



# **EDISON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **Remote Learning FAQs**

**(Last updated August 24, 2020)**

Will the classes be live for the entire period?

The classes are synchronous, which means the instruction will take place during a scheduled period. The teacher will be presenting direct instruction but may also assign small group work, in which case the students will be working together in “breakout rooms”, and the teacher will be checking in with each group. At the Elementary level, students will also receive direct, live instruction coupled with small group instruction.

How will attendance be taken?

Attendance will be taken during live sessions. In the middle and high schools, attendance will be taken every period. The student’s daily attendance will be posted in Genesis. If your child is unable to participate, you will need to call the office or login to Genesis to report the absence.

My child is going to 4th grade and has selected an instrument for learning. As a first time player of the instrument and as a remote learner. How are we going to do this?

We are excited that students are looking to start an instrument for Fall 2020. The music teachers will conduct remote, synchronous lessons with our new learners to establish appropriate instrument construction (saxophone, clarinet and flute), proper posture as well as proper mouth and hand placement on all instruments. We are also working with one of our vendors to provide beginner instrumental music videos.

Middle and high school clubs-- they have clubs that are conducted after school how are they going to be handled?

During remote instruction they will be conducted remotely to the greatest extent possible. Late September/Early October the schools will announce the clubs and provide instructions and contacts so that the students may sign up for the clubs.

Middle School athletics--

The middle school coaches will be announcing practices and schedules soon.

In general, if my Elementary child is not required to be in the small group, does it mean that if he/she is not required to attend any small group meetings, or has completed his assignments he/she is done for the day early?

It means that he or she may not be interacting with the teacher in the afternoon in a face-to-face fashion. There will be optional learning opportunities via some of our learning platforms. Some of these platforms are adaptive. The adaptive nature of these programs allows them to tailor the teaching to the skills your child is specifically working on based on initial and follow up assessments. Some of our online platforms are Exact Path, RAZ kids, BrainPop. This will be coordinated by your child's teacher.

As a working parent what are the things we need to provide or take care to make sure that the child is doing what they are supposed to do specially for remote learners, as they get distracted quite often with other stuff than if they were present at the school?

We understand remote learning can be a hardship for parents. Some things you can do to limit distractions include: making sure your child has a designated area to work, limiting snacks to certain times, and allowing for brain breaks. It can be difficult to communicate via online meetings for long periods of time. Developmentally, children need breaks and play. Play is a very important part of learning. If you are worried about your child's progression, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher to gain an understanding of how your child is progressing. In addition, we will be holding our regularly scheduled Back to Parent Teacher Conferences beginning in November.

How are tests going to happen? Will we have the first assessment that usually happens in the first week as to where my child is and then they set a goal for each child will this be continued or not?

Benchmark assessments for Elementary remote students will occur online. We will be using an online screening assessment that students will take at home. It is extremely important that these assessments are completed by the students. This is a source of valuable information for the teacher, that reveals the child's strengths and weaknesses, enabling teachers to tailor the instructional process to meet his/her needs.

Will we have the NJSLA testing this school year?

We do not know at this time, and this decision is made by the State Department of Education.

Has the school admin checked with other townships to see if there are some best practices that can be adopted?

We have been researching what other districts across the country are doing and consulting with districts in NJ. In general, our plans are all similar. As administrators and teachers, we regularly collaborate with colleagues from across the county and state.

Will the classes be recorded so that students can go back and refer to it if needed?

These instruction decisions are left to the individual teachers. Depending on the topic and the lesson, some may well be recorded and posted for further review.

Will teachers have detailed plans on remote learning? Will there be live instructional sessions with teachers? How will they be scheduled? Are the teachers trained to perform such duties?

Professional Development has been provided to staff to enhance their professional practice and will continue to take place as the school year progresses. During remote learning, the students' schedules will be "live" with instruction occurring at synchronous intervals throughout the school day. Remote schedules for elementary, middle and high school students are posted on our website.

Will there be new devices provided to the students?

Students in grades 3-8 and 10-12 should have devices already. For all other grades, the school will coordinate a pick up day for devices. Information will be provided by your child's Principal as to the schedule for pick up.

How will performance be measured? How will exams and quizzes be monitored?

Assessments and tests will be as closely aligned to in-person instruction as possible. It is important that student assessments are reflective of their own work and will guide the instructional process.

How will special services such as speech therapy be affected?

For most students this will be done remotely--For some of our special program students, they will be in person.

What is the process if we choose to switch from remote to in person after the 1st marking period? There will be another survey as we progress through the first marking period of the school year.

Will the google hangouts be monitored?

Yes--Google Meets/Hangouts/Zoom, Etc., will be monitored by our teachers. Please report any instances immediately---If your child's teacher or school administrator does not address at once, please contact the superintendent's office at once.

What happens when the teacher is out sick? Will there be a substitute teacher teaching the lesson on remote learning?

There will be work and assignments as there are on a normal school day when a teacher is absent. In addition, we will try to secure substitute teachers in the same manner as we would traditionally.

How will art and other hands-on classes be taught?

These classes will be taught through virtual labs, either teacher-led or videos. In addition, the lessons will focus on technique so that when the students return to the building they will be prepared to begin the hands-on work. Also, “history of” lessons will be taught.

What will the schedule look like when we return in October?

A hybrid schedule has already been created. As we learn from experiences over the next month, we may need to revise those schedules. We will monitor community health as well as follow all guidelines put forth by the DOE and the state.

How will the district support students with wifi connectivity issues?

The Department of Technology will continue to support our students and staff through the educational hybrid model. The Department of Technology’s online helpdesk portal will be the primary source where students, parents, and staff may enter a helpdesk ticket. We also have an email address and phone number for your convenience. Once a helpdesk ticket is entered, your school technician (with coordination of the school’s main office) will contact and schedule an appointment to service your device or help with connectivity issues; this may include a repair, replace, or providing a loaner device while your device is being serviced.

- Technology Helpdesk Ticket Portal: <https://www.edison.k12.nj.us/departments/it-department>
- Helpdesk Email: [help.desk@edison.k12.nj.us](mailto:help.desk@edison.k12.nj.us)
- Helpdesk Phone: 732-452-4998

If a parent is unable to pick up a laptop/device on the assigned days, what should they do?

Parents may contact the building administration to schedule a convenient time to pick up the device.

Will the district provide support for students who display social and emotional learning needs?

Teachers are being trained on how to recognize and address students’ social emotional learning needs. Counselors will still be available for student support. If you have a concern please contact your student’s teacher or building administration so that they may be aware of anything specific that may need to be addressed with your child.

If a parent believes that a child may need special services, what should they do?

A parent should share concerns with the teacher and or counselor. If the concerns cannot be addressed with some mutually agreed upon accommodations, the parent may write to the principal requesting a child study team evaluation.

What are the expectations for my children when their classes begin?

Student norms will be shared with all students and parents. All students will receive a device and a log in. When they open their device, Class Link will automatically open. All programs have been loaded onto Class Link. Teachers will guide them through the opening page until they are comfortable opening all the programs.

Will there be a Virtual Back-to-School Night?

Yes

Will synchronous and asynchronous work be graded the same.

Yes

Will parents receive training on how to use the tools the students are expected to use during remote instruction?

We will be sharing Parent Norms and “how to” videos with parents.

To whom should a parent submit updated medical and vaccination records?

To the school nurse

Will homework be assigned?

All work is “homework” at this time. Teachers will provide direct instruction and then direct students to complete assignments/projects that extend the learning. After the synchronous learning, the students will be asked to examine, explore and/or prepare for the next day’s lesson.

When in-person learning begins, how many students will be in each class?

The number of students in each class will depend on the size of the room. We will follow all guidelines for social distancing.

Will parents be given an option to continue remote learning even after in-person learning starts?

As per the state guidelines, parents may choose remote learning at any time. Even if a parent originally chose in-person learning, the parent may change the choice and request remote learning for their child.

What measures will be taken to protect students' eyes?

It is recommended that while working on a computer, one should take occasional breaks. Breaks have been deliberately included in the schedules. Also, teachers have been trained to provide eye exercises during the period, example--every 20 minutes look into the distance for 20 seconds. In addition, students will be given guidelines for eye care.