To make sure all our families have access to the latest 2020-21 updates and resources, we have created web pages in each of our community’s top six languages: Amharic, Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Dear SPS Community,

Thank you for welcoming me back to SPS as the interim superintendent. As a former district leader, Franklin High School graduate, and current SPS parent, it truly feels like coming home.

My first priority is to finish this school year strong and to prepare for a full reopening of schools this fall. In-person school is what we do best and it is best for our students. My staff know how to successfully open school across 104 sites and that is exactly what we plan to do in September, while continuing to follow public health and state guidelines.

We all learned a lot and have significantly grown this last year. When we come back in fall, we will come back stronger and more student focused. From classrooms to the central office, our staff will be working to offer students the very best - high-quality and engaging instruction, welcoming classrooms, and safe and healthy learning environments.

To thrive, students will need supports beyond academics, so student well-being is a guiding priority as we plan. Student mental health has suffered during the pandemic. Using federal emergency funds, SPS will be investing in additional mental health services, trauma-informed practice, and working with families and staff to create a culture of care as we make a full return to school buildings. I am also committed to providing robust wellness supports for staff. It is important that our entire SPS community is healthy – mentally, spiritually, and physically.

Student learning depends on strong partnerships between families and our educators. Next school year, staff will be focused on supporting growth along each student’s individual learning path in collaboration with parents and caregivers. We will invest in enhanced academic supports, community partnerships, and extended learning opportunities to support these efforts.

As we return, we can’t forget the lessons we have learned over this last year. The new and innovative instructional practices gained will continue. Staff will strengthen these skills, leveraging technology to provide access and enhanced learning opportunities for students. Some students found great success in our virtual classrooms; in response we will continue to provide a remote learning option. Other students found freedom from racism, bullying, and harassment while learning at home. I am committed to making sure our in-person classrooms are safe and affirming for all students.

Most importantly, the needs and perspectives of our students will drive our fall planning and return.

I look forward to sharing more information and engaging with you and our students in the coming weeks. I am full of optimism and excitement for next school year – I hope you are too.

Be well,

Superintendent Brent Jones

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**Student Vaccine Clinics**

SPS is excited to partner with the City of Seattle, Public Health – Seattle & King County, and the Seattle Fire Department to offer 39 vaccine clinics in or near SPS schools. The Pfizer vaccine is now approved for people 12 years and older. Students and their families can receive a COVID-19 vaccination at their school or a location nearby.

**Skills Center Summer Courses**

The Seattle Skills Center will be offering remote and in-person career-connected classes this summer for incoming 9-12 grade students. The usual range of course offerings like Construction, Careers in Education, Maritime, Medical Careers, and many more will be available. In-person classroom and remote courses will be offered from July 6 to July 30, and other courses, such as “Sailing the Salish Sea” aboard the schooner Adventuress, and at the Center for Wooden Boats will be offered at the end of June and beginning of August.

**In-Person High School Graduation Ceremonies**

Following guidance from OSPI, we will hold in-person high school graduation ceremonies that are aligned to safety protocols, including limiting the number of audience members. Each student will be allowed four ticketed guests, however this number could decrease based on guidance from Public Health. District staff are also exploring the option of live streaming. Dates and locations for the 2021 graduating class are now available and more details will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

**Daily Health Screening Delay**

**Return to In-Person Health and Safety Protocols**
Families who have opted to receive their personalized health screening link by text message may be experiencing a delay. Students can use the kiosk at school to complete the screening or use the generic screening link prior to arrival. The health screening vendor is working to resolve this issue, and we will keep families updated.

Summer of Learning 2021

The Summer of Learning 2021 will run July 6-30 and will offer programming for all grades to help students stay engaged, brush up on content from this past year, or receive personalized support.

Talking to Your Kids about Sexual Health: For Caregivers of Elementary Age Children

SPS knows that families are children’s first and most important teachers about sexual health. Join Kai Kunkel, Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, on Tuesday, May 25 from 7-7:30 p.m. for a Teams Live Event during which she’ll share simple tips for talking about topics like gender, puberty, and consent in ways that are developmentally appropriate and true to your family’s values.

Student Vaccination Informational Meeting, May 15, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

This is an opportunity for SPS families to learn more about the Pfizer vaccine for ages 12+ and the upcoming clinics at SPS schools. SPS wants families to have all of the information they need to make a decision about vaccinating their student, especially ages 12+. Thank you to the Seattle Council PTSA for hosting this important meeting. Guest speakers will include Public Health - Seattle King County and the Seattle Fire Department. Interpretation, including ASL, will be provided. Interpretation will be provided in Amharic, Chinese, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Student vaccination clinics will be held at SPS K-8s, middle, and high schools beginning on May 17. Schools will be sharing more information.

English Language Proficiency Assessment Spring 2021 Update

SPS is required to offer assessments for all eligible English learner students on their English language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. During remote learning, students are not required to come to school to take the test. However, the test determines whether your child will continue receiving English language support. If you would like your student to take the assessment, please email ELPA21@seattleschools.org by May 15.

Free Museum Passes for Families

Did you know your Seattle Public Library card can help you get free admission to museums in Seattle? You and your family can enjoy exhibits on aviation, nature, science, and industry – all for free! You can reserve one pass per week with your library card and each pass includes at least two adult tickets.

Career Fair and Celebration for High School Students

Attention high school students! Join us for the Career Fair and Celebration on Wed., May 19 from 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Students will be able to virtually tour behind-the-scenes job sites, participate in live interviews, and have the opportunity to win great raffle prizes. Use the link below to register today!

Student Meal Distribution

Our 40 meal sites are open from 10:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Bus routes deliver meals on Wednesdays only. Grab and go breakfast and lunch will be available for students learning in-person at each school site.

Seattle Excellence

Naramore Art Show and Celebration 2021

Black Studies in SPS

This year, SPS launched the first Black studies course for students in grade 11, Black Studies U.S. History 11B, the first course in our new Black Education Program. The Black Education Program was created in response to insights and advocacy from Black students, families, and
The Naramore Art Show celebrates over 200 artworks by SPS middle and high school students. Naramore is a partnership with Seattle Art Museum and this year, due to COVID-19, there will be a virtual museum on our website from May 12 - June 30. You can also join us on Fri., May 21 at 6 p.m. for the virtual Naramore Celebration, streamed live on SPSTV.

**Naramore Art Show**

**Middle School Course Alignment**

We are aligning course offerings for middle schools and K-8 schools across the district to bring predictability to all our families and create common pathways to college and career. Starting in the 2021-22 school year, every SPS sixth and seventh grade student will be taught using the Board-approved Amplify Science curriculum, regardless of Highly Capable (HC) eligibility, and courses will be similarly aligned for social studies and Since Time Immemorial, mathematics, and world languages starting next school year.

**Regional Art Festivals, May 27-28**

The Southeast and Central Regional Arts Festivals (RAF) are opportunities to celebrate the arts learning taking place across the district in all grade levels. This year both Regional Arts Festivals will be virtual, featuring pre-recorded student performances, photographed visual art, and interactive experiences throughout the festival. The Southeast RAF will be livestreamed on Thursday, May 27 and the Central RAF will be livestreamed on Friday, May 28 on SPSTV. Both festivals will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Regional Arts Festivals**

**Seattle School Board**

**Advanced Learning Policy Revision**

On Wednesday, May 5, 2021, the Seattle School Board approved revisions and an amendment to Policy No. 2190, Highly Capable Services. The school board’s approval is a historic and bold step toward ensuring educational excellence for every student in SPS.

**Advanced Learning Policy**

**Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan**

On May 19, the Board will be introducing and discussing the Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan. This plan is required by OSPI and includes the identification of the academic and well-being supports that SPS will provide for students to address the impacts of building closures and COVID-19 going forward and in the 2021-22 school year.

To learn more about the School Board and their work, public meetings, and upcoming policy initiatives, visit the board webpage.

**Seattle School Board**

**Upcoming Dates**

- **May 14:** BEX/BTA Capital Programs Oversight Committee
- **May 15:** King County/SPS Vaccination Information Community Meeting hosted by SCPTSA
- **May 17:** Schmitz Park Elementary School Portables Installation Project
- **May 17:** Board Special Meeting: Work Session: Student Outcomes Focused Governance and Planning
- **May 18:** Highly Capable and Racial Equity Services Advisory Meeting
- **May 19:** Regular Board Meeting
- **May 25:** Board Special Meeting - Work Sessions: State Auditor's Office Exit Conference; Budget
- **May 26:** Board Special Meeting: Washington LEA Academic and Student Well-Being Recovery Plan

View the District Calendar for details as well as more upcoming events and school year dates.

**Resources**

- The Source
- Schoology
- Family Resources
- School Year Dates
- District News and Events
- Departments and Services

**Follow us for more news and events.**