



Califon Public School

"Making Their Lives Extraordinary"



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Dear Parents,

Thank you for participating in the Parent Survey and for sharing your ideas, comments and questions. Answers to the questions are provided below. In addition, as you may be aware, the information regarding health and wellness is updated often and, as a result, our reopening plan will be adjusted accordingly. One such change is that **masks are now required for students**, where previously, masks were required for students when social distancing could not be maintained.

NJDOE released the [guidance](#) on August 3, 2020 which states:

*"Students are **required** to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities."*

Parents will be kept informed of any other changes as well as daily health screening instructions and opening information. Welcome Back packets will be sent home on August 26, 2020.

Remote Learning is an option for families as per Governor Murphy. Information regarding the optional program can be found in the recently updated Reopening Plan on the website. In addition, if you are choosing the remote learning option, you must register your child for the program through the registration link [here](#) by **Friday, August 21**.

Thank you
Dr. Cone

Questions from Califon School parents:

Q: What is the school's plan in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak?

A: If there is a COVID-19 illness, the NJDOH will advise the district on any necessary quarantine of a class(es) and/or closure. Remote instruction will begin in the event of either scenario for a period to be determined for the affected class(es).

Q: I have children with different last names, can they go all together?

A: Yes

Q: With crafty thought- what about teaching outside since NJ is still in phase one of opening?

A: Outside instruction as well as outside lunch will be utilized weather permitting and when appropriate.

Q: Will windows be open as much as possible for air flow?

A: All classrooms have ventilation systems that include air intake and output. Classrooms also have air conditioning. Outdoor instruction and lunch will be utilized weather permitting and when appropriate.

Q: The plan says parents to notify the nurse every day of home screenings. Will this be via email, online, phone call every day, etc?

A: The district will be using an app for reporting daily health information each morning which will go directly to the nurse. Instructions on signing up will be communicated to families and a "practice" will take place once the app is finalized.

Q: Will frequent hand washing for staff and students be mandated as well as having sanitizer around?

A: Yes, both hand washing and hand sanitizer will be available for use. Staff will facilitate hand washing throughout the day for their class.

Q: If my child isn't feeling 100% I will probably keep her at home just to keep everyone safe, will she be able to participate in online learning on those days if she is up to it?

A: If your child is home more than one day, contact his or her teacher for work. Longer absences will be handled on an individual basis considering how the student is feeling and the work they will be missing. Quarantine situations of 10 or more days will utilize remote instruction. In addition, should the school need to close for a period of time, remote instruction will be utilized.

Q: What's the process for submitting temperatures in the mornings?

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A: The district will be using an app for reporting daily health information which will go directly to the nurse. Instructions on signing up will be communicated to families and a “practice” will take place once the app is finalized.

Q: Can we opt for the after school program after September?

A: Yes, the program is offered through Work Family Connection and has a rolling admission. Go to www.workfamily.org to register.

Q: Will there be air purifiers in every classroom? I’m also concerned about the lack of air conditioning in the school regarding the CDC recommendations as well as the heat with masks.

A: There is an air conditioner in each classroom.

Q: What will the desk arrangement be for pre-K students. Will they have their own desks?

A: Pre-K has expanded the classroom to allow students to be spaced further apart. Students use tables, centers, floor areas and an outdoor playground designated for the PreK. Students will be masked and distanced.

Q: How will you prevent sharing of items in the pre-K classroom

A: Personal supply bins and bags will be made for each student. Centers will be assigned for the day and items will be cleaned for the next group on the next day. Students will be instructed on classroom procedures. Sanitizing will be done throughout the day and at the end of the day for PreK as well as other grade levels.

Q: Will teachers wear masks all day in the classroom?

A: Yes, masks are required for staff.

Q: Will playground equipment be cleaned in between each class using it? If multiple classes/grades will be using the same day, cleaning once a day will not be enough to potentially avoid cross contamination if someone from another class is sick with COVID.

A: Playground areas will be designated for specific grade levels to avoid mixing of grade levels and sharing of equipment. At the end of use, the equipment will be cleaned and sanitized. The PreK class has their own playground used by no other students. It will also be sanitized after use.

Q: How will teachers reinforce social distancing while playing on the playground equipment?

A: Teachers and aides will monitor children during recess. Specific grade level play areas will be designated.

Q: Can you consider splitting the Pre-K class into 2 or get an additional teacher as they will need a lot of attention to keep kids apart.

A: The PreK classroom space has been expanded to allow for greater distance between students and will be monitored by the teacher and the instructional aide who are experienced with younger children and their various needs.

Q: Will desks have any sort of physical barrier?

A: Desktop barriers have been purchased for use by all students.

Q: How will bathroom occupancy work?

A: Class bathroom breaks will be scheduled to monitor the number of students in the bathroom. Any student needing to use the restroom during the day will be allowed, of course.

Q: Will students be washing hands before meals or only applying hand sanitizer?

A: Students will be washing hands before and after eating as well as throughout the day.

Q: Are you bringing other students in from outside districts

A: The tuition program is considering students within the local school communities in limited numbers.

Q: What are the requirements for students to wear masks? Is it only when they can not be 6 feet apart?

A: See above for details on the new requirements stating students are required to wear masks.

Q: Why are we advertising to allow students out of district to come to our district when our numbers are great for social distancing? Getting money for tuition should not be more important than our children's safety.

A: The tuition program is considering students within the local school communities in limited numbers. All students will be screened daily.

Q: I am not so concerned with the smaller classes but rather the larger pre-K classes and how they will make sure to handle 15 small Kids all together with different needs. I'd love to talk with the teachers specifically on this.

A: The PreK classroom space has been expanded to allow for greater distance between students and will be monitored by the teacher and the instructional aide who are experienced with younger children and their various needs. Your child's teacher will provide information about the classroom environment and practices.

Q: And regarding children with siblings in other schools and grades, how this will affect the chain of contact if someone is affected by covid.

A: CDC guidelines on contact tracing: "**Contact tracing** will be conducted for close **contacts** (any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) of laboratory-confirmed or probable **COVID-19** patients."

Q: Governor Murphy recently announced that "Face coverings will be required for all students at all times while inside a school building." This sounds much more restrictive than the plan discussed at the last BOE meeting. Please advise how this ordinance will change previously presented plan (i.e when will preschoolers or other students will be required to wear masks vs not).

A: The reopening plan has been revised to include the updated mandates by the NJDOE to include the requirement of masks for students. Mask breaks will take place throughout the day following NJDOE, NJDOH and CDC guidance.

Q: If a teacher or student tests positive for COVID and the class has to quarantine, what will happen with instruction during those 2 weeks and what will be the requirements before teachers/students can return to in person instruction (e.g. will they have to show proof of a negative test before they can return?) Will a sub teacher be appointed?

A: A staff member with a positive case will result in the quarantine of the class. The DOH will advise the district. Instruction for quarantine will be remote at that time.

Q: There has been a shortage of cleaning supplies which I assume could be compounded with all schools nationwide needing to order at the same time, so how will we ensure Califon school can secure the necessary cleaning/disinfecting supplies? If there is a shortage will in person instruction be suspended?

A: Califon School has the required supplies.

Q: If a child opts out of in person instruction for September might there be an option later in the year (let's say early 2021) to join the pre-K class?

A: The Reopening plan has been updated to include further details regarding the option of remote learning. The BOE will be approving policy related to this option which includes details for the transition back to in person instruction.