Ventnor Educational Community Complex Dr. Carmela Somershoe, *Superintendent*, *Elementary Principal*

2020-21 Reopening Plan FAQs

Can you please explain why students cannot attend 5 days a week?

While we have the space, we do not have the staff to be able to accommodate the number of groups that would need to happen to maintain social distancing.

Can the date to decide on the full-time remote learning option be extended past 8/13/20? We are asking parents to complete the form NO LATER than 8/13/20 so that we can complete teacher and student scheduling.

Is the start date for remote learning the same as the hybrid schedule, 9/8/20? Yes.

If remote learning is chosen, will it be the same school hours and schedule?

This information will be available shortly. Some learning will be live and some will be recorded so it can be viewed any time.

Will remote learning be at a specific time? For example, will the kids have to be in teams at specific times in order to be present for the day or will they have the day to complete their work?

There will be recorded and live lessons. The recorded lessons will provide flexibility for viewing. Students will need to complete assignments to be present for the day.

If you choose full time remote learning how long will that last? Is it for a few months, by marking period or for the whole school year?

By marking period. The first marking period ends November 9th. You would need to notify the school 20 days prior to start of the new marking period of your intent to return to in person.

When does the first marking period end?

November 9, 2020.

If hybrid option is chosen and parents see that precautions are not in place or not working, can be a student be switched to full time remote learning according to the plan and how quickly will it be done once notice is given?

Parent(s) may notify school principal of choice to change to a remote learning plan. A change may be made within 7 days of notification.

What exactly do you mean by 'cohort'?

A cohort is a group. The grade level will be divided into two groups. Families will be part of the same cohort.

Will siblings be on the same cohort schedule?

Yes.

When will parents/students be notified which hybrid days the kids will attend?

As soon as scheduling is complete.

Will the remote students be a cohort when the numbers are figured out? Will it be by level? The answer to this is pending until the total number of remote students is confirmed.

What is the class size with the hybrid model?

As an example: a class that may have 20 students, then 10 would be in class at a time.

For the hybrid students, will there by live teaching on the remote days?

In the hybrid model there will synchronous and asynchronous learning situations w/additional assignment completion to be determined by the teacher.

Will students on hybrid schedule have a different teacher in school vs online?

The answer to this is pending until the total number of remote students is confirmed.

If a family chooses the remote learning model, who will lead the synchronous and asynchronous modules?

The teacher assigned.

Will the students participating in remote learning have the same teachers/ work as peers?

The answer to this is pending until the total number of remote students is confirmed. Curriculum is designated by grade level.

What will a school day look like for my child and other children who will be utilizing remote learning as their primary form of education?

The remote learning school day will look similar to last year's remote learning day with modifications based on the information that we gathered from the experience. These plans may include a dedicated remote learning teacher (if the numbers constitute a class) and / or scheduled class times to address remote learning students.

In regards to remote learning, what supplies will be needed/will there be a supply list? Will we need to pick up books/band instrument/etc. and if so, when? Yes, this will be forthcoming.

During the 2019-20 remote learning some students had to borrow school computers, if they are doing the hybrid schedule would they bring the computer assigned from school back and forth daily?

Yes.

Can the school go to a 5-day schedule after you know who's remote and who isn't? The plan that has been approved is the hybrid schedule

If my student is on a "remote" day how can he/she reach out to a teacher for any help?

There will be some recorded and some live lessons, so there will be time for questions. Friday will have some teacher office hours so that students can ask questions and get help. Virtual academic afterschool will be offered for extra help as well.

Will there be after school academic help for middle school?

Academic afterschool will be available virtually.

If a student has IEP, how does the school intend to follow those plans via remote learning?

Teachers will follow all IEP's. Your student's case manager is the first contact in making sure the IEP is being followed. You may reach out to his/her case manager if you have concerns.

What if someone in a class tests positive? Would the whole class quarantine or the entire school?

Either is a possibility, that decision will be made in consultation with the Department of Health.

Have there been any positive cases among students and teachers reported to the district? Not at this time.

Will student's temperature be taken when they enter?

Random temperature checks may occur. Parents are expected to check for symptoms prior to sending children to school.

Why is the school is not doing daily temperature checks?

Random temperature checks may be conducted. Temperature checks are not required in the NJDOE guidance.

- 1. Many people with Covid-19 infections do not have a fever. Or they have a fever for one day or less, then it's gone, even while they remain actively infectious.
- 2. Many people who have been exposed to Covid-19 have not yet developed symptoms, which may not show up for up to 14 days after exposure. They can still spread the virus. These are the contagious "pre-symptomatic."
- 3. Many people with Covid-19 can have a very mild fever (under 100 degrees), which will pass muster and get them through the school door.
- 4. Many people are completely asymptomatic, showing zero symptoms, including fever, but can be spreading Covid-19. These are the contagious "asymptomatic."
- 5. Few (hopefully very few) people may have surreptitiously taken fever reducers, masking a fever when they're screened.
- 6. Other illnesses may present with fevers, sounding unnecessary alarms for active Covid-19 exposure.

Source (https://www.forbes.com/sites/ninashapiro/2020/07/12/will-daily-covid-19-temperature-checks-help-get-kids-back-to-school/#249d3ff44e3f)

Parents will be screening their child each day. What does this entail?

Parents will be asked to submit an online questionnaire daily that the student does not have any symptoms.

When a positive case is known, why is the threshold for exposure to others 15 min.?

The threshold for exposure is based on the CDC guidance.

<u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html</u>. Any actions with regard to exposure and contact tracing will be made through the Department of Health.

Are face shields acceptable instead of a mask? Will the school monitor what type of face masks are used?

Face shields are not recommended by the CDC. Masks are required upon entry to the school.

Can students use their own mask?

Yes.

How will the situation be handled if someone refuses to wear a mask or purposefully coughs on others or fails to maintain physical distancing?

Students will be taught the expectations. The Code of Conduct will be enforced.

How will mandated lock down and fire drills be conducted with respect to physical distancing?

The state has provided alternatives to these drills that will be put into place until conditions change.

Will (or have) teachers received any training on how to teach remotely?

Teachers have received training on Microsoft Teams. Summer training opportunities have been provided. The first three days that teachers return will include professional development as well.

Will you offer "teacher" training for parents?

We plan to try to have a session for parents. JFS is offering the following: <u>Parenting in a</u> <u>Pandemic</u>

Will parent/teacher conferences be virtual?

Yes.

Will remote students have an opportunity to have meet and greet with any new teachers, to put a name/face together?

We are trying to organize this during the first few days of school, if remote via online class meetings.

Will there be any learning opportunities outdoors as opposed to in the classroom?

Yes, the teacher may choose to provide learning opportunities outdoors weather permitting.

Does the School District have tents to encourage outdoor learning?

We do not have tents, but the canopies provide cover. Any outdoor learning opportunities would be weather permitting.

How will it be possible to social distance very young children, especially children with special needs who sometimes require physical interaction with their teachers and instructional aides?

Class sizes will be small and teachers will be teaching students about social distancing.

Will the kids still have specials-example art class, music, etc.?

Yes.

Is P.E. and Band taught remotely or at the school?

PE will be in person and remote. Band will be remote.

Will remote kids be able to participate in band/choir?

Yes.

Will the kids be allowed to play on playground equipment?

Yes, but use may be limited.

How many students will be allowed on the bus and will there be extra buses? Buses will be at less than 50% capacity.

Since there are no lockers will students be carrying all of their things with them, back and forth from home as well?

Since classrooms will have significantly less students, approximately 10-12 students/classroom. There will be room for student's materials. Teachers will be moving rather than students during the school day. Teachers will be asked to limit the amount of items that need to go to and from home. More work will be done online.

If the students are using backpacks all day, where will they keep their backpacks and coats? And do they have to bring lunch from home if not eligible for school lunches? Coats and backpacks will be kept near the student desk. Class sizes will be small so there will be room. School lunch will be available for purchase.

What are the rules regarding bathroom breaks, water fountains, etc.?

Bathrooms will be at reduced capacity. Water fountains closed except for bottle fillers, students will be asked to bring their own water bottles.

Since there is a lower number of students on a day to day basis, could the aftercare program be opened up to Pre-K students?

Aftercare begins at Kindergarten.

With sick days'/doctor appointments, do we just call the school as usual? Yes

Do we have enough substitute teachers available to work/teach in case teachers are out sick?

We do have a list of substitutes and are always looking for more. Contact the Lisa Wilson, 609-487-7900 x 5100, in the superintendent's office if you are interested in becoming a substitute.

Was August BOE meeting was recorded and if yes, will it be posted on the website? We are working on accessing the recording. The PowerPoint is posted on the website.

Do you know if any high schools are allowing/offering tours of their schools?

High schools will release that information and it will be communicated with you through middle school.

The NJDOE released an additional FAQ regarding reopening that can be accessed at this link

NJ Department of Education Reopening FAQ