

Reopening Schools in September Frequently Asked Questions

1. How frequently will the school be cleaned throughout the day?
 - A. Bathrooms and high touch areas will be cleaned several times throughout the day. The remainder of the building will be cleaned and disinfected each night.

2. For 100% in person, how many days per week will that be?
 - A. 100% in-person for the Fall is only for our K-6 students and will be five days per week. Secondary schools will be using a Hybrid Model and be in-person one day per week at this time. If the situation changes and we are able to accommodate more secondary students, we may alter our plan in the future.

3. What are the chemicals that will be used for cleaning?
 - A. All of our cleaning and disinfecting products are supplied from national branded companies. All disinfectant supplies are EPA registered. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are available upon request.

4. Will the remote lessons be live or accessible at any time of the day?
 - A. The remote students will follow the same schedule as the in person class.

5. If the schools will only screen students who were not screened at home, how will that function exactly? I assume the student would need to inform the school, which may not be reliable.
 - A. We are purchasing units to place at each entrance that would screen for temperatures before staff and students enter the building. Families will also need to periodically submit a questionnaire that indicates that the students have no

other symptoms and have not been in contact with anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19, etc.

6. For the K-6, in-person option, does every child attend school every day? With full specials? Lunch in the classroom?
 - A. Yes, in the K-6, in-person model, students attend school every day. They will have specials and eat lunch in the classroom. Specials may be held in the classroom or outdoors. Some specials may need to be modified such as music and physical education. Based on guidance, musical activities such as singing or wind instruments would necessitate expanding the social distance radius to twelve feet. This is also the case for physical education activities that would require exertion leading to heavy breathing.

7. Will chrome books be available again for students who need them?
 - A. Yes, chrome books will be available for those students who need them. There will be a distribution prior to the start of school.

8. Clarify attendance for remote learning, please?
 - A. Students must attend and interact daily following their assigned schedules.

9. My child is an incoming Kindergarten student. What would that look like for him remotely?
 - A. Incoming Kindergarten students will meet their teachers and any related service providers (if they have an IEP) virtually. They will participate in “getting to know you” activities as though they were in school. They will experience learning through developmentally appropriate learning activities including face-to-face meetings, large and small group instruction, instructional videos and more. Parents will be invited to a Kindergarten orientation prior to the start of school.

10. For SpEd for UPK students, will my child be able to use the same provider at home and at school?

- A. CPSE related service providers and special education itinerant teachers (SEIT) are currently providing services remotely. Each agency will follow their own guidelines and will staff each child's IEP per their guidance. It is always best for the child when the same provider works with them at school and at home.
11. Can you please describe what a typical day in the remote learning environment for an elementary student will look like?
- A. Please review the comparison charts available on our website at: <https://www.onteorak12.ny.us/about/2020-2021-school-year>.
12. Will there be any video teaching for remote elementary learners?
- A. Students will be assigned a full schedule of classes that they are expected to attend daily. This will include a combination of live instruction, video, and independent work.
13. What is the daily remote schedule for virtual learning in 7=12? How many hours a day is there for instruction and homework. I found that 2-3 hours was a lot for my kids each day given the circumstances.
- A. Students will be assigned a full schedule of classes that they are expected to attend daily. This will include a combination of live instruction, video, and independent work. Hours will vary based on their grade level and schedule.
14. When will we be informed of how we are starting the year?
- A. Governor Cuomo will make a decision by August 7th. After August 7th, he will be tracking the data related to infection rates and if the rate of infection rises to a specific level, he will then reconsider closing schools if they are scheduled to be open.
15. Does the decision of what plan you adopt happen on a State level or a local district level?
- A. Governor Cuomo has the discretion to close schools, but if he decides that we can reopen, the model that we choose is a local decision.

16. By what date will parents need to choose a learning model and how will that decision be received by the school?
 - A. In order to plan for staffing, and in order for our faculty to plan for the year, we are asking that parents make their decision by August 10th. There is an online form created to be utilized by parents/guardians to indicate their choice of learning model. Parents choosing a fully remote learning model will be asked to sign and return a commitment letter confirming that they have reviewed all expectations by Monday, August 17, 2020.

17. Will our youngest kids be given the opportunity for outdoor learning or are we expecting our youngest students to sit 6 feet apart all day for 5 days?
 - A. There will be opportunities for students to be outdoors, but we must maintain social distancing both indoors and outdoors.

18. There is no hybrid option for elementary? From what I am understanding it's just one or the other?
 - A. Correct, we had a significant number of families indicated that they would want their children to attend school five days a week, and we are able to support this request because we have the physical space available.

19. What is your current plan for school sports?
 - A. School sports are currently on pause as per Governor Cuomo.

20. Do you have enough staff to have classes of 10-12 students if more people than anticipated choose the in-person option?
 - A. We believe that we do have enough staffing, but if we find that we need to hire additional staff, we will do that in order to support our students.

21. Will you be creating pods k-6?
 - A. Our K-6 students will remain with their class as their cohort/pod.

22. Have you considered face shields instead of masks?
- A. The guidance that we are required to follow does not allow for face shields to be used instead of masks. They can be used in addition to masks, but not by themselves.
23. As we enter flu season I am wondering how to differentiate between symptoms, and how the school is going to respond to any student who might be ill when there is a lot of crossover in the signs of flu and covid.
- A. Our school nurses, working in conjunction with our Medical Director will be addressing this on an individual basis. They are qualified medical professionals and we rely on their expertise.
24. Will the drinking fountains be closed?
- A. Students will not be allowed to drink directly from a drinking fountain, but they will still have access to the fountains that have touchless bottle filling stations. It is also permissible to use a water fountain to fill a cup with water.
25. What would gym & lunch look like now on their days in school?
- A. Gym will have a focus on individual or outside activities. Any activity that will cause an individual to breathe heavily will require a social distance of twelve feet instead of the typical six feet. It may be held in large open spaces or outdoors.
 - B. Lunch at the elementary level will be eaten in classrooms, but at the secondary level, our cafeteria will accommodate our students at an attendance rate of 25% per day. Students will remain fully socially distanced while eating.
26. Has any consideration been given to teaching outdoors? I've heard about other districts doing this, allowing more kids to receive in person instruction.
- A. There will be opportunities for our faculty to bring students outdoors and the Principals have been reviewing their campuses for suitable areas for classes to be situated outdoors.
27. Will all students go to their usual school? All Woodstock students at Woodstock at the same time, all Bennett students at Bennett at the same time, etc?

- A. We will try to maintain students at the schools they would normally be assigned, but it will depend on the number of students that attend in-person in each building.
28. If the decision is made for school to return in September, do you know when in September?
- A. We are recommending that our calendar be amended to provide an additional Superintendent's Conference Day after Labor Day, so students would return on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020.
29. What will be the deadline for parents to make a decision regarding which model they choose for the first quarter?
- A. Families will need to make that decision by August 10th.
30. Have you considered large tents for outdoor learning? It seems the properties have the space that would allow for it.
- A. We are not investing in tents as they require engineering and NYS Education Department approval. We also have sufficient space in our buildings for instruction and our faculty will also be actively providing opportunities for students to be outdoors.
31. Going back to classrooms being able to open windows for fresh air, will all windows have window screens available?
- A. No, not all classroom windows are equipped with screens.
32. How do we know/choose what cohort our children are in?
- A. At the secondary level, the cohort will be assigned by administration following August 10th, once we know how many students will be attending in-person learning. Each cohort will encompass grades 7-12 based on the structure of the school day for secondary students. We will make our best effort to keep siblings together.

33. What will a remote versus an in-person student qualify for in-terms of school activities? Recognizing these will be limited; sports, extra curricular, etc...
- A. We are only supporting extracurricular activities that can happen virtually at this time. Athletics are not allowed currently as per Governor Cuomo.
34. How is recess being provided?
- A. Recess will be outdoors whenever possible. Cohorts will attend recess in separate areas and social distancing will be maintained.
35. Will the parents be issued the plans that are due to be submitted to the State?
- A. The plan is posted on our website on the 2020-2021 School Year Page that can be accessed at: <https://www.onteorak12.ny.us/about/2020-2021-school-year>
36. What is the protocol if a teacher or student tests positive? Will they be required to quarantine? Will other students in their class have to quarantine as well?
- A. If a teacher or student test positive, the rest of that class will be required to quarantine for fourteen days. Contact tracing may also determine that others will be required to quarantine as well, including the students and bus driver that rode with the student if they utilized District transportation.
37. Will there be any regular testing of asymptomatic students or teachers to see if there is asymptomatic spread?
- A. We will not be performing any medical testing. If an individual is symptomatic, they will be referred to their primary care physician for testing and diagnosis.
38. Will the teachers be trained on the Google Classroom tools.
- A: Teachers will continue to receive opportunities for professional learning and access to a Technology Integration Specialist.
39. Will a student with an IEP get the same frequency of services that are stated on his/her IEP whether remote or in person?

A. As per the NYSED guidance, “Until schools return to normal operating conditions, the same flexibility with respect to IEP implementation for delivery of services during school closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak continues to apply to the programs and services whether delivered in-person and/or remotely (e.g., flexibility with respect to the mode and/or manner; group or individual sessions; specific group size for related services, frequency, duration and location of related services, and special class size ratio etc.).”

a. This guidance can be found at: [Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools - Reopening Guidance](#)

40. Will secondary cohort groups be across multiple grades or a single grade (ex:all 10th grade are cohort 1)?

A. Secondary cohorts will include multiple grades.

41. When will in school start?

A. The first day of school for students will be Wednesday, September 9th, 2020.

42. Why is there no hybrid model for k-6?

A. We cannot support both a full time K-6 model and a hybrid model. We made the decision to support the full time model for those students and families that need the full time learning model.

43. How will the remote students be connected when teachers are outside?

A. Students will be assigned a full schedule of classes that they are expected to attend daily. This will include a combination of live instruction, video, and independent work. Hours of instructional time are not defined as a student’s time spent in front of a teacher or in front of a screen, but time engaged in standards-based learning under the guidance and direction of a teacher.

44. What happens with an active shooter situation with all these new Covid plans?

A. All of our safety drills are still mandatory in this situation. We will continue to take all precautions that are necessary.

45. Will classes have support staff for nurse visits and bathroom visits when outside?

A. Principals will be responsible for scheduling and staffing outdoor time.

46. Is there any data to guide the optimal schedule for remote learning? While you are required to mirror in-person, can there be more breaks built in? What are best practices?

A. Students will be assigned a full schedule of classes that they are expected to attend daily. This will include a combination of live instruction, video, and independent work. Hours of instructional time are not defined as a student's time spent in front of a teacher or in front of a screen, but time engaged in standards-based learning under the guidance and direction of a teacher.

Friday Meeting:

47: Parent choice on instructional model to be made by 8/10: does that mean we do have a choice?

A. Yes, the choice is between full time in-person and full time remote learning at the K-6 level and in-person hybrid or fully remote learning at the 7-12 level. Please visit the form on our website prior to August 10, 2020 to make your selection for your child. Any student that we do not receive a response for will be assumed and scheduled as In-person (K-6) or Hybrid (7-12).

48. If desks are 6 feet apart, will masks still be required?

A. Yes, masks will still be required, but students will be provided with mask breaks during the day.

49. If the governor decides schools are opening, does that mean it must be in person and we no longer have a choice?

A. We do not know what the Governor will say or what it will mean for our reopening plan.

50. Can you please address the rationale between frequency in school for younger children vs. older -- full-time vs. only 1 day/week? Is it possible that if all goes well, older ones will transition to greater frequency in school?
- A. The secondary schedule does not allow for cohorts to be kept separated in one classroom all day, and so the secondary cohort will be 25% of those students who are participating in the in-person learning model. If all goes well, there is the chance that we will expand the cohorts later in the year.
51. Aren't open windows and doors a safety issue?
- A. In this situation, the guidance we have received has prioritized the various safety issues and we have been directed to keep classroom doors open and to open windows as weather conditions permit. Safety drills will be adjusted based on this guidance.
52. My question is that physiologically and emotionally children are in need of movement every 20-40 min...especially censored challenged kids NEED to move or they will be getting in trouble all the time. My child has been using a "sizzle seat" since pre K thank you so much.
- A. Students will be assigned a full schedule of classes that they are expected to attend daily. This will include a combination of live instruction, video, and independent work. Hours of instructional time are not defined as a student's time spent in front of a teacher or in front of a screen, but time engaged in standards-based learning under the guidance and direction of a teacher.
53. If I want my daughters to do online learning is that a choice?
- A. Yes, remote learning is an option, but it will require interaction with teachers and daily attendance and participation.
54. Will siblings be going to school on the same days?
- A. We will work with families to keep siblings in the same cohort as much as possible.
55. What considerations will be made if a nearby school district reports cases, whether

they must close or not?

- A. The guidance we have currently does not indicate that our school closures will be impacted by other local districts. As we have seen with this pandemic, community spread may necessitate broader closures as directed by the County Executive, the Director of the Ulster County Department of Health, or the Governor.

56. Does this include UPK?

- A. Our UPK reopening plan is part of our overall plan, and can be found on the District website. The UPK plan is comprehensive and includes reopening both UPKs, at First Steps and at Woodland Playhouse, with reduced numbers of students, following all NYSDOH and CDC guidelines for health and safety.

57. What about classes that require hands-on activities? How is that supposed to happen with remote learning?

- A. Depending on the class, hands-on activities such as art and labs may still be accomplished by remote learners with materials provided by the school.

58. I'd like to ask about the possibility of having a specific air purifier in the school. I have read about this air purifier that has proven to filter out COVID-19 particles. It was used in hospitals where patients have COVID-19 and has also been used in schools. Here is a link: <https://www.austinpureair.com/section/9/schools>

- A. We will be placing air purifiers in rooms that do not have any air flow (ie. no windows, no uni-ventilators)

59. If parents are uncomfortable with a brand new fast track vaccine, will children be barred from attending fully online learning?

- A. We do not have any guidance related to vaccines at this time and immunization requirements are not at the discretion of a school district.

60. Does 7-12 still start at the same time as prior years?

- A. Yes, our school day is currently remaining the same as in previous years.

61. Honestly does that mean the band will be no more for now? aka musical instruments in Bennett?
- A. This does not mean that “band is no more”, but it will require creativity to adhere to mandatory increased social distancing requirements.
62. Would the schedule of classes during the remote time mean the students would be in front of their computer screen for the same amount of time as in person learning?
- A. Students will be assigned a full schedule of classes that they are expected to attend daily. This will include a combination of live instruction, video, and independent work. Hours of instructional time are not defined as a student’s time spent in front of a teacher or in front of a screen, but time engaged in standards-based learning under the guidance and direction of a teacher.
63. When a MS or HS student becomes positive, which teachers and cohorts will be affected?
- A. Upon receipt of a positive test result, we will be performing contact tracing to identify those affected. It is possible that the entire daily student cohort will be affected. The teachers that provided direct instruction to the student who tested positive would also be impacted.
64. Will the children have to change classrooms?
- A. At the elementary level the teachers will change classrooms. At the secondary level the students will have to change classrooms.
65. Will remote learning this fall look different from remote learning last spring?
- A. Yes, the guidance requires us to provide much more structure during the day, and also requires attendance and grades.
66. Do you know when we'll have a schedule for the online learning option?
- A. Families will be contacted by building principals for scheduling purposes by the last week in August.

67. Will middle/high school students use lockers? No, the secondary students will not utilize the lockers.
68. If parents choose to do 100% remote, who is providing the instruction?
- A. Our faculty will be providing the instruction for our remote students.
69. Is there a scenario where some in person classes would have to shift campuses given the numbers? (ie Phoenicia kids meet at Bennett)
- A. There is currently no plan for students to shift campuses, however, based on the number of families that choose remote learning this could be subject to change.
70. Anything about special education? If kids are sent home and cannot learn remotely, is it just a day off?
- A. If students are sent home and schools are closed due to Covid they will be required to participate in remote learning.
71. If lunch is in the classroom for elementary - are meals still available in the cafeteria and brought to them?
- A. Yes, our cafeteria will still be providing meals for our students.
72. What happens when an in-class student tests positive. Will we, as parents, be notified?
- A. In the event that a student tests positive, contact tracing will be done and all of those individuals that are impacted will be notified and directed to quarantine for 14 days.
73. Would you touch upon UPK please?
- A. Our UPK reopening plan is part of our overall plan, and can be found on the District website. The UPK plan is comprehensive and includes reopening both UPKs, at First Steps and at Woodland Playhouse, with reduced numbers of students, following all NYSDOH and CDC guidelines for health and safety.
74. Do you anticipate there being a surge in enrollment due to families relocating to the

area? Will there be a cutoff for new families to enroll in the in person K-6? Will they be provided the option for in person if they register after the 8/10 date?

- A. We cannot predict whether there will be a surge in enrollment. We have heard that many families have moved to the district, but we believe that many of those families are choosing to remain a part of their originating district and are participating in remote learning from that originating district.

75. Is every student required to utilize a school loaned Chromebook or can they use their own laptop?

- A. In-person students and all Secondary students will be issued a school owned Chromebook/device. We do not require that students use a district device as for remote learning.

76. For the K-6 classrooms, have you determined a max number of kids per classroom?

- A. The maximum number of students per classroom is dependent on the square footage of each classroom. In general it is approximately 9-12 students per classroom.

77. Will the remote classes be taught by the same teachers doing the in person learning? Or will there be teachers that solely teach in person and others for remote?

- A. This will be dependent on the number of students that are participating in remote learning and the number of students that are participating in the in-person learning model.

78. In regards to online learning will there be a required amount of time a child must be in front of the computer or will there be pre-recorded classes. also will there be a way to continue with paper work packets in order to promote handwriting skills.

- A. Students will be assigned a full schedule of classes that they are expected to attend daily. This will include a combination of live instruction, video, and independent work. Hours of instructional time are not defined as a student's time

spent in front of a teacher or in front of a screen, but time engaged in standards-based learning under the guidance and direction of a teacher.

79. Is lunch and meals from the cafeteria being brought to each classroom?

A. Lunch will either be delivered to the classroom, or the students will go to the cafeteria to pick up their lunch and bring it back to the classroom in a supervised and social distanced fashion.

80. Will we have the opportunity to change our learning modality during the school year?

A. Families will be able to modify their choice each quarter.

81. How will the teachers field both online and remote learning-wondering about their work load increasing and possible union issues ensuing?

A. This will depend on how many students are in the remote learning environment and how many are participating in-person.

82. Thank you for creating such a detailed plan. Lunch was discussed for the buildings but will there be a food delivery similar in the Spring for students who are remote learning?

A. We will have meal options available. They may require a family pick up, but we have not worked out all of the details yet.

83. Beside social distancing in buses, what other precautions will be taken with bus transport, e.g. disinfection and ventilation?

A. All buses that are used every day by districts and contract carriers will be cleaned/disinfected once a day. High contact areas will be wiped down after the morning (AM) and afternoon (PM) run depending upon the disinfection schedule. Windows will be opened weather permitting.

84. How can we be sure that parents are honest with the answers for the screening app?

- A. We are a community and we all need to embrace our shared responsibility. We also need to recognize that a person, child or adult, can be symptom free at 7:00AM when they are screened, and develop symptoms an hour later, or two hours later, or six hours later. Screening takes place in a moment in time and we cannot assume that families are not being honest if a child develops symptoms after leaving for school.

85. Could you provide a breakdown of the results of the spring survey? For an idea, 2 hours of at-home work for a 1st grader is different from the same response from a 11th grade student.

- A. We will work on reformulating the results by grade level.

86. What happens to a child who removes a mask? Also, what if a parent doesn't get their child tested frequently enough?

- A. Again, it is a community shared responsibility to teach our students the importance of wearing their mask. It is an expectation for all students that are medically able to, to wear a mask. If a student is unable to or refused to comply with this requirement, it will be addressed with the student and their family.

87. How can the district expect bus drivers to implement a mask rule while driving?

- A. Mask wearing compliance will be driven by education for our students and a common understanding of our community responsibility.

88. What device is the district mandating for taking temperature?

- A. We do not have a specific device that we are mandating families to use for temperature taking.

89. Will the HS classes still have only 3 minutes between classes, and will they still have the same length and pattern? (5 42 minute academic classes in a row may be tough...)

- A. Secondary students have four minutes in between each class period. Keep in mind that there will be 75% fewer students (reduction of 480 students) in the hallway, so navigating the building should not be an issue.