



Sturgis Charter Public School
An International Baccalaureate World School



July 31, 2020

Dear Sturgis Families,

I write to you today with an update on our plans for the fall. Today, I must present our initial plans to the *Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*, and I wanted you all to be aware of our planning as soon as possible. As there is a lot to say in a short space, I will use headings for clarity.

Process: This summer, approximately forty faculty and staff worked across four task forces (*health and operations; student support; teaching and learning; and co-curriculars*) to analyze and discuss our buildings, curricula, *DESE* guidelines and directives, public health advisories, and other key data and topics. Additionally, Sturgis assembled a working-parent teacher focus group, an administrator focus group, and an ad hoc group of task force members to provide final recommendations. Sturgis also regularly communicated with *DESE*, the *Massachusetts Charter Public School Association*, and other local public school representatives. Key to our deliberations were our faculty and parent surveys (both of which achieved greater than 95% participation rates!). Specific graphs from the parent survey are shared at the conclusion of this letter.

Findings: The impact of the pandemic on our ability to run in-person schooling is quite significant, particularly in light of the atypical dimensions of our schools and classrooms. Coupled with building realities is the unique and challenging nature of our students' transportation approaches, such as the consistent usage of the *Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority* busses (truly public bussing), from across our 850 square mile sending regions. *DESE* guidelines will require a return for all public school students to a highly regulated and controlled physical plant, where masks are mandatory for all. Our summer processes clearly indicated that maintaining six feet of social distancing is paramount, both for the overall safety of everyone in the community, and for our ability to manage regular mask breaks and healthy lunch operations within the tight confines of our classrooms and buildings.



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As a result, the greatest degree possible that Sturgis can return students into our buildings while upholding proper care and caution for the safety of our students, faculty, and extended Sturgis community is in cohorts of ¼ of our student population. This means that each student will have in-person school once per week. While I had hoped that all students could attend school in-person at least twice per week, the findings from our systematic summer audit will not allow for it.

What This Means: Consistent with other public schools, Sturgis is adjusting the first day of school to **Monday, September 14th** to allow ample time for faculty and staff to learn and apply new procedures necessary for running school in a pandemic. We will conduct our first two weeks of school remote (9/14 - 9/25). To help ensure an effective transition to a more robust hybrid learning approach, teachers will teach online from their Sturgis classrooms for these first two weeks of school, while students attend from their homes via Google Meet. Please note that personal extenuating circumstances may result in some faculty teaching from a different environment.

Beginning **Monday, September 28th**, our in-person hybrid learning model begins. Students will be assigned a day of the week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday) to attend in-person. Wednesday will be a remote learning day for all students; that day will involve asynchronous learning, non-academic opportunities, and the ability for Sturgis to conduct a mid-week deeper cleaning of our facilities. On the three synchronous learning days that a student is not attending in-person learning, that student will participate in live-streamed classes via Google Meet. Attendance is mandatory, student cameras are to be turned on (and remain on), and students will be graded via our typical A-F scale. Please note that we are investing in significant upgrades to our Google suite, internet bandwidth, and Google-related professional development to ensure a much more robust and user-friendly student and faculty online experience this year.

Please note that all ninth graders will be issued a school-provided Chromebook. Also, Sturgis has procured enough Chromebooks to ensure that any student in need can borrow one.

Students on IEPs and English Learners may attend school in-person more than once a week. Details will follow.



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Additionally, our 529 Main building will serve as a quiet guided study venue that will be available - space permitting - to any student being schooled from home on a given day that would prefer the structured environment of 529 Main. Details will follow.

Once in our hybrid phase (beginning 9/28), Sturgis will monitor state and local COVID data, health guidelines, and our own operations to identify opportunities for students to potentially attend in-person learning more than once per week.

Please note as I have mentioned previously that Commissioner Riley has authorized parents to keep students home and learning remotely at Sturgis full-time for this upcoming school year due to COVID.

Finally, please note that we will continually analyze and evaluate our models in order to improve the experience for all of our community members.

Next Steps: By August 10th, I will provide you with a full and detailed plan for our 2020-2021 operations. While I recognize and appreciate that you may have many questions and comments after reading this letter, I respectfully request that you hold off from contacting us until you have read our August 10th plan. In that plan, we will provide a great deal more specificity as well as avenues for communicating with the school about different questions or concerns. While many people were involved in our summer task forces, they served as volunteers. Our full-time summer working staff is limited in number, and will be completely focused on the full development of the August 10th plan over the next week. Thank you for your understanding.

Final Word: I humbly ask for your patience and trust. Since Sturgis' decision to close in mid-March, we have consistently strived to make sound choices that ensure everyone's [health and safety](#) while focusing on [student learning](#) and upholding community values and traditions, such as our [East](#) and [West](#) graduations.



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It is a hard-earned honor and privilege to be an *International Baccalaureate* school. Sturgis was the first public *IB for All* school, and we faced much skepticism in the early years that our mission could be upheld. While I do not like for us to focus on such things, our [rankings and accolades](#) do speak for themselves. Why do we receive such accolades? It is because of the tremendous caliber of our faculty, and their extraordinary commitment and dedication. I pledge to you that Sturgis will deliver an exemplary *IB for All* experience for your child(ren) this year despite the effect of the pandemic on our world. While society has changed, Sturgis' mission, personnel, drive, and commitment have not. Sturgis will look and feel different this year, but it will still provide a singular *IB for All* experience.

I will be back in touch by Monday, August 10th.

Sincerely,

Paul Marble
Executive Director

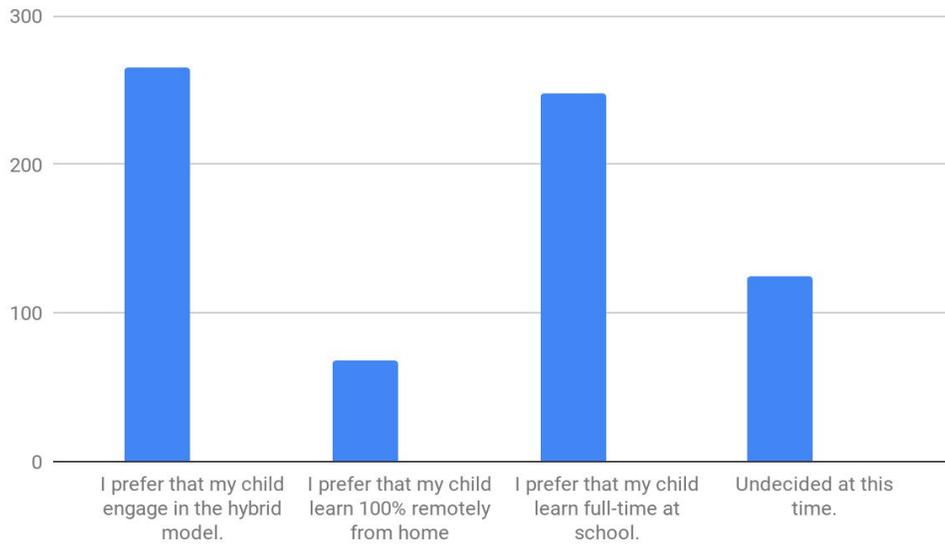


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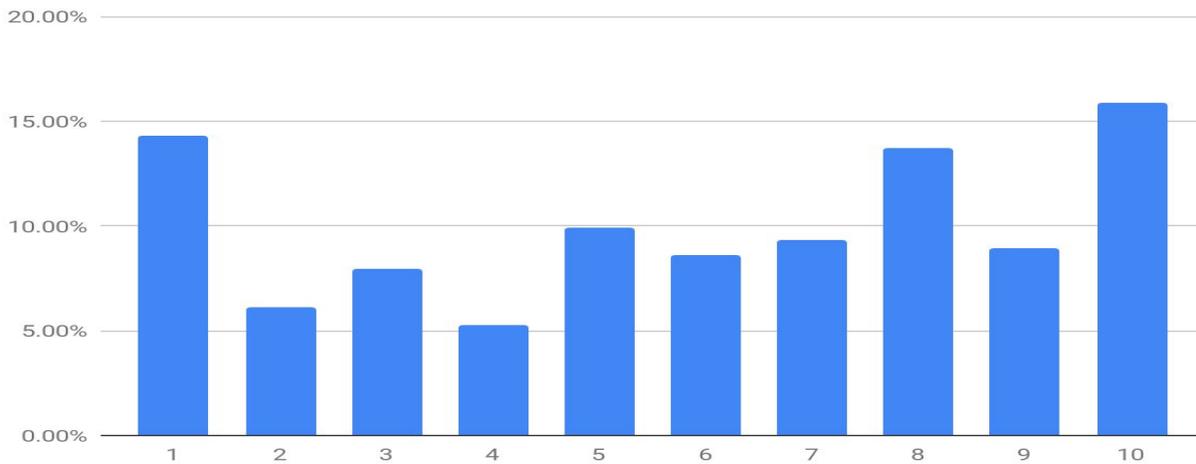


Parent Survey - Fall Reopening

Mark your preference for your child to begin the 2020-2021 school year, knowing that options may change as the summer and/or school year continues.



On a scale from 1 - 10, please rate your comfort level regarding a FULL return to the building in the fall.

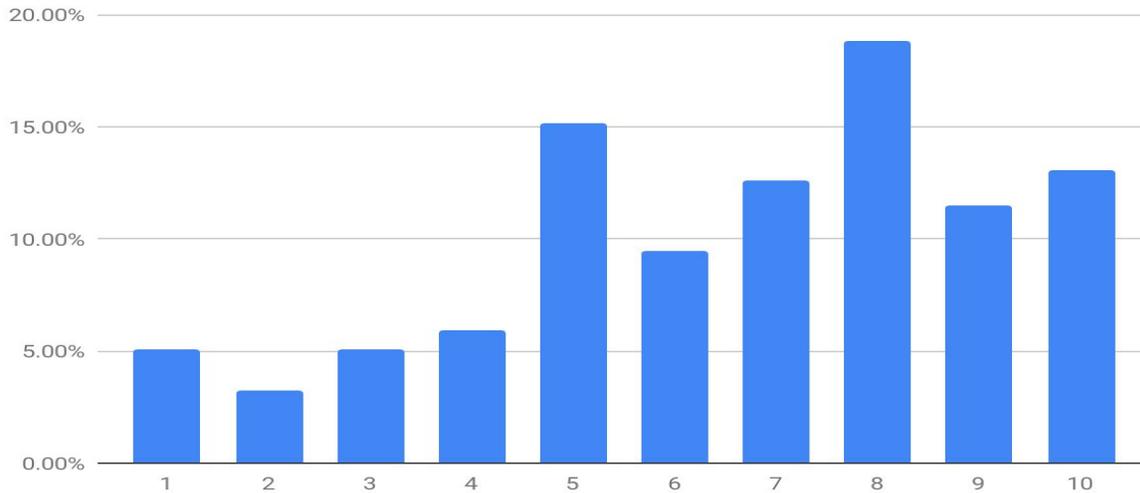




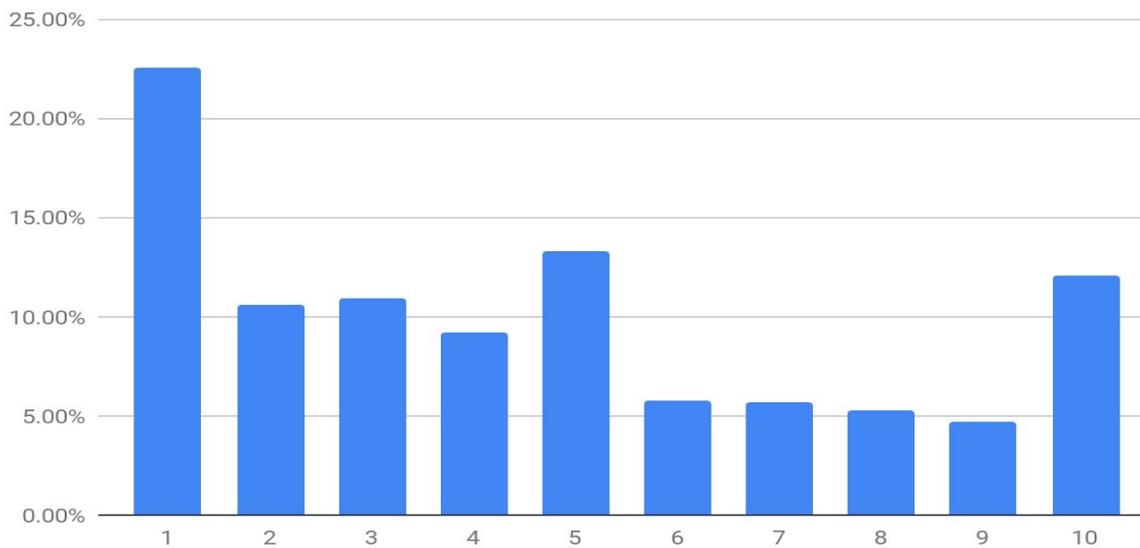
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On a scale from 1 - 10, please rate your comfort level regarding a HYBRID return to the building in the fall.



On a scale from 1 - 10, please rate your comfort level regarding a REMOTE return to schooling in the fall.

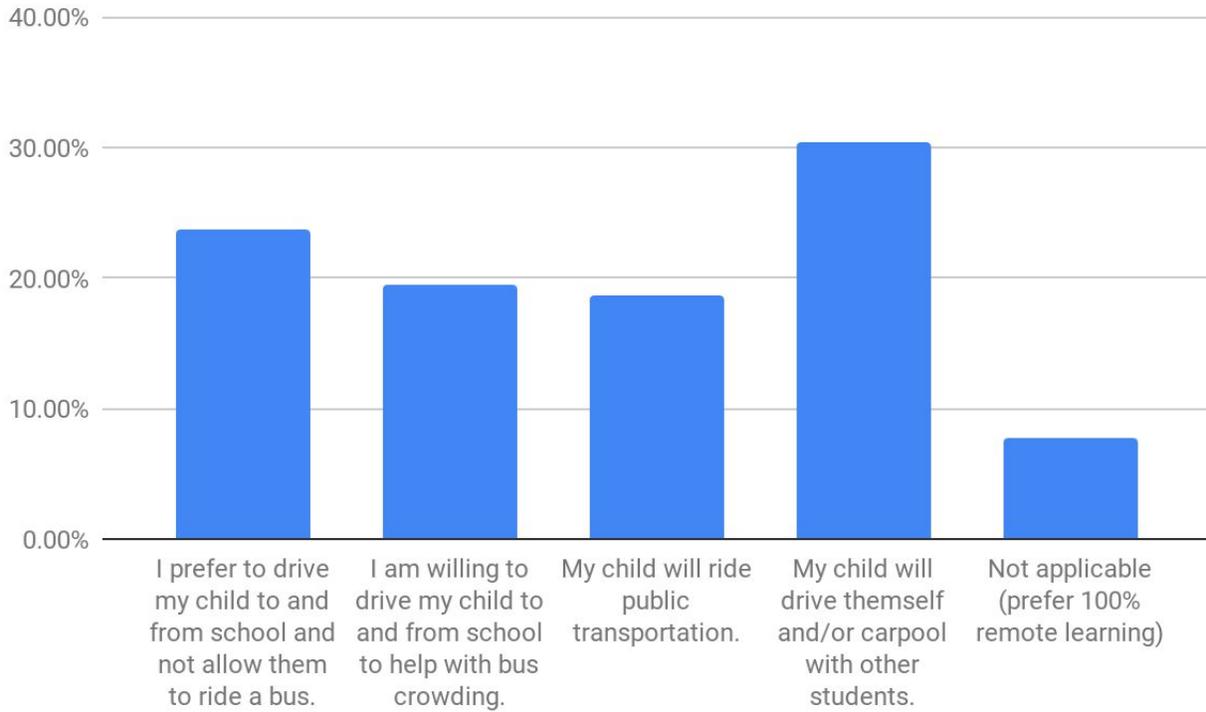




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Transportation Options





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