

SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDE

A Guide for Families and Students for the 2020-2021 School Year



sami
science and math institute

School Orientation

09/03-09/04

First Day of School

09/09/2020

Graduation

06/09/2021

empathy community balance thinking

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please check our website tsami.org regularly for frequently asked questions and updates

LETTER FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

August 9, 2020

SAMily,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year. Know that we miss you- we want to see you, talk to you, and hear your stories. Connecting our SAMi community will be one critical priority this year.

Our All-School Retreat, an important part of revisiting our pillars of Community, Empathy, Thinking and Balance as we welcome the newest members will be on September 3rd and 4th. Mr. White and Ms. Folsom-Hill have brought our Mentors together to create connection in this time when we must distance for our community's safety. Though virtual connections are difficult, as always, we seek creative ways to learn and hear each other's stories to especially develop Empathy. Our community development is critical during this time.

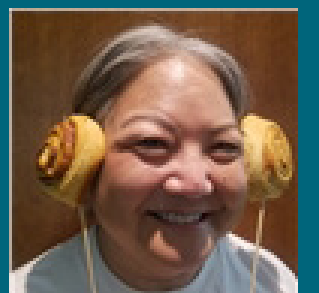
The regular term classes will start Wednesday, September 9th with a detailed to schedule to be shared as soon as we have clear parameters for safety and success for each of our students. This year will be different, but we have a strong community of talented students and staff and can learn together. Our hard work over the past months has been grounded in listening to what students and families experienced in the spring. TPS purchased a Learning Management System (LMS) called Schoology. Well planned, standards-based lessons embedded with projects and student voice will rely on technology and each student having access to laptops and internet. SAMi, IDEA, and SOTA teachers collaborated across the schools this summer to prepare projects and lessons for both online and in-person environments. We are better prepared for rigor AND safety.

We also seek better connection with families and now have multiple ways to connect: Schoology, www.tsami.org, Facebook, Instagram, emails, phone calls, text and especially the advocacy of our Mentors who create families, SAMilies. The importance of our Mentor Groups is critical now more than ever. Multi-age mentor families get to know students and families over all four years. Mentees rely on each other, Mentors rely on their Mentees just as families rely on their student's Mentor to help navigate barriers and connect to dreams families have for their children and students have for themselves. We know that "school" is not separated from "home" or "city" or "country" or "world". We are committed to relevant and rigorous projects that explore student voice in this online environment (to start- until we are all safe). Thanks for your support and voice, SAMily. Now all we need is you!

Liz Minks and Anne Tsuneishi, SAMi Co-Directors



Elizabeth Minks
Co-Director



Anne Tsuneishi
Co-Director

Connect with us on facebook and instagram or get regular updates from This Week @ SAMi through www.tsami.org

 facebook.com/SAMihighschool  [@samihighschool](https://www.instagram.com/samihighschool)

PLANNING PROCESS

In May of this past year, co-directors at SOTA, SAMI and IDEA began meeting bi-weekly to develop a new school framework that would improve on the lessons learned during the emergency school closure of the Spring 2020 and would be flexible to support a variety of formats for the 2020-21 school year. Each of the eight co-directors led content teams with leaders from each of the three schools to develop best practices for supporting our teachers in developing a plan that could better serve the needs of all students. We established five core guiding principles in our work:

1. Our reopening plan must adhere to our core mission of ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality educational experience that centers around their unique passions and interests.
2. Our plan must first and foremost protect the health and safety of our students and staff.
3. Our plan must prioritize the most at-risk learners in our communities.
4. Our plan must be clear: it must be easy to understand and interpret for both parents and students.
5. Our plan must be realistic: it must be both viable and effective

We believe all students have the right to high-quality educational experiences that develop their unique needs and passions.

Team	Administrator Lead	Team Leaders
Math	Kristin Tinder	Tim Chalberg, Peter Rutter, Joann Salomon, Ryan Yuong
Life Science	Kainoa Higgins	Matt Lonsdale, Linnea Bostrom, Chelsea Brown
English	Renee Froembling	Stephanie Skaggs, Melissa Moffett, Betsy Gordon
History	Liz Minks	Duncan White, David Mylet, Lucie Kroschel
Performing Arts	Paul Eliot	Robin Jaecklein, Emily Wickman, Gabe McPherson
Visual Arts	Jon Ketler	Mary Mann, Terri Placentia, Cornelius Brudi, Doris Conrath
Engineering & Physical Science	Zach Varnell	Johnny Devine, Doss Bradford, Brett Knisely
Foreign Language	Anne Tsuneishi	Rachel Pardur, Margi Cabrera, Kayo Charbonnel-Mackley, Ashley Miraflor
Special Education	Bliss King	Stacey Flynn, Sandy Farewell, Rachel Stokes, Jessie Fouts

The Mission of the Partner Schools is to change public education by emphasizing creativity and utilizing a fully inclusive model that educates the whole student through our core values of empathy, community, balance and thinking.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Also called “asynchronous learning”. Online learning that does not happen in real time (i.e. watching a prerecorded video or working through a lesson independently online).

LIVE LEARNING

Also called “synchronous learning. Online learning that happens in real time (i.e. a teacher giving a lesson live on Teams or Zoom to a group of students).

SCHOOLCLOGY

The LMS (or learning management system) that Tacoma Public Schools has chosen to use for online learning for the 2020-21 school year. SOTA, SAMI and IDEA will be using this LMS for all classes.

IN-PERSON LEARNING

Learning that happens in a classroom or school building with a teacher and students.

TEAMS & OFFICE 365

An online class notebook where students can video chat with a teacher, create and edit documents and share files.

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

An online portfolio of student work that a student develops over four years. This becomes their application for an internship in their junior year and their high school and beyond plan, which is a Washington State graduation requirement.

REMOTE LEARNING

Learning that is done individually at home without in-person meeting.

BLENDED LEARNING

A mixture of in-person and online learning (either live or independent online learning).

LMS (LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

An online ‘classroom’ where students turn in assignments, participate in learning and collaborate with teachers and peers.

SEL (SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING)

Learning that is focused on the mental and emotional health of a student, beyond the cognitive or academic learning.

LEARNING SCENARIOS

FULLY REMOTE LEARNING



Students engage in class projects and materials entirely at home through a learning management system

We know that there is no substitution for in-person learning. Our teachers are most effective when they are in the same room with students, facilitating collaboration and supporting students in both one-on-one and small group formats. Knowing that a fully in-person model is not possible in our community at this time, we are working tirelessly over the summer to improve on our previous remote learning experience and develop practices that support the learning of all students. We are committed to the following practices for the 2020-21 school year:

As of August 1, 2020 Tacoma Public Schools will begin the school year fully remote. SOTA, SAMI and IDEA will follow the guidance of the TPS School Board as well as follow the guidance of the Pierce County Health Department and Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction for Washington State.

As soon as we are able to return students to the classroom in blended learning model, we will utilize the following safety protocols to ensure that students and staff are safe while at school. Student schedules will remain the same throughout the year.

- classes will be limited to 10-14 students limiting the exposure of students to larger populations
- students and staff will be required to masks at all times while on campus
- if any student shows any signs of high fever, sickness or cough they will be sent home for 14 days
- desks and student workstations in classrooms will be adjusted to allow for a minimum of 6 feet of distance between each student
- front office and lunch delivery lines will have clearly marked spots for waiting that ensure social distancing

BLENDED LEARNING



Students engage in learning through a hybrid mixture of remote and in-person learning.

FULLY IN-PERSON LEARNING



Students engage in class projects in person at a school building, separated into smaller groups that can be socially distanced and wearing personal protective equipment such as masks.

LEARNING COMMITMENT

01.

FOUR CLASSES AT ONCE

Students will only have four classes per semester, allowing them to focus on a smaller number of classes remotely at one time. They will have two core classes and two elective classes. This will allow students to focus on four classes in our hybrid or remote model and be in smaller classes of 10-14 students.

02.

ONLINE LEARNING THROUGH SCHOLOGY

Classes will be conducted through an enhanced learning management system (LMS) called Schoology which is much more suited for remote learning. The majority of classroom learning remotely will occur through this learning management system. This will make communication and engagement much more clear and simple for students and families.

03.

A LAPTOP FOR EVERY STUDENT

Every student will be issued a new laptop at the start of the school year to engage in remote learning. You will receive information in August about a time during the all-school retreat orientation to check out your student's laptop.

04.

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

Every student will work with their mentor to develop a digital portfolio of student work. This portfolio will become their internship application and their high school and beyond plan and will stay with the student beyond high school

05.

MENTORSHIP AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Students will meet with their mentor on Wednesdays and at least once a week one-on-one to help guide them through distance learning, support their development of their portfolio and provide social-emotional support.

CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

CALENDAR YEAR

In previous years, students enroll in eight classes over the course of the academic year along with a mentor group. Students will still have all eight classes that they registered for but will only take four classes per semester. Student will finish the year with a short mini-term in June. Students will now recieve a full year-long credit (1.0) for completing each class per semester.

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Begins 9/9/20	Ends 1/27/21	Begins 1/28/21	Ends 6/4/21
Monday/Thursday	Tuesday/Friday	Monday/Thursday	Tuesday/Friday
Period 1	Period 3	Period 5	Period 7
Period 2	Period 4	Period 6	Period 8
Miniterm			
Begins 6/7/21		End 6/11/21	

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Every week, students will have two Monday/Thursday Classes and two Tuesday/Friday Classes. They will either be in the morning live cohort (Cohort A) or the afternoon live cohort (Cohort B). This does not mean that they only have school for half of the day. Students will attend a smaller group live session for part of the day and will have time to work on the independent learning for the second half of the day. On Wednesdays, students will all have mentor group in the morning and an independent workshop in the afternoon. Every student will begin each day by practicing skills independently with custom learning modules and will check in with their mentor every day after lunch.

	Cohort	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Everyone	Skills Mastery		Late Start	Skills Mastery	
AM Session	Cohort A	P1/P2 LIVE	P3/P4 LIVE	Mentor Group LIVE	P1/P2 LIVE	P3/P4 LIVE
	Cohort B	P1/P2 INDEPENDENT	P3/P4 INDEPENDENT	Mentor Group LIVE	P1/P2 INDEPENDENT	P3/P4 INDEPENDENT
LUNCH/Mentor Check-In						
PM Session	Cohort A	P1/P2 INDEPENDENT	P3/P4 INDEPENDENT	Independent Workshop	P1/P2 INDEPENDENT	P3/P4 INDEPENDENT
	Cohort B	P1/P2 LIVE	P3/P4 LIVE	Independent Workshop	P1/P2 LIVE	P3/P4 LIVE



LIVE SESSIONS

Live online with the instructor. Note that the instruction will probably not be online for the entire 75 minute block. A teacher will always start the session, deliver the content and objectives for the day, then might break into smaller groups checking in with each group and the rejoining back with the full cohort at the end. They will end each session providing guidance for how to work on the independent work.



INDEPENDENT SESSIONS

Work done independently by students on their own, or in small groups. The teacher will provide an introduction for the students of what to work on and will guide them through the work that needs to be completed before the next class. This does not necessarily have to be completed during the independent time slot. Students that work part time, need to help with family support or prefer to work a different schedule can choose the best time to complete the asynchronous work on their own.



SKILLS MASTERY

We recognize the importance for daily independent practice. Each class will provide time every day to work independently through extension learning modules to support learners of all abilities where they are at.

SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULES

‘COHORT A’ STUDENT YEARLY SCHEDULE

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
English 9/10	Alegebra 2	Intro Bio	History 9/10
Spanish 1	Intro Chem	Illustration	Robotics

‘COHORT A’ STUDENT FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Time	Wednesday
8:00-9:30	Skills Mastery				10:30-12:30	Mentor Group LIVE
9:30-10:45	English 9/10 LIVE	Algebra 2 LIVE	English 9/10 LIVE	Algebra 2 LIVE	12:30-1:00	LUNCH
10:55-12:10	Spanish 1 LIVE	Intro Chem LIVE	Spanish 1 LIVE	Spanish 1 LIVE	1:00-1:30	Skills Mastery
12:10-1:05	LUNCH/MENTOR CHECK-IN				1:30-3:30	Workshop IND
1:05-2:20	English 9/10 IND	Alegebra 2 IND	English 9/10 IND	Algebra 2 IND		
2:30-3:45	Spanish 1 IND	Intro Chem IND	Spanish 1 IND	Intro Chem IND		



‘COHORT B’ STUDENT YEARLY SCHEDULE

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
English 11/12	Stats	Marine Bio	Fisheries
APES	Internship	History 11/12	AP Physics

‘COHORT B’ STUDENT FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Time	Wednesday
8:00-9:30	Skills Mastery				10:30-12:30	Mentor Group LIVE
9:30-10:45	English 11/12 IND	Stats IND	English 11/12 IND	Stats IND	12:30-1:00	LUNCH
10:55-12:10	APES IND	Internship	APES IND	Internship	1:00-1:30	Skills Mastery
12:10-1:05	LUNCH/MENTOR CHECK-IN				1:30-3:30	Workshop IND
1:05-2:20	English 11/12 LIVE	Stats LIVE	English 11/12 LIVE	Stats LIVE		
2:30-3:45	APES LIVE	Internship	APES LIVE	Internship		



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

FALL 2020

All-School Retreat Kick-Off

SEPTEMBER 3-4

First Day of Fall Semester

SEPTEMBER 9

Fall Student-Led Conferences (Online)

OCTOBER 13-15

First Day Spring Semester

JANUARY 28

SPRING 2021

Spring Student-Led Conferences (TBD)

MARCH 9-11

Graduation Class of 2021

JUNE 9

Miniterm for 9-11th Grade

JUNE 7



TIPS FOR PARENTS

We understand that this is unprecedented time for our world and that it can be overwhelming trying to support the learning of your student while balancing your own job, family and life responsibilities. We are here to help! We will be hosting weekly live co-director family check-ins starting the week of September 21 to help you and your student navigate the online learning platform, set up and maintain an academic routine and provide academic, social and emotional support. These will all be conducted on the schools Facebook page and you can ask questions in real-time and hear important updates. Don't hesitate to reach out to our school social worker or your mentor for more resources with social emotional support.

SAMI WEEKLY LIVE CO-DIRECTOR UPDATE
WEDNESDAYS AT 5 PM STARTING SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAMIHIGH SCHOOL](https://www.facebook.com/samihighschool)



ENSURE YOUR STUDENT ATTENDS THEIR LIVE ONLINE CLASSES DURING THEIR SCHEDULED TIME EVERY DAY. THIS INCLUDES MENTOR GROUP ON WEDNESDAY



HELP YOUR STUDENT ESTABLISH A DAILY ROUTINE AND STICK TO IT. THIS INCLUDES A REGULAR BEDTIME AND WAKING UP TIME



ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND EXERCISE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, EVEN IN SMALL DOSES



CHECK IN WITH YOUR STUDENTS' TEACHERS AND MENTOR OVER EMAIL OR SCHOOLGY



IF POSSIBLE, SET ASIDE A PART OF A ROOM FOR SCHOOLWORK WITH PLENTY OF LIGHT AND CLOSE TO A POWER OUTLET

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.