

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family were able to enjoy a safe and healthy summer break. These past few months have been challenging for our community, we recognize that there are many questions about what the return to school plan will look like for our students. I can assure you that our staff has worked closely with our local Health Department to put a plan and protocols into place that will allow us to return to school as safely as possible. School is set to begin on September 8 and our intention is to return to daily Face to Face Instruction as long as the State of Michigan remains in Phase 4 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan in response to COVID-19.

At Upton Middle School we will be putting measures in place to reduce the number of contacts for each student and we will observe social distancing when possible. The attached plan includes detailed information and expectations. Some important points from our plan are included below:

- Face masks will be required at all times in the building. Students that have a medical issue that prevents them from wearing a mask must provide a doctor's note stating as such.
- It is crucial that parents self-screen students prior to attending school each morning. Our staff is not equipped to handle sick children of this nature. It is also critical that all students have multiple emergency contacts listed. In the event that your child becomes ill, an adult will be required to pick them up as soon as possible and they will not be permitted to board the bus at the end of the day.
- Students will be provided with passing time between each of their classes, however, restrooms will be closed during passing time to ensure social distancing. Teachers will allow students to use the restroom during instructional time.
- A suggested supply list will also be provided for students. We are encouraging that all students have individual supplies that they will be allowed to carry in their backpacks from class to class to avoid sharing of materials as much as possible.
- It is also suggested that students carry a reusable water bottle each day that can be refilled at our bottle filling stations.

As always, student safety is our top priority. If you have any questions regarding our plan or your child's return to school, please feel free to contact me at [cmandarino@sjschools.org](mailto:cmandarino@sjschools.org).

Sincerely,  
Chad Mandarino



*Great Schools in a Great Community*

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