

**Greenwich Public Schools  
Questions & Answers  
COMMUNITY Town Hall Submissions  
July 30, 2020**

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## Ad Hoc/Miscellaneous Questions

**If a parent hasn't received the Remote Learning Form from Dr. Jones, and has checked SPAM folders/filters, what is the procedure or who do they contact to receive the form ASAP?**

Families should reach out to [portal\\_support@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:portal_support@greenwich.k12.ct.us) with your name, email, your child's name and your child's school. A reminder that this online form will close at the end of the day on Friday, August 7th.

**Has there been progress in finding a new principal for Glenville?**

The new Glenville School Principal, Ms. Klara Monaco, was named this week. In addition to contacting Principal Monaco, you may contact the Assistant Principal, Barbara Oxer or Dr. Carabillo with any concerns.

**Could you please explain how the 874K grant that Greenwich will receive under the CARES ACT is distributed among schools?**

GPS will not receive the full amount, as some funds must go to private schools. However, the amount is equally distributed across the District; the funds are significantly short in covering costs associated with the reopening opening, as materials such as face shields, masks, gloves, clear dividers, and more are needed for every school site.

**Has there been any surveys to the students about how their comfort level is going back to school?**

At this current time, there has not yet been a survey of students. The District has surveyed parents and staff.

**Why aren't snow days remote learning days for everyone?**

Currently, the Connecticut State Department of Education requires schools to make up any snow days missed during the school year; and currently, the State requires a waiver to institute any remote learning.

**Are you coordinating with other Superintendents to have similar plans?**

Dr. Jones meets with other Fairfield County Superintendents, usually weekly, to share plans, concerns, questions and more. Each district is unique and it is likely that what works for one community will not work for another. The CSDE did not mandate one approach.

## ALP

**For students who are in ALP, what would class sizes be? How will cohorting be enforced?**

Advanced classes, at all Middle Schools, are part of the regular schedule and will follow the approach of an estimated 18-20 students in a classroom.

**Can you please clarify the instruction for the ALP students that will be placed in a cohort? If they are not in ALP in all areas will they be instructed in those areas by the ALP teacher or their homeroom teacher? If by the ALP teacher will they be instructed using the ALP curriculum for all areas? What will they do with their home room and is it possible to stay only with ALP to keep that cohort smaller?**

In order to provide students with ALP instruction, it does require them to leave the grade level cohort to travel to a secondary ALP cohort. All safety protocols will remain in place, regardless of setting, so students will still wear masks, be seated a safe distance from one another and be required to wash/disinfect their hands with frequency. Materials will not be shared and a larger setting such as the media center may be used for instruction to provide additional spacing for students and instructors. This planning follows the guidance provided by the CSDE. Additionally, ALP students will stay with their homeroom teacher for all other instruction.

**What is the status of the ALP Program for elementary school as testing was not completed in the Spring? Will ALP testing be available for remote learning?**

All students in grades three through five who have been placed in ALP Reading, Math and/or Science will be in the ALP cohort for all Humanities, Math and Science instruction. They will still be assigned a homeroom teacher for ancillary activities. We are currently looking at how/when the testing will be completed given the constraints of large group gatherings. More information is forthcoming.

**Is the ALP program structure the same for those doing remote learning as it is for students doing in-person education? Will the remote learning ALP students be in all ALP classes as well? Or, will they only be in the remote learning ALP class they tested in for?**

For a remote class, the student would only be in ALP for those areas where they qualified because the cohorting and social distancing are not an issue with remote. Additionally, ALP classes, whether in-person or remote, will follow the same curriculum.

**If ALP students are moving between cohorts, doesn't that make it harder to trace virus exposure?**

All safety protocols will remain in place regardless of setting so students will still wear masks, be seated a safe distance from one another and be required to wash/disinfect their hands with frequency. Materials will not be shared and a larger setting such as the media center will be used for instruction to provide additional spacing for students and instructors.

**How many children are in the ALP cohort?**

The District is looking to keep the number of students in front of any one teacher as low, if not lower, than that of a general education classroom.

**If my child starts the year with remote learning and then transitions to in person learning, is there a guarantee that there will be capacity available in the ALP class?**

*Document shared: August 7, 2020*

Yes, your child will be guaranteed their spot in their ALP class.

**If ALP students in grade 3-5 are in a common cohort, are they mixed within individual classes (e.g. math) or are classes broken out by grade level within the cohort? Can you walk through how the ALP block of time will work?**

Students will stay with their grade level cohort for the most part. There was additional information on ALP scheduling shared during the Return to School Planning Meeting, including a sample schedule, should you be interested in learning more.

**For ALP remote learners, do they join a new ALP teacher virtually or call in to their old ALP group who are meeting in person?**

The goal is to pair remote students with a remote teacher.

**What grades are eligible for ALP this year?**

Nothing has changed in terms of grade eligibility.

**Is ALP still available to the middle school students doing remote learning? Who will be teaching middle school remote learning classes? Are they district teachers or additional resources hired from outside? What classes will be available for streaming for middle school?**

The middle schools have scheduled the ALP Seminar to be included in the student's ELA block.

## Cohorts

**How will twins in the same grade be placed in groups? Under normal circumstances, they would be in separate teams and classes. Will this change this year?**

Earlier in the summer, parents were asked if they wanted to have their twins in the same homeroom. If you were not contacted by your child(ren)'s principal/assistant principal, please email them at this time.

**Will neighbors/regular cohorts be placed in the same classrooms to limit the exposure children have with others, as it's most likely they are social distancing anyways?**

Unfortunately, the District is unable to design cohorts to fulfill this request as this would make balancing all other factors used in developing class lists too challenging.

**If a student has been close with a small group of family friends, can we request they be placed in the same cohort?**

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate requests for specific cohorts.

**What is the maximum number of students allowed in the school at any one time. Also what is the maximum number in a classroom?**

The K-1 guidelines for class numbers are 16-21 students, for Grades 2-3 it is up to 24 students and for Grades 4-5 it is up to 26 students. The District is trying to keep homerooms below 20 students.

*Document shared: August 7, 2020*

**What will the class size/cohort sizes be in elementary school? Am I correct to understand that different cohorts will not interact with each other inside or outside of the building? What does the “50 in a cohort” number mean when our classes in elementary school have 24 and under?**

Cohort sizing for elementary is up to 50, and for middle school it is up to 100. In elementary, this means in a grade level that has four sections; two homerooms could be considered one cohort.

**How are you defining “Cohort” as its usual meaning is group?**

A group is correct. The same group of students stay together throughout the day. In elementary, the cohorts are approximately 50 students. In middle school, the cohorts are approximately 100 students. In High School, we will rely on social distancing and a hybrid model with fewer students onsite given that the cohort model does not allow for the robust schedules found at the high school level.

**Is there concern about how the cohorts are going to be affected if sports and other after school activities are approved?**

There are many cohorts which extend beyond the school day, from religious school and programs, outside clubs and activities, music lessons, and more. The school approach is to mitigate as much as possible during the hours students are at school.

**Since you can't clean during the day, why not consider letting middle school cohorts or groups stay put and having the teachers move classes?**

Students, especially young adolescents, need movement and an opportunity to mix with a variety of students in a safe manner. Middle schools do not look like elementary schools because schools are designed for a developmentally appropriate approach which supports social and emotional learning as well as academic need.

## Curriculum and Learning

**Is there a good way to measure learning outcomes in a fairly proximal way (i.e. not state-level measures) in the nearer term?**

Teachers will use curricular assessments as a “formative” tool, meaning it will be used as a way to gauge future instructional decisions. These tools are not what you think of when you think of a “test” at the end of a set period of learning but rather small, brief opportunities to assess student progress.

**How would grading look in the coming school year?**

Grading will be the same as our current grading policy outlined by the Board of Education. If there are to be changes to the grading policy for the 2020-2021 school year, this decision will be proposed by the District administration and sent for approval to the Board of Education.

**How would standardized testing be handled for remote students at elementary?**

We will have to wait to see what guidance and requirements are placed on us as a District from the State. There are no decisions about state testing for 2020-2021 school year as of today.

**Will there be something done this Fall for the 6th and 9th graders who missed their big health talks in the 5th and 8th grades?**

The plan is for 6th graders to receive the 5th grade health lessons that were missed, and this will likely be the same scenario for 9th graders.

**Will there be curriculum enrichment in school or will schools offer curriculum enrichment and field trips virtually?**

No visitors will be allowed in the building for the foreseeable future so any field trips or enrichment activities will be virtual, if possible, to maintain the highest level of safety for the students and staff.

**Will tests for students who are currently working on moving up a level (and need to take a test to see if they 'make it'), now be done remotely?**

Students may take the next level course with parent approval. The assessments can be offered to help guide the decision, but they are not assessments to keep a student from accelerating. For Greenwich High School students who have been doing summer work to prepare for placement tests, these will be administered before school begins to determine if students are able to advance to another level of the class, these movements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Will remote students take PSATs? How will they do that at GHS?**

Yes, PSATs will be offered to remote students, however they will need to come onsite if they are going to take the assessment.

**How will tests be administered?**

We will wait for direction from the State and the College Board as we move forward into September and October.

## Facilities

**Who will be doing the cleaning in the resource and therapy rooms between students?**

We are working on a protocol. During summer school, the related services provider cleaned their space between students.

**Where is the information on electrostatic cleaning on the GPS website?**

Detailed information about our cleaning products are available on our [Return to School Planning website](#) in the "Resources" section, within the Facilities and Cleaning section.

**From the Q&A document online, I understand that UV lights will not be in place. Are they being considered for possible future use?**

Buildings will be disinfected each evening, and cleaning will occur throughout the day. UV light sanitation will not be in place given the high volume of square footage and inability to install adequate systems across PK-12+.

**How will the newly hired 13 custodial staff be allocated over the schools?**

The additional help will be allocated as needed for our buildings. We will be constantly assessing our needs and will make adjustments as needed.

**With multiple entrances and exits, how will you address security concerns, especially at GHS?**

All entry and exit points will need to be monitored by adults in the buildings. Doors will be promptly secured once the entry and/or exit procedure concludes. Staff will assist in checking doors and making sure that all exits are secured.

**Has there been any update to security practices? Since we may need open windows and doors or more outside time would the Greenwich PD be willing to circulate officers through nearby schools to help keep everyone safe?**

We are posting school staff at open doors in the morning and afternoon to control entry. The doors will be secured after entry. Currently, Greenwich Police Department Officers have access to all GPS buildings 24/7.

**Given the \$3M budget cut, will GPS have enough resources to provide all the PPE, plexiglass, sanitization products, etc. for the entire year?**

The District's Finance Office has been working with administration and vendors to determine pricing and purchasing for COVID-related expenditures. These expenses will be brought to the Town's Board of Estimate and Taxation for interim appropriations per their request of Town agencies; in addition, the District will have some COVID-related funding under the CARES Act.

**Is GPS considering having classes outdoors? Are there talks about having tents set up for the fall to have classroom learning outside?**

Principals will encourage outdoor activities and learning when possible. Consideration must be given to heat alerts, stormy weather, availability for the full school to have equal access to outside learning, recess schedules and masks breaks. In a district the size of GPS, it is not a strategy to count on for daily use for all students, but it will be a strategy utilized to help principals provide scheduled and increased time for outdoor activities.

**Will the teachers still be using their lounges or other common areas?**

They have been advised to keep social distancing and not to congregate in groups.

**What is the thinking behind 3-6ft distancing (not 6ft)? Will there be plexi shields for student desks?**

This information is from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) guidance which references that less than 6 feet apart individuals should wear a mask, which is why the CSDE and Governor have required masks within schools. The Department of Health defined the safe

zone with a mask as 3-6 feet apart. Here is a helpful link discussing the [CDC Guidance for Less than 6 Feet](#).

**Are there buildings within the district where the hallways are too narrow to support social distance policies, and if so, how will the issue be dealt with?**

We believe our hallways can accommodate social distance policies and we have students moving at various times in one direction.

**Will students be able to use the playground equipment during recess?**

The playground playscapes/equipment will not be open. The teachers are working on recess games that allow for appropriate social distancing.

## Greenwich High School

**Will there be less students in classes at the high school?**

Currently, GHS is pursuing a hybrid model for instruction, which would have roughly 50% of students on the campus at any one time, creating less students onsite and smaller classes.

**How will a high school teacher teach in person and livestream at the same time to a remote learner? Are there cameras, WiFi and microphones so students at home can access instruction?**

There will be additional classroom management involved, however most teachers should be able to adapt within a reasonable amount of time. In addition, documentation and technical support will be provided for those that have questions or need assistance with the new technology.

GPS understands that the teacher can't be watching a screen, teaching, and engaging with a live classroom at the same time. The students at home are watching the lesson, taking notes, and will ask questions through the chat function or during the last 10-15 minutes of the independent time during class.

**Was a schedule of one week on and one week off considered for GHS?**

We chose to pursue a model for the high school that would allow for one full day of deep cleaning between student groupings, as nightly deep cleanings every evening would be difficult to maintain given the size of the building. Additionally, student groupings would be out of the school for five full days, which is the average amount of time for symptoms to present themselves.

**Will the high school be separated by grade? Will the senior class all be together?**

Currently, the plan is to separate students by alphabet to ensure siblings can attend in-person school on the same day for added convenience for our families. GHS is working on virtual activities which will help connect the senior class as much as possible during this challenging time.



**If a GHS student is full remote can they still play a sport? How will students get to school for sports practice if they were not in school that day if parents work?**

Remote students and/or hybrid students who are remote learning for that day would have to make arrangements to get to practice on the days that they are not scheduled to be here. If the high school has to go to full-remote learning then CIAC would most likely be canceling the fall sports season.

**Is the curriculum the same for high school AP and Honor classes? Is there a disadvantage to going remote for such specialized courses?**

The curriculum for all of our courses will be the same as we move into our hybrid schedule. We feel that our teachers will be able to deliver the curriculum in a highly professional manner with tools in place that we did not have last spring.

**How will cohort groups be determined? Will siblings at GHS be on the same team? Can the freshman and sophomores be the white group and juniors and seniors the red group?**

The breakdown into groups will be done alphabetically so siblings may be on the same teams. Breaking the school up between upper and lower classes will not create the balance that we are looking for as students from all grades take classes together. Additionally, the cohorts have been renamed GREENWICH and CARDINALS.

**Can the GHS cohorts flip halfway through the year so that the one team isn't Monday and Tuesday all year and vice-versa?**

We are hoping that it won't be necessary to do so by the end of the semester, but that is something we could consider.

**Will in-person after-school club meetings be allowed at GHS? What about after-school activities at GHS, such as theater?**

GHS is exploring options to offer our co-curricular activities virtually to ensure we have time to thoroughly clean the buildings after school each day and to ensure we include students who are scheduled to be in remote learning on the day their particular club or activity is due to meet.

**Do you have a sense today for how many GHS students have signed up for Remote Learning? What majority of the high school students are considering remote learning?**

The online form to opt into remote learning closes on August 7, 2020. Once those results are analyzed, the District will have a better understanding of how many students have signed up for that option as we continue planning.

**If an incoming Freshman opts for Remote Learning, will he or she spend any time in person at GHS (orientation, etc.)?**

If a student chooses full-remote learning, they will not be spending any time in the building.

**For GHS students, is it possible that a student might have to study a subject partly with a virtual only teacher and partly with a face-to-face teacher?**

The most likely scenario would be that the student would go online and follow their GHS schedule, especially for sections of advanced courses.

**If we opt for remote learning at the middle or high school level but later choose to transition to face-to-face, will students' schedules and core-curriculum teachers remain the same? Are remote students placed on the class roster of an in-person teacher and participating via livestream, or are they held completely separate in a remote "classroom" and shuffled into face-to-face classrooms as possible?**

Elementary and middle school students who choose to begin school or transfer into a remote-learning only option will be part of a remote learning school community, and will no longer be in their current school class roster. Greenwich High School students who choose remote learning only may be enrolled in both live streamed courses and the remote learning classes, where relevant (for example: specialty subjects may be available via livestream only).

**Do all GHS students need to return for the first week of school (in person and/or remote) orientation?**

A schedule will be coming out soon for the first four days of school that will require all students who have chosen to return to be at GHS for part of the day. Students who have chosen remote learning will not be required to enter the building.

**Will the SATs still be held at GHS in September? Would students doing remote learning be able to sit for the exam in school?**

As of today, we are planning to hold the SATs in September.

**Why can't you do the cleaning everyday after school?**

There will be the usual cleaning after school; however deep cleaning between the groupings of students will occur on Wednesday. A thorough, deep cleaning of the building is not feasible each evening given the size of the building.

**Do you expect that many/any classes at GHS will be cancelled entirely due to the staffing concerns? (Wondering about impact on upperclassmen's schedules in particular.)**

As of today we do not have the data to answer this question. In the next few weeks we will know who will be returning and who will not. These staff members will still be able to teach from home.

**For classes that have lab components, ie Biology, how would that be addressed?**

Labs will still take place but in a different manner. They can be done electronically or in the classroom as long as all safety measures are followed for COVID-19.

**Is there a place for students to go to if they arrive early where they can maintain social distancing and wear masks, etc.?**

The building will be open to students starting at 7:45am. The Student Center will be closed in the mornings and students will need to go directly to their first class where they can wait until the school day begins. This will ensure that large gatherings of students are not in the Student Center at one time. If needed, we will have students social distance in the Media Center. A grab and go breakfast will be available for all students. Designated eating areas will be determined.

**Will grades from 9th grade count towards their GPA or will it be pass/fail?**

All grades will count towards a student's GPA with the exception of PE/Health & Safety or Wellness. Pass/Fail was a Board Policy for the fourth quarter of the 19-20 school year.

**Will the high school still have a rotating block schedule?**

Yes, currently the high school is preparing a rotating block schedule for students.

**Will there be an additional GHS swimming qualification for 9th graders last year that were unable to complete the course on campus in the pool?**

That decision has yet to be made, we plan to offer swimming classes in the second and fourth marking periods.

**How would lunch at GHS work? Can students leave campus?**

There will be four lunches with approximately 350 students per lunch, and we can use the Student Center to maintain the appropriate spacing between students. We are working with the custodial staff so that we can clean tables and desks prior to the next wave. The offerings for lunch will be limited and we will be discouraging students from leaving campus at any time, as well as asking that food deliveries for students and staff be eliminated.

**How will the girls swim teams work at GHS in the fall?**

CIAC [just released guidance on Fall sports](#); they include details about each sport.

**How would InLab work as it requires a lot of interaction due to projects?**

The In-Lab Staff will make adjustments so the model they have created may still be implemented.

**Approximately how many students will be in GHS classes?**

It is difficult to determine how many students will be in individual classes. There will only be approximately 1,400 students in the building at one time, so we are now looking at how that impacts class size.

**If 50% of GHS opts for remote learning, will the other 50% be able to attend full time?**

Based on the results of the surveys, we don't believe that this is a possibility at this time. However GHS is ready to make adjustments based on the changing conditions and mandates from the Commissioner of Education.

**How will social distancing be maintained at passing time at GHS?**

The high school administration along with the Director of Safety and Security are working on multiple routes to enter and exit classrooms. These routes will be marked so students and staff will be able to follow them and maintain social distancing.

**At what point would you switch to total remote learning at GHS?**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Department of Education have developed key metrics and other considerations which have been outlined in the CT Governor's reopening document. These metrics will be used to determine what "Phase" we are in and how that correlates to full in-school learning, a hybrid approach for the entire District or full remote learning for all students.

**For new students in the district who select remote learning will you have some type of social integration with their allocated grade/class?**

The high school will be running an orientation for students new to GHS on September 8th at which time they will receive a mentor. The GHS PTA is also working with new parents to orient them to the district and partner them with families so that they will have additional resources to call when they have questions.

**In terms of workload for high school students, should students expect a similar level of work that they had during COVID, or will the student's workload be more commensurate with what it was like pre-COVID? Should students expect homework after school and will there be flex days?**

The workload should be more commensurate with previous school years as all of our students will receive direct instruction either in person or online. Students should expect to receive homework on a daily basis. We are not planning on having any flex days for the current school year.

**For the days at the high school in which you should be attending live, can you also attend remotely (if/when needed)?**

If a student needs to stay home for any reason theoretically they should be able to remotely attend their classes. Students would need permission from their House Administrator to do so if they were out for more than three to five days.

**There are traffic issues at drop off for High School at normal times, how will this work in September when more parents will be dropping their students off in their family cars?**

The high school will be on a hybrid schedule, so only 50% of students will be on campus at any one time. We are also working with the Greenwich Police Department to ensure we enforce safe traffic protocols.

**How will cohorting work if students are mixing at school sports?**

The high school will be taking a hybrid approach to school, instead of a cohort approach, given the complexity of the high school schedules. Students will social distance and wear masks, in addition to other health and safety protocols, to minimize exposure.

# Health Considerations

## **What if a teacher is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

A positive test would require a 14 day quarantine, for anyone exposed. The local health department, the nursing supervisor and the medical advisor will determine the extent of exposure and initiate the contact tracing.

## **Will everyone have their temperature checked every time they enter the building?**

Families will be asked to perform the COVID-19 Symptom Self Checklist with their students each morning before school. This symptom checklist includes a temperature check at home.

## **How is school any different from Greenwich Summer Camps that cleaned vigorously and adhered to all COVID requirements but were at the mercy of teens who came to work after knowing they had been exposed and later tested positive/got sick? Schools will be in the same position as these camps.**

We will use multiple strategies to mitigate the spread using all the tools available to us: masks, symptom surveys, social distancing, hand hygiene, and contact tracing. We will have to work together as a community to make the whole process effective.

## **If a student has a runny nose or cough because of allergies or just a cold, how should parents handle that?**

The CDC and Harvard School of Public Health recommend a conservative approach, because symptoms can easily be an expression of COVID; students will be asked to stay home until their symptoms resolve.

## **Are teachers/staff being tested and if so, with what frequency?**

GPS does not administer testing nor can it force families, students or staff to be tested. Testing should be ordered through personal physicians.

## **If I have a child who has allergies and/or asthma, will this be considered when reviewing COVID symptom checklist?**

The parent knows their child's allergies and asthma challenges and will be responsible for checking them each morning against the COVID-19 Symptom Self-Checklist.

## **For students or staff that test positive for COVID-19, why will they not be required to show a negative follow up test before returning to school?**

Testing is one strategy used for return to school, symptom strategy is another, the family's health care provider will determine the strategy used and document when that child may return to school.

## **When will families be notified of positive cases in the District given that results must first go to the State, then to the local Health Departments; isn't too much time going to lapse?**

Families will be notified when there is confirmation of a positive case. We make those notifications as quickly as possible.

**What happens when flu season arrives and COVID-like symptoms are going to be more prevalent? Will the same testing and quarantine guidelines be required?**

We anticipate that based on the symptom survey families are completing every morning, they will not be sending students with COVID-like symptoms to school, should a student develop those symptoms during the day we would send them for evaluation by their health care provider.

**If a child develops symptoms, is tested for COVID-19 but results can take up to one week, this would result in three-weeks minimum out of school. Will remote learning then be automatically introduced, or will the student need to wait to return in person?**

A child with symptoms that tests positive may return to school after 10 days from the onset of symptoms and 24 hours fever free.

**Is there a threshold number of cases occurring in the elementary schools where you would consider closing down the school?**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Department of Education have developed key metrics and other considerations which have been outlined in the CT Governor's reopening document. These metrics will be used to determine what "Phase" we are in and how that correlates to full in-school learning, a hybrid approach for the entire District or full remote learning for all students. For school-specific closings, this would be determined by the level of exposure and positive cases within the building.

**Many of the private preschools in town are using a mobile application for parents to report a student's health status each morning. Has GPS considered this to make families more accountable?**

A symptom survey, whether sent in electronically or by parent report has not been mandated by the Centers for Disease Control; this self-checklist symptom survey is another tool in our strategy of prevention.

**Why are we opening now when a vaccine is hopefully four months away?**

The Governor and Commissioner of Education have directed all public school systems to design three different scenarios; everyone physically in school, a hybrid model and a remote model.

**Are there going to be any travel restrictions within the Tri-State Area?**

Currently, the State of Connecticut has mandated quarantine rules for residents who travel from certain areas. The School District will remain in compliance with what the State of CT mandates.

**Were the guidelines presented by the state implemented during the summer programs? Were there summer programs available for all levels?**

Yes, the students who attended Extended School Year in-person followed the guidelines and health and safety procedures that we are working to implement for our school reopenings. The option for the in-school summer program was available for students eligible for certain Special Education services; traditional Summer School was done via remote learning.

**We are hearing that many pediatricians are not doing COVID testing. Will you accept a letter from a testing facility? Would this cause any issues for returning to school?**

Testing is but one strategy in a return to school plan. We would accept a symptom strategy consistent with guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control from their health care provider.

**Can a student still get school work if they have a cough or answer 'yes' to any of the Self Checklist and has to stay home? How many times can you do this and be out?**

A student with symptoms would be instructed to contact his or her teacher for work as on any sick day.

**Could you describe the tracking system the school will use should there be a positive test of a school participant?**

The local health department is notified of every positive test in the community. We have also asked parents to notify us and we will work with the Department of Health to do the contact tracing. Health alerts of exposure will be sent when necessary using information supplied by these agencies, and will be shared in a timely and effective manner with our community to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff.

**What qualifies as moderate transmission versus low transmission?**

Low, moderate and high transmission statuses are determined by the State with input from the Department of Health. These statuses are in relation to the number of positive cases in communities (please see the chart below for more details). Any change in status will be shared directly with the community and adjustments to procedures will be made accordingly.

Leading Indicator	LOW Favors more In-Person Learning	MODERATE Favors moving to Hybrid Learning	HIGH Favors moving to Remote Learning
<b>Number of new cases of COVID-19</b> (7 day rolling average of new cases per 100,000 population per day)	< 10 new cases per 100,000 population	10 to < 25 new cases per 100,000 population	25+ new cases per 100,000 population

Secondary Indicators	LOW Favors more In-Person Learning	MODERATE Favors moving to Hybrid Learning	HIGH Favors moving to Remote Learning
<b>Percent positivity rate</b> (# of positive tests/ # of total tests, 7-day rolling avg.)	<b>Direction of Change:</b> Secondary Indicators trending down to flat	<b>Direction of Change:</b> Secondary Indicators trending flat to upward	<b>Direction of Change:</b> Secondary Indicators trending upward
<b>Number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations per 100,000 population</b> (7-day rolling avg.)	<b>Speed of Change:</b> No statistically significant changes to Secondary Indicators	<b>Speed of Change:</b> Any statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators	<b>Speed of Change:</b> Consistent, statistically significant changes upward to Secondary Indicators
<b>COVID-like and Influenza-like Illness (CLI and ILI) Syndromic Surveillance</b>			

\* Adapted from: the Harvard Global Health Institute's publication *The Path to Zero and Schools: Achieving Pandemic Resilient Teaching and Learning Spaces*. July 2020.

### How will families without health insurance test for COVID and get treated?

We would advise these families to reach out to the Town of Greenwich Health Department for help and information. There are also several Greenwich non-profit agencies which work with our families on such matters.

## Breakfast & Lunch

### Will the school continue to provide lunch or do parents need to send their students in with lunch?

We will continue to offer grab and go lunches for students. If parents send lunch, they must be in paper bags, everything must be able to be thrown away in the bag brought to school and if there is any peanut material in the bag, it must be written on the outside of the bag.

*Document shared: August 7, 2020*



**How will students get lunch if they didn't bring their own?**

There will be a grab and go option for lunch for students.

**Do you foresee students eating lunch at their desks and remaining in their classroom for most of the day?**

We are doing a combination of having students eat their lunch in the classroom (or outside, weather permitting) and in the cafeteria. It will depend on each individual school's schedule, cafeteria usage and the cafeteria's size.

**Will hand washing before meals be required?**

Yes, hand washing or hand sanitizer will be required before and after lunch.

**What about the breakfast program at Title I schools? Will that be happening and if so, how?**

Breakfast will still be offered but will also be grab and go.

## Magnet Schools

**If a magnet student chooses remote learning, do they lose their place at the magnet school?**

No, these students will not lose their lottery spot.

## Masks

**Has there been any thought to banning masks with one way valves as those would defeat the purpose?**

At this time we would allow valve masks as long as the community transmission was low.

**Can you please describe mask breaks? Minimum number of breaks/timing for breaks? Will mask breaks have to be outside? What about when the weather is bad and they cannot go outside?**

Mask breaks will be part of a staff/student's schedule. A mask break indoors would be limited to 15 minutes at one time, and a mask break outdoors with appropriate social distancing is unlimited.

**Are cloth masks allowed or only disposable? Are bandanas acceptable as face mask?**

Face masks can be made of cloth. We would encourage all types of masks that fit snugly over the nose and mouth.

**Do the students need to use masks outside of the building? For example, on the playground?**

No, as long as they are social distancing, they do not have to wear their mask outside during recess.

**If a student in my child's class opts not to wear a mask, with a doctor's note, will I be notified?**

No, we are not allowed for privacy reasons to notify parents about other students' medical exemptions.

**Are mask mandates coming from the State of CT or GPS system?**

The mask mandate is from the State of Connecticut.

**Why can't pre-schoolers take masks off in the classroom and have them on whenever they are outside of their classroom?**

Since all of our preschool classes are located in elementary school buildings, it is our expectation that they follow the safety guidelines for the building, including the requirement for masks.

**Will teachers have clear masks in elementary?**

We currently have 900 clear masks in stock right now, and we have ordered additional clear masks given the positive feedback from summer school. Any teacher who would like one can receive a clear mask.

**How do you think social distancing will be enforced for K-1?**

Currently, we have desks and/or tables with the appropriate spacing, there is directional signage on the floor to help students navigate safely throughout the building, and clear dividers will be used to encourage social distancing where necessary.

**Are face shields for younger students a good alternative to masks and encouraged?**

A mask is required even with a face shield.

**How will you be addressing those students who need sensory breaks and movement breaks?**

We will individualize the sensory and movement breaks to ensure all are practicing social distancing and know where and how to go to a different space.

**Will crossing guards be required to wear masks? Will traffic coming and going be strictly enforced so students aren't gathering in groups?**

The decision on masks will be made by the Greenwich Police Department. Traffic protocols are still being determined for each school site, but students will go directly to their first class to ensure no large group gatherings.

**Can you direct us to where to purchase these clear masks?**

If you google search for clear masks, you will note there are several vendors who offer these types of masks. The schools utilize companies through school purchasing lists.

# Middle Schools

**How are you proposing splitting a middle school cohort of 100 students? Will they mix among the cohort? How will the large number of students at EMS work for cohorting?**

Most of the cohorts at the middle schools are 100 students. The students are on a team, with five teachers and that becomes their cohort.

**How will you ensure that middle school, where students move around academically, stay in the same cohort?**

The middle school carefully placed students so they would mostly be in the same cohort. There are very few exceptions.

**Would middle school students be doing the same hybrid schedule as the high school students (2 days in person, 3 days remote)?**

The three middle schools have an in school schedule everyday as well as a remote schedule (which is very similar to the in-school schedule).

**In middle school, students often stand in a large crowd outside the main entrance when they get off the busses and wait to be let inside the building, how would that change now?**

Students will be entering the building at different entrances and will go directly to their homeroom.

**Would you please share what a typical day would look like for a Middle School student who is remote learning? How much direct zoom-like actual teacher instruction will there be?**

A draft of a middle school schedule will be shared at the Thursday, August 6th Return to School Meeting at 10AM. Information to join the meeting is available on our GPS Return to School website and a recording of the meeting will be shared as well.

# Preschool

**Can you please explain how preschool class sizes will work and the no mask policy set forth by Governor Lamont?**

While the State is not mandating the preschool students wear masks, GPS is asking all preschool students to wear masks given that preschool classes are located within elementary schools where all students and staff will be required to wear masks for health and safety purposes.

# Quarantine

**If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case at a school will the entire school be informed or only that class or grade? How quickly will families be notified if exposure or positive cases are identified within the school?**

The local health department is notified of every positive test in the community. We have also asked parents to notify us and we will work with the Department of Health to do the contact tracing. Health alerts of exposure will be sent when necessary.

**Will an entire school need to be closed/quarantined or just the cohort? What will determine quarantining procedures?**

A positive test would require a 14 day quarantine for anyone exposed. The local health department, the nursing supervisor and the medical advisor will determine the extent of exposure and initiate the contact tracing.

**If a student or teacher tests positive, assuming they are asymptomatic or with minimal symptoms, will they have an option to do remote learning while they are in quarantine so there is no lapse in school learning?**

Yes, this option would be available to them.

**What happens if a teacher has to quarantine for an outside exposure? Who takes over teaching the class?**

A substitute teacher will be assigned to that class or a teacher will remote in, based on the individual circumstances.

**If a student is in a cohort that has a student that tested positive for COVID, do all siblings in the cohort's family also have to quarantine?**

No, only the person who is exposed is quarantined.

**What happens if a parent/relative of a student tests positive?**

A positive test would require a 14 day quarantine for anyone exposed. The local health department, the nursing supervisor and the medical advisor will determine the extent of exposure and initiate the contact tracing.

**How will you handle cases where symptom recovery may take a long time for either a student and/or family member who is positive?**

The District would work closely with the Department of Health and the Health Care Provider to determine when the student was able to safely return to school. Remote learning might need to be considered if deemed necessary for that particular student and their situation.

# Remote Learning

**If we opt for remote learning at the beginning of the year and then choose to put our students back in the classroom, will they go to their normal elementary school?**

Yes, students will attend their usual elementary school.

**If you opt for in-person class for your children but decide a month into school you want your child to do remote learning because you feel unsafe, do they live stream into their current class or get placed into a new virtual only class?**

At the elementary level, they will be assigned a remote teacher and become part of a designated remote classroom.

**Is the August 7th return to school survey for students or staff submission?**

August 7th is the deadline for both the family online form to opt into remote learning as well as for an online form/survey for staff to share any requests for accommodations for remote teaching. These are two different forms.

**If we choose in-person learning and schools close, will my child convert to the same level and quality of remote learning as the children who opt to remote learn all year?**

Yes. Regardless of the circumstances, the remote learning schedule will be the same for those participating from the onset or those who are required to pivot to remote learning during the school year.

**If schools close, do we have to wait two weeks to get remote teaching?**

We are doing a great deal of preparing and delivering professional development with staff to be ready to pivot to remote learning the very next day in most cases.

**What flexibility do parents have to change their choice of in-person learning vs. remote learning as circumstances change?**

You can pivot back and forth between but you must remember there is a two week hold before the transition to be sure we have everything ready for your child in either learning environment.

**If we opt for in-person, can we change our decision before school starts?**

The District understands some families may need longer to make their final decisions, although for planning purposes, we prefer the August 7th deadline.

**Who will be remote teaching? Will it be a teacher already in that grade or someone totally different?**

Remote teachers will be identified based on teachers who are unable to physically return to the classroom and/or teachers who would prefer to teach remotely, if we are in need of more staff than we have on medically-approved leaves.

**How will high school singleton classes (like AP Physics C) be handled for students in remote school?**

Students may need to livestream into specialty subject courses.

**In remote learning, is the teaching occurring at the same time between classroom and remote?**

There will be a daily set schedule for remote learning so parents and students will know exactly what time they will need to log in for live instruction each day.

**If we opt into remote learning, can we choose to use our own iPad due to glitchy issues with the school iPads experienced last spring?**

It is unlikely you will be able to access the full digital toolbox on a personal device thus the need to use a school-issued iPad or Chromebook. We will replace faulty equipment quickly for you, you will simply need to call the school and speak to the media staff to request a replacement device.

**Are the remote teachers teaching from the school building or from home?**

Remote teachers will be teaching from home.

**If I opt for full-time remote, will my child be streaming Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri.?**

Samples of full-time remote schedules will be shared soon with a goal of balancing 50/50 asynchronous and synchronous learning.

**How would the remote learning assignments/information be shared with families both in elementary (with parents) and in secondary (from multiple teachers)?**

The goal at the elementary level is to post each grades' remote learning daily schedule to the school website. The day's assignments will be hosted in your child's Google Classroom so that there is no confusion.

**Would remote learning for middle schoolers involve online presence all day or would it be mostly assignments that they work on independently from home?**

The schedule will include both live teaching (synchronous), some asynchronous lessons, and independent work.

**For remote elementary, what are your expectations of parents?**

Expectations for parents would be to communicate with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns and to follow the outlined schedule of events each day.

**What is the best computer system you should buy if you want to pursue remote learning?**

The District will provide the appropriate devices necessary for students.

**Have remote learning teachers been identified? Are they being trained for remote learning?**

All teachers are being intensely trained in the digital tools necessary to teach in a remote learning environment given the uncertainty of conditions currently in place (here and worldwide) should they need to pivot to teaching in a remote learning environment.

**How do you plan to do PE with remote learners?**

The intent would be for PE sessions to be live and/or to have instructional videos for students to watch and participate in.

**For remote learning, will students get a different teacher from the District rather than the school of origin?**

It is quite possible that your child's elementary remote teacher could be from a different school. Most of the middle school teachers will come from the same school since web streaming is utilized more frequently for secondary students.

**Will remote learning kindergarteners be able to get together for school activities in person? Similarly, will an effort be made to provide time in K-5 for remote learners to connect with their physical school grade level students?**

Not at this time. The remote class will have opportunities to engage with each other through virtual morning meetings, small group virtual activities, read alouds etc.

**What is the process to change from in-person to remote learning; is two-weeks notice needed for this as well?**

Yes, two weeks must be given and a form will be created for the school to be notified by the parent.

**It sounds like signing up for remote learning now could mean that changing to face-to-face could be denied based on availability. Is this true?**

This is not true. The District must provide options for both remote and in-school learning for families depending upon which option they choose to pursue.

**What if a family chooses remote learning by August 7th but the District moves to a hybrid or full remote learning model. Will those who chose remote learning still be treated as separate from their normal school communities?**

If you choose remote learning, your child will remain with their remote learning classmates should everyone else have to pivot to remote learning because our COVID status has elevated negatively.

**What are the school hours for remote learning?**

School hours for each level (elementary, middle and high school) will be the same for in-person and remote.

**Do you have an estimate about what percentage of elementary students are going to do remote learning?**

As of August 7th at 4:00pm, there were 14% of the elementary students choosing remote learning school.

**Can we request to be in the same virtual class with a particular family?**

Unfortunately, the District cannot accommodate requests of this nature at this time. However, students from the same school will be clustered together in one classroom. Currently, the enrollment supports all students from one grade level in the same school being with the same teacher.

**If you are a parent sending your children to school and feel uncomfortable or are nervous about sending your child/children for a day, do you have the option of learning from home on any given day?**

No, the District will need up to a two week notice for a student to pivot from in-school to remote learning (and vice versa).

**As a kindergarten parent will they have access to their iPad while home for that day? Will they take them home daily?**

Unlike in the past where kindergarten students left their devices in school, students will now be required to take them home so that, in the case of a sudden closure, they will have access to their devices.

**Is there going to be a requirement that each teacher has a live Zoom/Google Meets class each day for each section? Will they be teaching from the classroom? How will administration monitor that teachers are actually teaching rather than simply assigning work?**

Teachers will be expected to be live throughout the day in accordance with their posted schedule. Administrators have access to all of their staffs' Google Classrooms and can visit "virtually" at any time for observational purposes.

**What notice will you give should the entire GPS system need to pivot to remote learning should your data prescribe that? How flexible and nimble can the system be?**

We are planning to be very nimble and hoping to be able to pivot to remote learning very quickly, perhaps as soon as the next day, should the need arise. A 24-hour period could be necessary in order to transfer equipment from school to home and get set up in a new environment (audio, webcams, computer setup...).

**Can you please clarify how teachers will be assigned for students who choose remote learning? It sounds like we would not be assigned to a class at the school, is that correct?**

Correct, a group of elementary students who have signed up for remote learning will be assigned to a teacher with the appropriate certification to teach that particular class. In secondary, the student may be assigned to a teacher on site at the school and participate through a webcam into the classroom.



**Do you think it will be expected for a parent to sit with their younger students during the remote learning instructional time?**

It is likely based on a student's developmental level; at least in the beginning, parents may need to be close by until the child becomes more comfortable with the routines established by the teacher. As expected, this will be most challenging for early childhood (students PK-2).

**Are the students going to be trained in remote learning (how to find information platforms etc)?**

Yes, students will be trained as to how to use their digital tools. We are also revamping our website to give parents tutorials on how to use our Google Classroom platform and associated digital resources as well.

**If the elementary schools go fully remote at some point during the year, will the students be required to keep to the 9:00 am - 3:00 pm online schedule, or would we have flexibility to complete assignments during off hours to accommodate parent work schedules?**

We would like students to log-in and maintain their daily schedule as best as possible as we will be taking attendance and have every intention of increasing the amount of "live" teaching. With that being said, if there are extenuating circumstances, parents should let the teacher and School Principal know.

**If we opt for remote learning and the children are placed with a class for online students in that grade, will they be reshuffled into their respective classes if/when the entire District pivots to remote learning?**

No, they will remain with their original remote learning class to maintain coherence to curriculum delivery and to minimize confusion.

**Will the remote teachers be based from home? Will there be technology upgrades provided for consistency and access or are we limited by their own home setups?**

Yes, they will likely work from home and all PreK-5 teachers are getting brand new laptops to improve instructional abilities. However, internet access varies across the region and within each home for teachers and students. If there are many challenges, the family would want to reach out to the assigned administrator and let them know, so that if there are better solutions for one household the district can assist.

**Do remote learning teachers have the same qualifications as an in person teacher?**

Yes, remote learning teachers will hold the same qualifications and certifications as an in-person teacher.

**What happens if a family decides to do virtual learning and quarantine in a different part of the world where the time difference would make synchronous remote learning impossible? Similarly, can students work internationally for a period of time, while still being Greenwich residents?**

Both in-school and remote learning school will run on Eastern Standard Time and students will need to be logged in for those classes occurring in that time zone.

**Will there be a limit to the number of times a student can move back and forth from in person to remote learning?**

No, there will be no limit to the number of times a student can move back and forth; however families will need to account for the potential two-week waiting period and consider the transitional phase for their respective students.

**Will remote learning students always be on a separate path from in school students even if schools shut down at some point due to the virus? Will they converge at that point if schools close?**

Students will follow the same curriculum as their peers, whether they choose the remote school or in school option. Students will remain with their established remote learning class should GPS need to pivot to remote learning for all students.

**Are remote learning educators going to be teachers who already teach at that grade level?**

Remote learning educators will be certified teachers in the area of need. An elementary teacher for example may hold a K-6 certification thus they could be teaching a 3rd grade remote learning classroom even though they were slated to teach 2nd grade had they come back to the physical facility.

**In regards to remote learning, will students be required to have a camera on?**

At times there will be a requirement to have a camera on in order to interact with the teacher, and to confirm students are engaged with the classroom and in attendance.

**Can I just take my son out of school during winter time for remote learning?**

Yes, this option would be allowed.

## School Scheduling

**Is there a date by which the return (full, hybrid, remote) is ultimately decided? Or is it just any day up until 9/9?**

It will depend on the current COVID-19 status at the time of return.

**What is the protocol for just a general day off, for example a religious holiday where we stay home?**

Religious Holidays are approved absences. No tests or projects are assigned or given on those days.

**If a child opts back into face-to-face learning from remote learning, are they guaranteed a spot in their respective school?**

They would return to their neighborhood school and be assigned to a classroom and teacher.

**For the elementary level, what will the daily start time and dismissal time be?**

All school start/end times remain the same as always and are posted on each school's website.

**Will the Early Birds/before school program be available when elementary school opens?**

**Will there be Afters programs for the elementary schools?**

At this time, only before and after school childcare facilities will be open at the elementary schools. We will not have PTA afters for the time being.

**When will building specific plans be announced?**

You will be notified by your building administrator before school begins. Schedules are being reviewed and revised to ensure safe social distancing, entry and exits, staggered arrivals and dismissals, directions in hallways, etc.

**How are teachers planning to introduce "school" to Kindergartners given this is this first year?**

Teachers will be engaging students and families as they have in the past, sharing all that happens in their wonderful class and what to expect each day.

**Have you set vacation days and early release days? Will there be a revised school calendar?**

The Board of Education has approved the [2020-2021 school calendar](#), which can be found on the Greenwich Public Schools website.

**If a class only shows 10 students enrolled in person per class will that be kept that way or are you combining students from different schools in the same grade?**

In-person students will remain at their respective neighborhood schools. Remote learning students may be in classes with students from different schools.

**Hearing rumors we may start face to face, and then transition all schools to online after 6 weeks, mid-October, when waves and rates spike up. Is that a scenario anyone is talking about?**

We will be flexible and have made plans to pivot to remote learning when and if it is necessary.

**What are plans for events like picture day or other school functions?**

Each event will be looked at individually, on a case by case basis. Picture day, for instance, may occur as it has in the past if the stations are set up outside.

**What will recess look like for elementary school students? I assume playground equipment will not be usable?**

Each class will still have recess. The playground playscapes/equipment will not be open. The teachers are working on recess games that allow for appropriate social distancing.

**Will the school Open Houses be in-person this year?**

Open houses will need to be virtual this year.

**Can elementary students request to transfer to a different school due to space restrictions?**

At this time, we are not accepting requests for transfers to different schools.

**Have you considered having two shifts for schools, a morning and afternoon shift, so that classes can be smaller?**

Currently, we have not pursued the morning and afternoon shift, as we are concerned about the level of cleaning and disinfecting that would need to occur in a short time span if an entirely new set of students was to enter the building.

**In regards to holidays, is there discussion about closing schools or moving to remote at least a week before the holiday so that we can quarantine at home before the holidays where many of us get together with family?**

At this time, this option has not been considered. Any future change to the school calendar will be brought to the Board of Education for consideration.

## Hybrid Schedule Considerations

A hybrid option will be a Board of Education and community conversation over the coming weeks. Right now, GPS is planning for a full return for PK-8 as cohorting and social distancing can be in place. Much of the decision will also depend on local health statistics as we get closer to school opening.

As of Friday, July 31st, the State shared that there can be local flexibility, but a guidance grid was provided and the decision should be based on cohorting, social distancing, and local health factors. Our PK-8 is able to meet the cohorting and social distancing guidelines, our high school is not. As such, our plans continue to be a full return for PK-8 and a hybrid model for 9-12.

**If a family has multiple children in different schools, how would you coordinate or “sync” schedules so they all go the same day?**

Hybrid schedules would be alphabetical to ensure that families have coordination on in-school days vs. remote learning days. We have looked at every school and the district to determine the best “break” in the alphabet to balance all schools.

**Is the hybrid model only for high school? If an elementary student chooses in person, is that every day?**

Yes, currently, if an elementary school or middle school student chooses in-person learning, they would attend school five days a week.

**With the hybrid schedule at GHS, the students in the in-person Monday and Tuesday schedule may have fewer in-school days due to holidays that fall on Mondays, how would this work?**

Currently, there are only two holidays that fall on Mondays; Martin Luther King Day, January 17, 2021 and Memorial Day, May 30, 2021.

## Special Education

### **How can I get information on the SES discussions?**

The District has a section in the plan on special education. Additional Town Halls will be held in the coming weeks. In addition, you may email the Chief PPS Officer, Mary Forde at [mary\\_forde@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:mary_forde@greenwich.k12.ct.us).

### **What would be the plan for students with an IEP? Will there be any accommodation for IEP students to have more in person learning at GHS when it directly impacts their goals and objectives?**

All students with support needs (special education, ALP, Section 504, ESL) will receive services although the format may not look exactly as it did pre-pandemic. The first consideration will be safety and following the guidelines from the State. All students will have the option to attend school on the same schedule as their classmates without support needs. Individual arrangements will be made for students with the most unique learning needs. All Connecticut district staff have been meeting and sharing their plans and strategies, given the strict guidelines for returning to school, there is not much variation in the way in which districts are planning to return.

### **For a student with a complex set of accommodations and modifications required to access curriculum, and to the extent that remote learning option is chosen, will teachers and classmates be from the home school?**

Whenever possible, students will be assigned to teachers from their building who are familiar with them; however, it will depend on which teachers are available for in-school/hybrid instruction and which teachers request the accommodation of remote learning.

### **Will Greenwich High School students who have social challenges be allowed to attend school four days per week instead of two days to help with their social and emotional wellbeing?**

The GHS and Pupil Personnel Services Team are exploring the feasibility of offering this option to particular students who are disproportionately negatively impacted during remote learning. We are looking to develop a set of learner characteristics that will guide the teams in identifying these students. More information about this option will be shared as soon as possible.

### **Will children with speech therapy or other special services be able to meet with those therapists in person?**

Yes, and additional safety precautions will be put in place including social distancing, clear dividers where necessary and mandated masks.

**Will regular education teachers be prepared for students with comprehensive needs in their classes who aren't usually there for that long a period of time? Also, is the District considering co-taught classes (special education and regular education teachers) so that students with comprehensive needs don't need to move around so much?**

General education teachers have worked with students with comprehensive needs in their classes prior to the pandemic. The special education teachers are responsible for making sure their general education colleagues are familiar with each student's IEP including the accommodations and modifications. Once special education teachers have been assigned to their cohorts (elementary and middle schools) they will work with their teams to identify options for providing services within the safety requirements; this may include co-teaching, push-in and/or pull-out service delivery.

**With a limited number of Special Education teachers per building how will they provide services to children in different cohorts?**

The goal is to have elementary teachers assigned to two grade levels and one special education teacher assigned to each middle school team. This may need to be adjusted at the building level given the number of students and staff returning. Teachers at GHS will continue to provide Academic Lab in the houses. Teachers of students with comprehensive disabilities will do their best to limit the number of staff and students that their students come into contact with during the day.

**Will remote learning teachers be trained and prepared to work with students who have IEPs and 504s?**

Remote learning teachers are Greenwich teachers who expect to have students with disabilities in their classrooms. The make-up of remote learning classes will follow the general guidelines for all Greenwich classes.

## Specials

**Why is there no representation for music and art on this reopening document? What will that program look like?**

The year will begin with no instrumental music or chorus. General music will be offered in all three middle schools to start the year. Health and safety must come first, and the high touch, blowing of instruments, and higher risk of spread through singing must be considered. GPS is exploring before and after school club type structures virtually.

**How will in-person band and chorus classes be handled (specifically at the high school level)?**

The year will begin with no instrumental music or chorus. Health and safety must come first, and the high touch, blowing of instruments, and higher risk of spread through singing must be considered. GPS is exploring before and after school club type structures virtually.

**What about orchestra if my child wants to do remote learning?**

GPS is exploring virtual options.

*Document shared: August 7, 2020*

# Teaching Positions

**If a teacher is absent, how are you thinking of addressing the need for substitutes who will be going to multiple schools in the district?**

We are planning to assign the substitute to one school for safety reasons.

**Is there a concern that the teachers union will strike regarding safety concerns and bring an interruption to face-to-face learning?**

The teachers union in the State of Connecticut are not allowed to strike, rather they have the right to arbitration.

**What kind of additional staff are you hiring for schools? When will you be hiring?**

A variety of positions will be needed due to COVID-19 requirements, e.g. custodians, teachers, long term substitutes. Hiring is taking place now.

**Do we know yet if we have enough teachers returning to support all students attending?**

Our teachers are scheduled to share their intentions with the District by August 7th, where we will have a better understanding of our staffing needs.

**What happens if a majority of teachers refuse to teach in person?**

Staff would need to speak with HR, as teachers aren't able to simply opt for remote teaching. A teacher may apply for remote teaching, and if a position is available he/she would be considered for that position. Until we get the numbers back from the families who are opting out we do not know how many teachers will be needed in the remote option. Additionally, there must be some sort of requirement met for a teacher to take leave.

**Where can we access the list of in-person and/or remote teachers?**

Teachers and their respective class lists will be shared with families as school approaches.

# Technology

**Is it possible to purchase our computer/iPad and then get the programs installed?**

Unfortunately, our District's digital tools are not able to be accessed from personal devices.

**Will there be cameras in each class room to stream classes?**

There will be cameras in each classroom at the high school and middle school level.

**Given that the first day of school is now after Labor Day, is it possible to keep access to certain software programs, like RazKids and IXL, for extra days?**

These are district approved tools and they are available.

**If remote students are webcasting into a live class, how will they ask questions? How will the teacher know someone is asking a question remotely?**

There will be additional classroom management involved, however most teachers should be able to adapt within a reasonable amount of time. In addition, documentation and technical support will be provided for those that have questions or need assistance with the new technology.

GPS understands that the teacher can't be watching a screen, teaching, and engaging with a live classroom at the same time. The students at home are watching the lesson, taking notes, and will ask questions through the chat function which may be shared by another student, or answered live during the last 10-15 minutes of the independent time during class.

**Will remote learners in Kindergarten be given a laptop or device to work remotely if one isn't available at home?**

Yes, Kindergarten students will be provided with iPads. Students in K-5 are provided with an iPad and students in grades 6-12 are provided with Chromebooks.

**Will there be purchases of digital books and audiobooks to support the curriculum?**

We will still be able to utilize some books, but the Media Center will not operate in the same capacity. We do have online books available, and we can increase our use of the Greenwich Public Library system.

**Will you continue to provide hot spots for students who need internet access at home? How will you help students, staff and families access broadband internet?**

Yes, if a student needs access to a Wifi hotspot, one will be provided to them.

**For those who choose the remote learning option, will you provide an opportunity to train parents on the technology and digital tools being used?**

Yes, we are working on our website now and there will be very specific links to the digital tools your child will use so that you can familiarize yourself.

**What will be the protocol for technical help for remote learners?**

Remote learners that are participating in the hybrid model will continue to receive technical support from their school building based support resources.

Remote learners that are participating in 100% remote school will have a technical support resource available that is dedicated to this purpose.

**Why not have all live classes and tape all of them so the students have the option to watch all of them whenever they want?**

There are legal factors to take into consideration which involve the potential recording of students in a public school classroom.

**Doesn't the WiFi crash at the high school a lot? Has that been upgraded for remote learners?**



The wireless infrastructure at the high school was completely overhauled a year ago, including brand new wireless access points with improved speed and signal strength. Since the upgrade the IT Department has received minimal complaints about Wi-Fi availability and uptime.

**Are there procedures to protect children from online bullying (including grabbing screenshot images of students and sharing them publicly)?**

Any misuse of our digital platforms and/or bullying incidents should be reported to teachers and/or administration and will be investigated, and any disciplinary action will be taken as necessary. The District has no tolerance for bullying.

**Is the District confident that it has the infrastructure to support this heavy, simultaneous use of Wifi and the software being used? Are you confident that the service providers/vendors are prepared to handle this with many districts?**

The IT Department has run tests which simulate the bandwidth demand and found no issues with the increased network load. We have also coordinated with engineers at our ISPs and confirmed that there are adequate resources on their side as well.

**Will every class be live streamed in case students are quarantined and need to stay at home?**

At the high school and middle school, classes will be able to be live streamed.

## Transportation

**If a bus is full, will my child be refused a seat and not allowed to get on?**

The District has asked that students who ride the bus are those who rely on the bus system as essential in order to arrive at school. It will be important that students don't "show up" unplanned so that GPS can maintain social distancing and safety on the bus.

**How are buses being managed? Will there be additional buses or will parents be asked to drive? How many students per bus?**

Per the District's School Planning Document, masks must be worn at all times including boarding and exiting the bus. Students board the bus with the first students on the bus sitting in the back, and filling seats from back-to-front so that the last students loaded are sitting in the front. Students must exit the bus with students sitting in the front exiting first. Students should sit with their siblings or household members. Currently, buses are allowed to run at their usual capacity, but we are encouraging parents who are able to drive their students to do so in order to reduce our number of students riding the bus.

**How are bus routes established given the hybrid GHS model?**

All routes will run as scheduled and on Wednesdays, the high school routes will not be run.

**How will you ensure mask compliance and safety on buses?**

Any non-compliance will be reported to school administration for handling, similar to other behavioral infractions.

## Ventilation

**It has been indicated that many ventilation systems throughout the district are older which can promote the transfer of the virus. Will ventilation systems be upgraded to safe levels for students and staff?**

Upgrades are made annually across the district through the capital budget. However, replacing the HVAC (or installing) a large system is a major project and cannot be done in isolation. A building must be emptied, often ceilings ripped out, and ducts ran in and around the entire building along with electrical and other mechanical upgrades. These projects generally take place in a renovation or expansion project and from planning, design, and construction can take several years for full completion. Currently, New Lebanon School was just completed, and Julian Curtiss School and Old Greenwich School are in feasibility for their renovation/expansion work.

**Have the schools ventilation systems been inspected and how can we find out what our school's ventilation is like?**

After asking direct questions about their particular school site, if families have great concerns about classroom ventilation, they may want to consider full remote learning. Ventilation is limited by the units which are available in the building and the facility.

**Can the schools have air purifiers in the classrooms to help with the ventilation?**

This has been explored, and many of the units actually make the environment less safe in the way the air is circulated.

**Can you install UV lights in HVAC systems if you are refusing to put in MERV 13-16 filters?**

UV light sanitation will not be in place given the high volume of square footage and inability to install adequate systems across PK-12+. This concept was studied for GPS.

## WMS

**Will my children still belong to their school community (Western) or will this be Greenwich's 4th middle school (online)?**

Students from various middle schools may be in a remote learning school class with one another.

**Will my children have WMS teachers since this is their school and it is Greenwich's magnet middle school?**

In remote learning school, students may have teachers from multiple GPS middle schools. All remote learning teachers have the same qualifications and certifications as in-person teachers.

*Document shared: August 7, 2020*

**Will my children still be supported by their WMS grade counselor?**

Yes, we are working to keep students connected to their home school where possible.

**Will my children be able to take any tests like STAR or any other evaluation that is done in person either online or would they be required to come in one specific day to take the test?**

Remote learners will take assessments online.

**Will it be possible for my children to be put in an online class with other children from WMS in their grade so they keep their friends and community even in an online environment or will it be totally random?**

Class lists and schedules will be decided when all details of registration have been gathered. It is possible that students who are in remote learning school will be in classes with students from their own middle school as well as other middle schools in the District.

**Will my children still have access to extra hours / help during lunch or after school?**

There will be opportunities for assistance, and these will be offered on a case-by-case situation.