

## January 2021 update to student social distancing rules

As the pandemic continues, the school's resolve to continue safe in-person education remains one of our strongest commitments. Faculty and staff recognize the challenges of enforcing social distancing in our school because these rules seem fundamentally opposed to how our school aims to foster close social connections among our entire community. However, safety during the pandemic is our top priority right now, and we need to all be supporting the following rules which are based on recommendations from public health experts. Students will receive a yellow card (in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) or a pink slip (high school students) for violating these rules. Flagrant or repeated violations will result in parents being called and students being sent home and possible additional disciplinary consequences.

- Students must wear a mask indoors at all times, unless they are seated and eating/drinking, which should only be for very brief intervals. Students should not graze through meals with their masks off.
- Students may not sit on the floor at any time, including class time. Please find other ways to show examples, complete work, and have conversations that do not include sitting on the floor.
- Students may not gather around another student's desk or sit on another student's desk.
- Students must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other students at all times while inside the building.
- Students may not gather around the door of another pod or be in the physical space of another pod, whether in a separate room or the main lesson room. Students can speak to friends from other pods outside during breaks and lunch.
- Outside, students in groups must keep their masks on except when eating, though Seventh and Eighth grade students may not eat snack or lunch outside. Groups of students eating together should be seated and at least 6 feet apart and replace their masks when finished eating.
- Seventh and Eighth grade students need to stay in the green shaded areas on the attached map.
- While talking with students from another pod students should remain masked and distanced, even outside.
- Mask break: Students may remove their mask for a break if they're on their own outside and not speaking with other students. Students should be allowed to go outside for short mask breaks when it does not disturb class or their learning.
- Lunch/snack indoors: Students who have a separate pod room from their main lesson room must eat their snack or lunch in their pod room or outside. Only students whose pod room is the main lesson room may eat in the main lesson room. Seventh and Eight grade students must eat their snack and lunch seated at their desks in their pod room. These students must put their lunch items away and go outside at 12:20 each day for recess.

- Students must sit at their own desk while eating. They cannot walk around or sit on the floor or other places while eating. Students should not walk to the microwave or fridge while their mask is off.
- Students should not face one another while eating or drinking – whether they're inside or outside.
- Bathrooms:  
Students may not congregate or remove masks in any bathroom. There is a limit of 2 people per bathroom at any one time. If there are 2 people already inside the bathroom, students should wait outside the bathroom entrance until someone leaves. Students should be sure to keep the six feet distance while waiting.
- Front office:  
Students may not gather around the front office. If there is a queue of students who need a health screening, only two students at a time may wait inside. Others must wait outside until their turn.

Every student will be responsible for following these rules, and every teacher, full and part-time, should take action and intervene whenever a student is not meeting these rules. If a student immediately corrects their behavior and it does not reoccur then the teacher can move on. For students who refuse, argue, or immediately return to the inappropriate behavior they should be sent to the front office for a pink slip. The pink slip will be responded to by a school coordinator, or Siân Owen-Cruise or Gary Banks, and if they gather three pink slips their parents will be called and the student sent home. Seventh and Eighth grade students' consequences are yellow cards - and faculty wishing to reprimand a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader needs to involve Rob White or Maria Mack.

## **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES SPECIFICALLY FOR SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS**

### **Playground Safety: *Rules of Play***

Students must stay within the green area of the map (attached). This is a very important **Safety Precaution** and students not adhering to this protocol will be issued a Yellow Card after verbal warnings.

- Students must play such that they are always visible to recess monitors
- Students who repeatedly disregard recess monitor directives and the rules will be issued a Yellow Card
- No food or drink outdoors
- No tree climbing
- No snowball throwing at other people
- Students needing to use the restroom are to inform a Recess Monitor, only 2 at a time enter, using the designated Pod entrance and report immediately back to the Recess Monitor

- At the basketball court, students must be masked at all times, regardless of separation from others
- Forceful kicking (including punting) of basketballs is not allowed
- Forceful collisions of basketballs in mid-air are not allowed
- Bouncing balls against the wall of the school is not allowed (It is disruptive to the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, which has class inside.)
- Climbing on stone walls is allowed but standing or jumping off them is not
- Students may not re-enter the building without permission from a Recess Monitor until the end of lunch period. Only enter through the designated Pod entrance.

### **Lunch Recess**

- Students must exit the building by 12:20pm for lunch recess
- Students who finish their food early may go outside as early as 12:10pm, once the Recess Monitor on duty informs them they may do so
- Recess ends at 12:55pm

### **Wind Chill Policy**

- Recess is only 15 minutes when temperatures are between -5 °F and 0 °F
- Recess is indoors on days with a wind chill factor lower than -5 °F

### **Yellow Card Protocol**

If a student's behavior is disrespectful, as in disrupting the class, speaking disrespectfully to the teacher/recess monitor, speaking disrespectfully to a classmate, using inappropriate language or other behaviors, the teacher will give verbal warnings to the student that if the behavior is not corrected, a Yellow Card will be issued.

#### **Protocol:**

1. The Teacher/Recess Monitor informs the student that their first Yellow Card has been issued. They will also inform the student that the issuance of a second Yellow Card will mean the student is sent home and may not return to school until there is a Zoom meeting scheduled for the student, parents, Class Teacher and Mrs. Peggy Wilson.
2. The Teacher/Recess Monitor will inform Mrs. Wilson and the Class Teacher that the student has received the first Yellow Card and the reason why. Mrs. Wilson will track it in the Social Inclusion Binder.
3. Mrs. Wilson will phone parents to inform them of the incident and the issuing of the Yellow Card.
4. The Class Teacher will follow up that evening with a phone call to the parents.
5. If a second Yellow Card is issued within one month of the first one, the student will be sent home and a Zoom meeting will be arranged by Mrs. Wilson with student, parents, Class Teacher and Mrs. Wilson. The behavior will be discussed and a Change Plan form will be created to support the student's behavior in school.

