



SAXE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. David Gusitsch, *Principal*
Mr. Steven Bedard, *Asst. Principal*
Dr. Julia Ferreira, *Asst. Principal*
Ms. Sarah Obuchowski-Granite, *Asst. Principal*
Ms. Vanessa Visners, *Special Education*

August 24, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to the start of the 2021-22 school year! Below is a comprehensive list of resources and frequently asked questions that we have been fielding. This format is meant to be a quick read overview with the links acting as an opportunity to find more in-depth information. Please know that we will continue to update our website and communicate directly to provide updates as they become available. For more information, please refer to the [Charting our Course](#) website and [Dr. Luizzi's recent communication](#) with specific, in-depth details.

Will we have Chromebooks for the year?

Yes. Upon their return, students will be issued a device for the year.

Is there still cohorting of students?

Students were scheduled to remain with the same cohort as often as possible throughout the day. Some specials will have mixed teams. In the event of a necessary contract trace, we will be able to identify who was in close proximity to who.

What does the lunch structure look like compared to 5th grade?

Lunch structure will be the same. Half of the period is for lunch, the other half for recess. Lunch times are as follows: Grade 5 – 12:28 pm, Grade 6 – 11:38 am, Grade 7 – 9:58 am, Grade 8 – 10:48 am. Understanding the importance of social interaction, we are planning on providing opportunities for students to safely see each other across teams outside during recess.

Are we going to wear masks?

Until September 30th, Governor Lamont's Executive Order 12A authorizes the Connecticut Department of Public Health to issue requirements for masks and facial coverings in schools. We will be taking advantage of getting outside as often as possible for students to have mask breaks.

Will there be "in person" extracurricular activities?

Yes! Extracurricular activities will begin in October.

When will we find out our teams/teachers?

Once teams are ready for all students, you will receive an email letting you know they are ready to view! The portal is scheduled to open on the afternoon of August 24th. Directions to access PowerSchool may be found using this [link](#). For schedule-specific questions, please contact your child's [School Counselor](#).

How do we know where to go on the first day (Monday, 8/30)?

Students in grades 6-8 will report to the first classroom listed on their schedule for an "A-Day". If you need a copy of your schedule, please print it from [Powerschool](#) or see your grade level office. If you need help finding a classroom, please ask any adult or even a classmate. There will be adults all throughout the building and they will be happy to help you! Students in grade 5 will meet their teacher on the basketball court blacktop and head inside as a class. Please see the recent communication from 5th-grade administrator, Ms. Sarah-Obuchowski-Granite [here](#).



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What should I bring on the first day?

On the first day, your child will not need to bring much from their supply list. Teachers will work through what needs to come back and forth. A pencil and a notebook will be sufficient and a bag (backpack, cinch-sack, etc.) to carry any issued supplies will be helpful. Finally, a filled, reusable water bottle.

Can we use lockers?

Lockers are staged and prepared for use but we will not be using them for the first week or two. We do not plan on returning to their use in the traditional sense (each period), rather students will have access at the beginning of the day, before/after lunch, and at the end of the day. The intent is for them to be used to store coats, jackets, cell phones, lunches, etc. A follow-up communication will be sent out prior to us opening them up to students.

Are cell phones allowed?

Each day can present enough distractions that challenge focus and attention. Cell phones add an exponential number of possible distractions, so we are confident that this rule is in the best interest of our students. Cell phones should be powered down or put on silent and secured in a bag (or soon, locker). We understand that you may need to get a message to your child and ask that you contact your child's [Division Office](#) to do so.

What if my child forgot something?

We will continue to have a table at the main and lower division entrance to leave items to be reunited with your child. Campus monitors will assist with the transition.

What is the hydration situation for this year?

Thanks to our awesome Saxe PTC, we have additional water refilling stations available! There are stations at the end of each grade-level hallway and in many of our main corridors for easy access. Students should bring their reusable water bottle to school with them each day.

What if we have more questions?

- Please feel free to contact your child's [Division Office](#). Updated information with final details and links for the 2021-22 school year will also be sent out on Friday as well.
- Here is a link to our [Welcome Back letter](#) that is posted on our website.
- In addition to the above information, please follow along with our Saxe students, staff, and activities through our weekly newsletter (saxems.com), our [website](#), and our Twitter handle, [@SaxeMS](https://twitter.com/SaxeMS).

We at Saxe all appreciate your cooperation in keeping our school community warm, inviting, and most importantly, safe. We will continue to create the best environment possible for all of our students, as we are one learning community. I will continue to provide updates and communicate with you frequently and as necessary. Wishing you all well on the beginning of a wonderful new school year!

Best,

Dave Gusitsch
Principal, Saxe Middle School