

## Questions and Answers from the Community” Park Hops”

### Health and Safety

**Q. If a child has asthma/bad cough are they required to remote learn?**

A. No. Children with preexisting health conditions will be asked to have written documentation from their physician documenting the condition if signs or symptoms of the condition are similar to the signs or symptoms of the We are working with our medical Health Director on further clarification and requirements.

**Q. If wearing masks, is social distancing required?**

A. In following Department of Health guidelines an individual is required to wear a face covering if social distancing is not possible. Students will be wearing face coverings on the buses, in the hallways and in their classrooms. They will be allowed to remove masks while at their seats for periods of time throughout the day. This will occur mostly during instruction but there may be situations where masks will be required to be worn more in some classes than others.

**Q. Does the school test for the virus?**

A. No. Schools are not permitted to conduct COVID-19 testing.

**Q. Will students be required to receive a vaccine if/when available?**

A. At this time we do not have any information regarding a COVID-19 vaccine or New York State requirements related to a possible vaccine.

**Q. Can students wear masks with writing on them?**

A. Yes, as long as it follows our code of conduct. As per the code of conduct: “ ... In addition, the Board prohibits attire bearing an expression or insignia which is obscene or libelous, or which advocates racial, religious, or gender prejudice” If the mask causes disruption in the educational process then the student will be asked to remove the mask and the District will provide a mask for them.

**Q. Do I need to take my child to the doctor every time they have a symptom such as a cough?**

A. Yes. Whenever a child experiences COVID-19 symptoms they will be sent home and will need a written note from a health care provider stating they are cleared to return to school. The student also needs to be fever free without fever reducing medicine and they feel well for 24 hours.

**Q. Does the school have a touchless system to check temperatures? Why not screening as entering?**

A. Yes. The school does have a touchless system to check temperatures. However, all students and staff will be required to complete a daily electronic screening survey before coming to school. The goal is to prevent any child with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 from entering the buildings therefore the screening at home is vital.

**Q. Are there hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the buildings?**

A. Yes. We have hand sanitizer dispensers located throughout all of our buildings for students and staff use.

**Q. What is the air filtration system? Upgrades planned?**

A. District will meet the code required for ventilation by natural and mechanical means in our building spaces.

**Q. What if face coverings are forgotten at home?**

A. The District will provide face coverings for students and staff who need it. Students who refuse to wear face coverings will be in violation of our Code of Conduct and will face disciplinary measures. Face covering/masks must be worn by all building occupants (including the bus) unless precluded by medical conditions which may require documentation.

**Q. Will the District travel screening question include mileage or location?**

A. The District will follow the New York State travel advisory.

[NYS Travel Advisory](#)

**Q. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 what will the procedure be as far as who will have to self quarantine and would school have to close?**

A. If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and will stay at home until it has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms; it has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine) and it has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

The CDC provides specific guidance for individuals who are on home isolation regarding when the isolation may end. CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after exposure based on the time it may take to develop illness if infected. Thus, it is possible that a person known to be infected could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined because of the possibility they are infected.

If a student or staff reports having tested positive for COVID-19, school administrators or his/her designee will notify the Oneida County Department of Health to determine what steps are needed for the school community, which will include the potential of closing schools if directed.

**Q. Will students be able to carry personal hand sanitizer?**

A. Yes, students are permitted to carry and apply their own hand sanitizer. The District has hand sanitizer dispensers placed throughout all of our buildings.

**Q. If a child has a history of illness/pre-existing conditions such as asthma/headaches what is the protocol?**

A. Parents have the discretion to have their children participate in solely remote on-line instruction. If such children attend in-person education, the District will follow the Department of Health and NY state Education Department guidelines. Medical documentation from the child's healthcare provider must be sent to the school.

**Q. Is there a designated space for high risk students and staff?**

A. Each individual situation is treated on a case by case basis and accommodations will be considered based on the individual need.

**Q. Will the District cover the cost of PCP visits to rule out Covid-19?**

A. No, the School District is prohibited from paying private medical costs of students.

**Q. Do parents need to notify the school of a "yes" answer on the daily screening form?**

A. Yes. Please follow District procedures of contacting the school nurse when your child will be absent from school. We will also have the screening results at every building. It is extremely important to accurately complete these screenings to prevent sick students coming to school and infecting others.

**Q. Who does the daily screening? Are high school students to do the screening for themselves or does it need to be a parent/guardian?**

A. All students, staff and visitors are required to have a daily screening completed before boarding the school bus or entering the school building. The District would prefer to have parents/guardians of students completing the survey.

**Q. Will volunteers be allowed in the buildings?**

A. Visitors will be allowed on a limited basis. We are asking that all visitors be scheduled by calling ahead and must be screened before entering the building. In order to limit multiple people from coming to the buildings meetings will be held remotely as often as possible.

## Instruction/Schedule

### **Q. Will Chromebooks have the print function?**

A. At this point and time we do not plan to have the print option for Chromebooks but it is something that could be considered for the future. As we switch to one to one devices the goal would be to have more products electronically and shared amongst teachers and students.

### **Q. Lab requirements? Can they be met?**

A. Yes. Lab requirements will be met through our instructional plan. They will look different but the focus on having in person instruction for an entire schedule will help in meeting these requirements.

### **Q. Will you attempt to keep siblings on the same hybrid schedule?**

A. Yes, this will be taken into consideration when creating our hybrid schedules at the elementary level. This will also help with our transportation schedules as well.

### **Q. When will school open?**

A. We will be notified how schools are reopening between August 1st-7th from Governor Cuomo and will notify the public as soon as possible. The regular start date is scheduled for September 8, 2020. Depending on the Governor's decision we will be starting with our hybrid model or full remote learning.

### **Q. What will a “typical” day of school look like?**

A. Students will follow a daily schedule whether learning in person or remotely. We will be releasing building schedules once completed. The students will be expected to follow a daily schedule and attendance will be taken daily. The schedules will allow for limited movement throughout the all buildings.

### **Q. Will there be BOCES Programming?**

A. Yes. BOCES is currently working on a reopening plan and this will be communicated for all students who attend on site and off site BOCES programs. Once we receive the schedule from BOCES we will incorporate this into our students schedules. We will also continue to transport students to their BOCES classes.

### **Q. How will communication work? For example, meetings.**

A. The District will communicate information regularly through traditional media outlets, the District website and school messenger system. The District will also be launching a school District Facebook page and will hold in-person meetings when feasible.

**Q. Will block scheduling impact electives and credits for students in the High School?**

A. No. The block scheduling will not impact any courses offered. Class periods at the MS & HS will be longer in duration and our students learning remotely will have less classes to manage daily. All labs, specials and electives are included in the blocks.

**Q. What are the plans for children with IEP's and 504 plans? Will they learn in person?**

A. Students will either receive hybrid or remote online instruction, based on the instructional choice their family makes. Related services, special education instruction, program modifications and accommodations included in students' IEPs and 504 plans will be provided to the greatest extent possible. We continue to work on the scheduling for our students who receive services. Students who receive special education and/or related services through BOCES or UCP programs will follow their instructional plan, which may include a combination of in-person and remote online instruction. The district will provide transportation to these programs for students who are attending in-person.

**Q. Will lesson plans be provided to parents on the new curriculum regarding Black Lives Matter movement?**

A. The Holland Patent CSD curriculum will follow the NYS Learning Standards.

**Q. What is the secondary schedule?**

A. Currently, our hybrid model divides students into four groups. Each group of students will attend school in-person on a rotating basis for 4 consecutive days, allowing them to participate in every scheduled class in person. On the fifth day students will begin attending school remotely and follow the daily schedule for the next 12 instructional days.

**Q. Will students be switching classes at the secondary level?**

A. Yes. Students will be required to wear masks while switching classes at the secondary level. With the block scheduling, there will be less switching of classes.

**Q. Will there be recess for elementary students?**

A. Yes. Recess will look differently at each building while implementing all of the safety requirements. Our building principals are examining all options for recess and will be included as part of their daily schedule.

**Q. Will school hours remain the same?**

A. There may be a slight adjustment (up to 30 minutes) for the beginning and ending of each day to accommodate our transportation schedule. Once we have the schedule in place we will release it.

**Q. Will Pre-K students be on the same schedule as elementary level students?**

A. Yes. As of today we plan on running Pre-K on the same elementary schedule.

**Q. Will students at the elementary level be using books for learning or screens?**

A. Instruction will include a combination of both depending on the lesson being instructed.

**Q. Will students leave the classroom for services like OT, PT and speech therapy?**

A. Yes. Students will have the services held in separate locations and will be required to wear a mask while traveling.

**Q. What will after-school programs look like?**

A. The District will not be running late buses this year due to our bus capacities. The District will evaluate our extracurricular offerings at a later date.

**Q. Too many platforms and applications were being used in the spring. Will it be streamlined?**

A. The three District learning platforms that will be used are: SeeSaw (K-2); Google Classroom (3-12) and BUZZ (6-12). During the closure, our teachers did a great job utilizing resources to support their remote online instructional programs. We are streamlining the list of the resources used and will support those that are District approved.

**Q. Will there be Freshman Orientation?**

A. It is undecided at this time whether an orientation will be held. It will depend on the safety measures in place.

**Q. How will the notification take place of a decision to choose in-person or remote learning?**

A. A District survey will be sent out to all families the week of August 3rd. This survey will help guide us with the implementation of our plan and what potential adjustments to our protocols and protocols need to be made. **Is it very important for the surveys to be completed for every student.**

**Q. How will changing of classes at the elementary and secondary level be handled?**

A. At the elementary level students will be remaining in their classrooms throughout most of the day to provide limited movement. Students will be switching classes less at the secondary level due to the block scheduling. The goal is to limit the amount of movement throughout the day to mitigate the spread of the virus.

**Q. What will the times of live instruction be? Will they be recording if the child can not be online for the live instruction?**

A. The times of live instruction will be included in the daily schedule. The District is investigating options to record live lessons so that students and parents can refer to when completing assignments.

**Q. When is the first day of school?**

A. The first day of school is scheduled for September 8, 2020. This date is dependent on any directive we receive from the Governor's office.

**Q. Will parent workshops be available for chrome platforms?**

A. Yes. Parent workshops will be held for SeeSaw (Grades K-2) and Google Classroom (Grades 3-12). We will communicate the workshops through our School messenger System and will also be posted on our website and the DIstrict Facebook page.

**Q. Can parents opt out of any live instruction?**

A. Yes. Parents can choose for their children to participate in remote on-line instruction. We ask that any change to instructional setting (in-person to remote on-line instruction or vice versa) be communicated at least 2 days in advance to the student's teacher and building principal.

**Q. How are students being grouped together?**

A. The District is currently working on the process of grouping students, taking into consideration siblings at the elementary level and following student schedules at the secondary level.

**Q. Can siblings be separated so that less children are home at one time?**

A. At this time the District is not able to accommodate individual requests.

**Q. What were the survey results of % of students wanting to return to live or remote learning?**

A. Approximately 75% of students were looking for in-person instruction and 25% remote online instruction from the survey posted in July.

## **Transportation**

**Q. Can students be dropped off at a sitter's?**

A. Yes. Due to the capacity of our buses we are asking for each family to have one address that will be a daily consistent pick up and drop-off location. This can be different from your home address as long as it is in the District limits.

**Q. Will parents be required to transport kids to school for athletics?**

A. At this point in time, we do not know what the state of athletics will look like in our District. The decision to have athletics will be dictated by the State and we will follow all the guidelines issued, including transportation.

**Q. Are bus schedule changes allowed?**

A. Yes. Bus schedule changes are allowed but will require a 3 day notice to ensure the change can be accommodated with the limited capacity on all our buses. Also, one 1 address that will be used for pick-up and drop-offs will be allowed this year.

**Q. Are students able to drive themselves from the high school to BOCES instead of taking the bus?**

A. This issue is currently being investigated by the District as we refer to Board and BOCES policies.

**Child Nutrition**

**Q. Will breakfast be available for students?**

A. Yes. Breakfast will be available and will operate on a grab and go meal program.

**Q. Are any hot lunches being provided? Can students heat up lunches?**

A. No. At this time the District will be operating on a grab and go meal program. We will be starting off with cold sandwiches while we look for ways to serve hot foods both on-site and remotely if possible.

**Other Areas**

**Q. Will school taxes remain the same with all remote and hybrid plans?**

A. Yes, taxes will be levied based on the approved 2020-21 School budget.

**Q. If there is a snow day, are all classes (remote or in-person) cancelled?**

A. When an emergency day is called, all buildings are closed. Emergency days are still included in the District calendar and count towards the 180-day requirement.

**Q: Is the decision to reopen schools a local or state decision?**

A: The decision to reopen schools is a state decision. Based on guidance from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), every school district in New York State was required to develop and submit a reopening plan to NYSED by July 31, 2020. After reviewing all reopening plans, NYSED, NYSDOH and Governor Cuomo



will decide if schools will reopen by August 7, 2020. NYSED, NYSDOH and Governor Cuomo will also approve or disapprove individual school district reopening plans.

**Q: Will the District still hold concerts and assemblies?**

A: Plans for events such as concerts and assemblies, along with other traditional large gatherings, will be addressed and communicated on a case-by-case basis.

**Q: Will students be able to participate in sports?**

A: The decision to resume sports is a state decision. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) delayed the official start date of the Fall 2020 sports season, canceled the 2020 Fall Regional and State Championships and are prepared to implement a condensed season schedule in January 2021 if athletics are permitted.