



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

September 2021

# BELL RINGER

Home of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

www.spartaschools.org

## Back-to-School 2021-22: A Return to Normalcy?

I hope that everyone has been able to enjoy your summer and have some quality time with your family!! We are now only a couple weeks away from the start of the 2021-22 school year so I wanted to share the information below with you on our plans for our return to school this fall.

After navigating a very challenging and ever-changing school year in 2020-21, we are hopeful things will be much more "normal" when our students return to school on August 24th. Currently there are not any orders from MDHHS or the Kent County Health Department that require us to implement any COVID mitigation strategies this fall, but there are several recommendations to keep our staff and students safe. Below is a summary of how we are currently planning to begin the 2021-22 school year based on these recommendations:

- Facial coverings (masks) will be optional for staff and students. While it is recommended by the CDC and MDHHS that unvaccinated staff and students continue to wear a mask while in school, the decision will be left to families to decide what is best for their child(ren). Current federal regulations require a mask on public transportation, including school buses.
- COVID vaccinations will continue to be a personal choice. No staff or student will be required to

receive a COVID vaccination to attend school. We will continue to share information on any local vaccination clinics, should they become available, for those that may be interested. All other school-required vaccines remain mandatory, unless there is a signed waiver on file from the health department.

- Daily health screenings will not be required, but we strongly encourage all families to screen their children for symptoms of illness each morning before sending them to school. Any child who does not feel well in school or that displays symptoms of illness will be isolated in the office until a parent can come to pick them up and will not be allowed to return to school until they are symptom free.
- We will not require any students attending school, participating in athletics, or any other extra-curricular activities to test for COVID on a weekly or regular basis, but do hope to be able to offer testing to any family that would like their symptomatic child to be tested. We will provide more specifics on any available testing once we have more information.
- We will continue to report any positive or probable cases of COVID to the Kent County Health Department, as required. The health department will be responsible for any quarantines, and our district will assist with

any required contact tracing. While it is our hope to limit any isolation or quarantine requirements, we will follow all mandates from the health department to limit the spread of the virus in this area.

- We will continue with many of our upgraded cleaning protocols, hand washing and sanitizing stations, and improved air flow strategies to keep our buildings, staff, and students as safe as possible. We will encourage our staff to utilize our outdoor learning environments and opportunities as long as the weather cooperates.
- We will continue to provide free school breakfast and lunch for all students during the 2021-22 school year. K-5 students will eat breakfast in their classrooms and lunch in the cafeteria. MS & HS students can grab their breakfast and take it with them to their first block class, and lunches will return to the cafeteria as long as any spread of the virus remains under control.
- Our Board of Education has waived athletic participation fees for the 2021-22 school year for all middle and high school students. We would like to encourage students to participate in athletics as much as possible. This will be a great year to get involved!!
- We will continue to offer a fully virtual option for our students/families that request it. The

deadline to request this option for the start of the school year has passed, but please contact your building principal at any time should your desire to pursue a virtual option exist and we can provide you with the best options at that time.

Please continue to share your questions or concerns with our school board members and our district leadership team throughout the school year. We will remain nimble in our approach to limiting the spread of COVID while in school and will make any necessary adjustments, should they be needed. Our Board of Education is committed to keeping our staff and students safe while also providing flexibility for parents to decide what is best for their child(ren).

The school calendar and start times for each building for the 2021-22 school year are included in this edition of the Bellringer, as well as open house times on August 19. We hope to see all our students and parents at open house that night to get your child's school year off to a great start!! Thank you for your patience and support as we prepare for another school year!! We are really looking forward to our kids returning to school and experiencing a much more "normal" environment in 2021-22!!

**With Spartan Pride,**  
**Pete Bush, Superintendent**



## SAS Elementary Summer Learning Programming

Our Elementary Summer Learning Program has been well attended! We have had over 500 students participate in our offerings; from Day Camp at Camp Scottie, to Core Content instruction in reading, writing, and math, and also opportunities to enjoy learning in Nature, Art, Music, and Physical Education courses! Students have been engaged in learning activities, but also enjoying the creativity and innovation that our staff has provided!





# BELL RINGER

## Sparta Middle School August 2021 Bellringer Information

**f** Make sure you are following Sparta Middle School on Facebook for all the latest information/updates!

We are looking forward to seeing all our students back soon! Please make sure you are following us on our SMS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SpartaMiddleSchool/>



### SMS Back-to-School Open House Information:

- Thursday, August 19th, from 4:00pm-7:00pm
- All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and families are welcome!



### Student Pictures:

- Wednesday, September 1st, Geskus photography will be at SMS to take students' pictures for the yearbook. You will receive picture forms in advance.



### 2021-2022 SMS Daily Student Class Schedule:

\*This is an alternating block schedule. Students will attend their 1st, 3rd and 5th block classes on "BLUE" days and their 2nd, 4th and 6th block classes on "WHITE" days. Students will attend their classes every other day with the exception of Essentials 4 Success which students will have every day.

Students Enter Building	7:35
1st Block/2nd Block	7:45-9:30
3rd Block/4th Block	9:35-11:15
5th Block/6th Block	11:20-1:35
Lunches: Time in between lunches allows for cleaning and disinfecting. Students will be eating in the cafeteria.	11:20-11:50 12:00-12:30 12:40-1:10
Essentials 4 Success (E4S)--This is a time for students to receive additional support and/or work on their assignments from any of their classes.	1:40-2:15

### SMS Recommended Supply Lists:

Content Area	Recommended Supplies
<b>English/Language Arts</b>	-A binder with pockets, used only for this class (or a folder with pockets and fasteners for paper) -A notebook for writing, used only for this class -Pencils and pens with blue or black ink -Headphones or earbuds to use with audio text.
<b>Mathematics</b>	A 1.5 inch binder Divider tabs (optional) Spiral notebook <u>or</u> loose-leaf lined paper Pencils Erasers (cap erasers preferred) Jumbo stretch book cover A highlighter
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 Ring Binder 2 Spiral Bound Notebooks Pencils/Colored Pencils Highlighters Headphones/Earbuds for school only
<b>Science</b>	Your student's Science teacher will provide a list of needed materials during the first days of school.
<b>Art</b>	Pencils/Colored Pencils Markers

<b>Band &amp; Choir</b>	Pencils 1 inch 3-ring binder with pockets Instrument
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\*Please note it is not a requirement that your son/daughter arrive with these materials on the first day of school. However, if you are able to provide them with these items it would be greatly appreciated.

## Help us welcome our new teachers to Sparta Middle School!



**Bob Alonzo**  
Choir

Graduate of  
Grand Valley  
State University

Comes to  
us from his  
current position  
at Baldwin  
Middle/High  
School



**Brooke Barringer**  
Math

Graduate of  
Central Michigan  
University

Recently  
completed her  
student teaching  
at Mt. Pleasant  
High School &  
a long-term sub  
position at Tawas  
Middle School.



**Kimberly Mitchell**  
Resource Room

Graduate of  
Michigan State  
University

Has spent the  
past four years  
teaching at Troy  
Athens High  
School



**Maddie Ribant**  
Physical  
Education/Health

Graduate of  
Central Michigan  
University

Since 2017, has  
taught Physical  
Education at Mt.  
Pleasant Middle  
School



# BELL RINGER

## Sparta High School

### Back-to-School Open House Information:

- **Thursday, August 19th, from 4:00pm-7:00pm**
- **All 9th - 12th grade students and families are welcome!**
- **Pick up your chromebooks**
- **Get your school and ID pictures taken**
- **Meet your teachers**
- **Find your classrooms**
- **Freshman Orientation for all incoming freshmen and their parents**
- **Thursday, August 19th at 6 pm in the High School Auditorium**
- **A virtual option will be available for any families unable to attend**
- **Please call the high school office if you need access to the virtual edition**

## SHS 2021-2022 Daily Schedule for Students

School starts at 7:55 am. Doors will open at 7:45 am. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:45. Students can take their breakfast to their first period classes. Students will end each day with focus time to work on areas of interest or to get extra support to complete assignments.

High School Schedule	Alternating Weeks	
Schedule	A Week	B Week
7:55-9:35	1st block	2nd block
9:40-11:15	3rd block	4th block
11:20-1:30	5th block including LUNCHES	6th block including LUNCHES
1:35 - 2:25	Focus Block	Focus Block

## New Staff at SHS

This year we are welcoming several new teachers to Sparta High School. We are excited for your students to get to know our new staff members. Please join us in welcoming:

**Bob Alonzo, Choir Director**

**Todd Hendricks, math**

**Elinore DeBrule, English**

**Chad Wagner English and Computers**

Coming to us from Sparta Middle School, we are happy to welcome

**Nick Arrends, Social Studies**

**Erin Ondrusek, Math teacher**

In addition, Sparta High School staff will be joined this year by Brandon Hassevoort who will be serving as our Community School Coordinator.

## SHS Recommended Supply Lists:

\*Please note it is not a requirement that your son/daughter arrive with these materials on the first day of school. However, your student will benefit by having them easily accessible.

- **Headphones or earbuds to use with audio text in ELA and Spanish classes**
- **A TI 83 or TI 84 graphing calculator to use in all math classes 9 - 12.**
- **Highlighters (assorted colors)**
- **Post It Notes - assorted sizes (3 x 3 are most popular)**
- **Mechanical pencils or pencils and a manual sharpener**
- **Blue and black ink pens**
- **Organizational/note taking supplies (folders, paper, notebooks)**

## Applevue Elementary School Supply List 2021-2022

### 3RD GRADE

- 6 Elmer's washable glue sticks (.21 oz) 1 box
- Crayola crayons (16 or 24 pack) 1 box
- Washable Markers
- 1 pair scissors, 5" pointed tip
- 24 wooden pencils (#2 Ticonderoga or Dixon)
- 1 highlighter
- 1 box of colored pencils (12 pack)
- 24 pencil cap erasers
- 1 Zippered pencil pouch (3-hole, 10"x6")
- 3 Expo Thin Fine Tip Dry Erase Markers
- Earbuds Optional:
- Wired / Wireless Mouse
- Tissues
- Clorox Wipes

### 4TH GRADE:

- 2 - Elmer's washable glue

- sticks (.77 oz) 24 wooden pencils (#2 pencils)
- 1 - 2-pack highlighters (multi-colored)
- 3 - spiral notebooks
- 4 - folders, 2 pocket, blue, red, green and yellow 2 folders, 2 pocket (plastic) any color
- 1 - Pair of Scissors
- 1 - box of crayons or colored pencils
- 2 - Expo Markers
- Earbuds
- Mouse
- \*No Trapper Keepers please\* Optional:
- Tissues
- Clorox Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

### 5TH GRADE:

- 1 - 1 1/2" three ring binder (any color)

- 1 - 1" three ring binder
- 4 - 2-pocket folders (4 different colors)
- 2 spiral bound notebooks
- 2 composition notebooks
- 24 #2 pencils
- 24 pencil top erasers
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- 1 individual pencil sharpener with pencil shaving container attached
- 2 highlighters (different colors)
- 1 pair scissors
- 2 Expo Low Odor Dry Erase Markers
- 2 glue sticks
- Earbuds
- OPTIONAL:
- Tissues
- Baby Wipes



## SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS 2021-22 STUDENT/PARENT CALENDAR

First Day of School .....	August 24
No School for Students or Staff.....	September 3
Labor Day – No School for Students or Staff.....	September 6
Homecoming.....	September 24
Student Fall Count Day .....	October 6
Teacher In-Service – No School for Students.....	October 8
Half Day for K-5 Students - Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	November 12
Teacher In-Service – No School for Students.....	November 15
No School for Students or Staff.....	November 24
Thanksgiving Break .....	November 25-26
Teacher In-Service – Half Day for Students.....	December 17
Holiday Break.....	December 20 - 31
School Resumes .....	January 3
Teacher In-Service – Half Day for Students.....	January 21
Student Spring Count Day.....	February 9
Half Day for K-5 students - Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	February 18
Mid-Winter Break .....	February 21-22
No School for Students or Staff .....	March 31
Spring Break.....	April 1 - 8
Teacher In-Service – Half Day for Students.....	May 13
High School Graduation (tentative) .....	May 26
Memorial Day – No School for Students or Staff .....	May 30
Half Day for Students and Staff.....	June 7
Last Day of School – Half Day for Students and Staff.....	June 8

The above calendar shall be limited by and subject to the provisions of state law governing the make-up days missed due to emergency closing. Days not required by law for make-up shall not be added to the calendar year. School days which must be made up for State Aid purposes will be scheduled as available or at the end of the school year.



# BELL RINGER

# Summer Camp

Over 240 young Spartans signed up for K-5 camps at Applevew this summer, and the kids had a blast. Camp opportunities varied from gym, art, music and nature camp, to math and reading camp. We were also able to send around 140 kids to Camp Scottie in Newaygo for a week of day camp.



## Ridgeview 2021-2022 Supply Lists

Developmental Kindergarten	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
2 boxes of tissue 2 pkgs of baby wipes 2 pkg of Crayola Washable Markers 4 pkgs of Crayons 6 Elmer's large size (0.77oz.) glue sticks Optional Items: playdough, box of band-aids, gallon size bags, sandwich bags, new or used coloring books	12 Elmer's washable glue sticks large size only (.77 oz) (The small sticks dry out quickly and break off easily) 2 boxes of Crayola crayons 24-pack 1 box #2 HB Dixon Ticonderoga soft lead pencils 1 pack of washable Crayola markers 1 box of Crayola colored pencils Expo dry erase markers – 8-pack or 2 4-pack 2 boxes of tissues Pencil box 1 paper towel 1 container of Clorox disinfectant wipes 1 pkg ziplock baggies (gallon size) 1 pkg ziplock baggies (sandwich size)	3 boxes of Crayola crayons 24-pack (no larger or smaller amounts) 2 boxes #2 HB Dixon Ticonderoga soft lead pencils 2 packages pencil cap erasers Pencil Box 1 pair Fiskars scissors 5" – pointed tip 2 boxes of Crayola Washable markers 8-pack, classic colors, wide tip 4 plain/no pictures/plastic pocket folders 12 Elmer's washable glue sticks large size only (.77 oz) (The small sticks dry out quickly and break off easily) 1 box Expo dry erase markers 2 containers of Clorox wipes 1 Roll of Paper Towel 1 box Ziploc bags (variety of sizes) Tissues Hand Sanitizer ( 8 oz ) Optional Items: paper plates, band-aids, package of napkins, 1 ream of multipurpose white copy paper	2 boxes of Ticonderoga soft pencils only (pre-sharpened preferred) 1 package of pencil erasers, pink 3 Elmer's washable glue sticks 1 box of Crayola crayons 24 count or more 1 box of colored pencils 2 expo black markers 1 pencil box 1 pair of scissors 1 spiral notebook wide ruled 70 pages Pocket folders, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green, 1 blue, (No prongs please) 1 container of Clorox wipes 2 boxes of tissues 1 roll of paper towel Gallon size and quart, or sandwich size ziplock bags 1 box of a classroom snack

## Like Us on Facebook!

Did you know that we also post regularly on Facebook? The following links are operated by Sparta Area Schools and provide factual, up-to-date information.

- Sparta Area Schools District Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpartaAreaSchools>
- Sparta High School's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/spartaschools.org>
- Sparta Middle School's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpartaMiddleSchool/>
- Applevew Elementary's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ApplevewElementarySchool>
- Ridgeview Elementary's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RidgeviewElementarySchool/>
- Sparta Early Childhood Center's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sparta-Early-Childhood-Center-730568437636326/>

For more information regarding Sparta Area Schools and our programs please visit our website at: [spartaschools.org](http://spartaschools.org)

## Early Childhood Special Education

ECSE

2021-22 Calendar

New Location: Sparta Early Childhood Center

Monday-Thursday

A.M. Section: 8:35-11:50

P.M. Section: 12:35-3:50

First Day of School	August 24, 2021
Labor Day-No School	September 6, 2021
No School	November 15, 2021
Thanksgiving Break	November 24-25, 2021
Holiday Break	December 20-31, 2021
Mid-Winter Break	February 21-22, 2022
No School	March 31, 2022
Spring Break	April 1-8, 2022
Memorial Day-No School	May 30, 2022
Last Day of School (both A.M. & P.M.*)	June 7, 2022

\* Please note: June 7 will be the last day of the school year and both sections will attend regular assigned schedule- this differs from other building schedules

# Welcome Back!

The first few weeks of a new school year can be an exciting and anxious time for your student(s)!

Here are some tips to help you and your student(s) start the new school year strong!

### Make Attendance a Priority

- Talk to your student(s) about the importance of showing up every day on time and ready to learn.
- Check with the school about your student(s) attendance.

- **Encourage your student(s) to maintain daily routines** such as; finishing their homework before dinner and getting to bed on time!
- Create an attendance plan with your student(s).

### Helping your Student(s) Stay Engaged

- Ask your student how they are feeling at school and encourage them to talk with trusted school staff if issues arise.
- Stay on top of your student(s) social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to increases in skipping school. Communicate with the School
- If you have any concerns about your student(s) learning or if you have barriers getting your student(s) to school on time please let the school know- we would LOVE to work with you and your family!
- Communicate with your student(s) teachers and let them know the best way they can get in contact with you.
- Ask your school about their policies and procedures. Brandon Hassevoort- Sparta High School Community School Coordinator

Welcome back Spartans! If you or your student(s) have any questions please feel free to reach out!

Phone: 616-887-8213 ext. 1006

Email: [brandon.hassevoort@spartaschools.org](mailto:brandon.hassevoort@spartaschools.org)

