



SAXE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

September 30, 2020

Dear Saxe Family,

This message 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 scheduled to be in school, but unable to attend, 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
 - Upper Division - Grades 7, 8: lin.benware@ncps-k12.org
- If your child is not feeling well enough to attend in person (or remotely), they will be marked **absent**, should take the day to rest, and will get any missed work from their teacher(s) once they are feeling better.
- While in the hybrid model, if you decide to keep your child home due to them **not feeling well enough to attend in-person, you must still call the attendance line** and they will be marked as a “**Temporary Remote Learner**” for the day.
- **All absences must be registered through our attendance system by a parent and not communicated to teacher(s) directly.**
- If a student is scheduled to be in-person and attends class remotely without going through the attendance line, they will be marked absent by the teacher.



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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.

Return to full in-person learning:

Once a particular grade-level is welcomed back into the building full time (5th-grade this week; 6th-grade next week), the **hybrid** learning model that was followed during our onboarding process will not be an option to choose on an individual basis for that particular grade-level. The two learning models will be **in-person** or **full-remote**. In the event of a suspected or confirmed COVID related absence(s), the remote learning option will be available but it may take up to 24-hours to process.

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,

Dave Gusitsch
Principal, Saxe Middle School