



# SAXE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. David Gusitsch, *Principal*  
Mr. Steven Bedard, *Assistant Principal*  
Dr. Steven Clapp, *Assistant Principal*  
Dr. Julia Ferreira, *Assistant Principal*

October 16, 2020

Dear Saxe Family,

Following the return of our 8th-grade students yesterday, we celebrate our learning community coming together as one for the first time since March! This communication is intended to provide guidance regarding attendance and the temporary remote learning option that is available to students/families who would otherwise be participating in person at Saxe. As noted in our [Charting our Course Forward](#) document, students who are home due to illness are permitted to participate in the classroom live-stream to stay connected to the learning experience. This option is in place to help keep our community safe and intended to be used in the event(s) of illness or out of an abundance of caution.

Please understand that this option is not intended to be used for other reasons or out of convenience (travel, appointments, etc.). School is in session, and it is important for our students and families to treat their school experience accordingly. Any questions about being a remote learner should be addressed to the appropriate grade-level administrator. Please see additional details below:

### **State guidance:**

According to [Connecticut Department of Education Document Addendum 1: Temporarily Opting into Voluntary Remote Learning Due to COVID-19](#), “For the health and safety of both the student resuming in-person classes, and the school community, it is appropriate to request notice for a reasonable preparation time before students change their learning location. Providing schools a reasonable time for students changing their learning location will be of the utmost importance for proper planning.”

The intent of **temporary remote learning** is to allow a student who may need to remain home for reasons such as those noted below:

- A student needing to be home due to a quarantine situation.
- A student needing to be home due to an extended illness.

### **Attendance: In person learners**

- If your child is not feeling well and unable to attend school, please call the **attendance line at: 203.594.4500, x1**, or, **email** the appropriate Division Secretary:
  - Lower Division - Grades 5, 6: [brenda.carmichael@ncps-k12.org](mailto:brenda.carmichael@ncps-k12.org)
  - Upper Division - Grades 7, 8: [lin.benware@ncps-k12.org](mailto:lin.benware@ncps-k12.org)
- Your child will be marked “**verified absent**”, should take the day to rest, and will get any missed work from their teacher(s) once they are feeling better.
- In the event of suspected/confirmed COVID-related, or long-term, absence situations, the “**Temporary Remote Learner**” option will be available, **but it may take up to 24-hours to process.**
- All absences must be registered through our attendance system by a parent and not communicated to teacher(s) directly.



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## **Attendance: Remote learners**

- If your child is unable to participate in remote learning, please contact the appropriate attendance office so the absence may be coded properly.

If an absence is necessary due to a COVID related instance, the nurses office must also be notified (203.594.4500, x2). Below are some important details that will help determine next steps:

- “Close contact” is defined as: spending at least 15 minutes within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19, or a direct exposure to possibly infected droplets of saliva or nasal mucus.
- Isolation: an individual with a positive covid-19 test stays home until no longer infectious for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms).
- Quarantine: an individual without symptoms stays home for 14 days since last exposure to someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 (the incubation period of the virus).

As these are sensitive situations, the absolute highest degree of confidentiality will be followed.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support. We are proud of our students and their continued commitment to our safety and wellness practices both in school and throughout the community.

Best,

Dave Gusitsch  
Principal, Saxe Middle School