Program Changes**

At South Harrison, school officials consider data to guide decisions and adjust reopening policies that strike a balance between optimal academic and social/emotional learning and health & safety measures. South Harrison is not governed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), or any other outside agency. Our recommendations to increase instruction to four-days per week are based on best practices, in-school transmission data, and personal experiences. Below is a summary of changes you can expect on Monday.

We will collapse students in Cohort A and Cohort B in grades 4-6 to allow all students to report for in-person instruction on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. All students who choose in-person instruction will be expected to report all four days. On Wednesdays, all students will continue to participate in asynchronous instruction. Students who wish to continue in a virtual environment or switch to a virtual schedule and participate in live-streaming instruction may do so.

We previously sent a survey asking all parents to indicate their preference for their child's instructional program beginning 4/19/2021. If we did not receive a response, the school assumes you wish your child to continue in their current format (if hybrid, the student would be automatically moved to four day a week instruction starting next week). Unfortunately, we will no longer offer the two day a week model starting 4/19/2021.

### **Home of the Roadrunners**

904 Mullica Hill Rd. Harrisonville, NJ 08039 · P (856) 769-0855 · F (856) 769-5426 · [www.southharrison.k12.nj.us](http://www.southharrison.k12.nj.us)

**Attendance:**

Our attendance policies remain unchanged. If electing to come back to in-person instruction, the expectation will be for regular and timely attendance. If attending virtually, virtual attendance requirements will be in place. (Logging into live streaming lessons on time, completing virtual work assigned in a timely manner, etc.)

**Health & Safety Measures:**

**Health and safety measures will remain intact as we adjust social distancing measures from “minimally six feet” to “minimally three feet and optimally six feet where possible.”** This applies to students in the classroom, while riding the school bus, when eating lunch in classrooms, and while engaged in activities. South Harrison’s health and safety measures are:

**Wear cloth face masks while at school or on a bus**  
**Maintain social distance of minimally three feet and optimally six feet when possible**  
**Practice frequent hand washing**  
**Avoid congregating in large groups**  
**Stay home when you are ill**

**Bell Schedule:**

Our bell schedule remains unchanged. School will continue to begin at the bell at 8:35am each day Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and will conclude at 1:10pm. Students will then follow requirements as laid out by their classroom teachers for afternoon work. Wednesday’s schedule of Special Area’s classes remains unchanged. Any questions surrounding attendance, please contact the main office at 856-769-0855.

**Arrival & Dismissal**

As more students return to in-person instruction on a greater frequency, we anticipate some increase in traffic during parent pick-up and drop off. We ask everyone’s patience as we make adjustments to accommodate the increased volume of traffic.

Additionally, we have put multiple signs in place throughout the front of the school indicating the start and end of parent pick-up. We ask that as parents or guardians are dropping students off to please move up as far as possible to provide maximum room for others attempting to drop their children off as well.

**Final Phase of Instruction**

We recently surveyed our 4th grade parents, and have shared another survey with our K-3 parents today to continue to gather feedback regarding our final adjustments before year’s end. The link to the Kindergarten to 3rd grade parent survey can be found here: [South Harrison K-3 Parent Survey](#). This survey is live through Friday 4/23/2021.

We are in the process of finalizing plans for our final phase of instruction to conclude the 2020/2021 school year. Following evaluation of our current adjustments that will begin 4/19/21, we will evaluate parent survey data, as well as updated county and state guidelines to make final



decisions surrounding any additional adjustments that may be made to our instructional program before year's end.

We thank you all for your ongoing support, understanding, and cooperation as we work as diligently as we can to support our students and families during this unprecedented challenge. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at: [hogans@shsd.us](mailto:hogans@shsd.us)

In gratitude,

Dr. Scott J. Hogan  
Principal & Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
South Harrison Township School District

