Status Update: Return to School Plan

September 22, 2020

District Mission, Vision, and Core Values

- **CHARTIERS VALLEY MISSION STATEMENT**
  - To graduate students who achieve personal success by providing an exceptional academic foundation in a safe, nurturing environment that inspires creativity and innovation while embracing diversity.

- **CHARTIERS VALLEY VISION STATEMENT**
  - To inspire excellence in instruction, learning and innovation to prepare our students to achieve personal success.

- **CORE VALUES**
  - Demonstrate genuine care, concern and fondness for students.
  - Adopt an education-centered focus where students come first, followed closely by the needs of their parents.
  - Develop and nurture healthy, productive and cooperative relationships with colleagues.
  - Communicate regularly and clearly with students, their families and the community.
  - Create and cultivate a district-wide Learning Community where all employees and educators are valued.
  - Encourage innovation and creativity.
  - Embrace community and regional partnerships.

Covid-19 Factors of Consideration

- Staff Health:Attendance/Isolation/Quarantine
- Student Health: Attendance/Isolation/Quarantine
- Management of Contact Tracing and Positivity Rates
- County Transmission Table (Positivity Rate and Number of Cases)
  - https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/default.aspx
  - https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx
  - https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx
- Ability to physical distance to the furthest extent possible
- Student and Staff compliance with PPE and hand washing/sanitization
- Mental health and well being of staff
- Mental health and well being of students
- Online Enrollment

Level of Community Transmission

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Level of Community Transmission Table

Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools in Determining Instructional Models:

Low: Full in-person model or; blended learning model

Moderate: Blended learning model or; full remote learning model

Substantial: full remote learning model

More information on recommended instructional models and levels of community transmission: education.pa.gov/COVID19

The table below is updated weekly on PDE's website (education.pa.gov/COVID19) to reflect data for the week ending the previous Friday.

County	Week ending 9/11/20	Week ending 9/4/2020	Week ending 8/28/20	Week ending 8/21/2020	Week ending 8/14/2020	Week ending 8/7/2020	Week ending 7/31/2020
ADAMS	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
ALLEGHENY	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Qualitative and Quantitative Statistics on District Considerations

- **These percentages include students and teaching staff absent for COVID-related matters such as: isolation, quarantine, travel to hot spots**
  - Teaching Staff Attendance/Isolation/Quarantine Percentage: **3.1 %**
    - Buildings have identified teaching staff absences of 12% before significant impact to the operations of the building.
  - Student Attendance/Isolation/Quarantine: **1.4%**

- **Management of Contact Tracing and Positivity Rates**
  - As stated on September 8, Nurse Opferman is managing District contract tracing and continues to further the District's communications with the Department of Health. As of date, District contract tracing has been manageable.

- **Student and Staff compliance with PPE and hand washing/sanitizing**
  - There are no exceptions for PPE; students and staff are very cooperative and understanding of this expectation.

Qualitative and Quantitative Statistics on Factors

- **Ability to physical distance to the furthest extent possible**
  - Our students and staff have been able to physically distance in classrooms, cafeterias, and buses.
    - Secondary lunch seating the students are closer to utilizing a 3-feet metric.
    - Parkway buses are running at typical capacity with three Parkway buses and 170 students.

- **Mental health and well being of staff and students**
  - The District has continued its partnership with Family Links Mental Health Services for a mental health counselor to be in District for students and staff.
  - All administrative and teaching staff partook in Trauma Based Practices and professional development at the beginning of the school year.

- **Online Enrollment:** 31% of The District's Student's are utilizing the online option (CV Cyber)

District Enrollment as of September 14, 2020

Grade	Total Number of Students in District	# of CV Cyber Students	# of In-Person Students	Average Face-to-Face Class Size (subtracting online students)	% of Online Students
K	279	102	177	20	35.56
1	289	122	167	21	42.21
2	274	117	157	17	42.70
3	273	106	167	21	38.83
4	247	99	148	19	40.08
5	253	80	173	17	31.62
6	223	62	161	21	27.80
7	240	64	176	21	26.67
8	227	59	168	21	25.99
9	240	47	193	21	19.58
10	260	62	198	21	23.85
11	239	51	188	21	21.34
12	242	43	199	21	17.77
Totals	3286	1014			30.86%

Why is online enrollment such an important consideration?

- Online enrollment on August 11 was 656
- Online enrollment modifies our grade level and face-to-face class sizes.
  - The number of online students alters how many students are in classrooms, cafeterias, and potentially on transportation.
- Our teachers are providing instruction for online students and students who are physically present.
  - If additional grade level teachers are needed for increased online enrollment we may need to designate online teachers, which in doing so we would have to modify some student schedules.
  - Teachers still need planning, professional development, and at times, separate instructional time for online students.

Why is online enrollment such an important consideration?

- It is also important to note that with our online numbers at current status, the District can maintain 6 feet of social distance to an easier capacity.

- If The District's 3286 students would return to the District, distancing would be 3-6 feet.

Primary School

Building Space	Population	Physical Distancing in Feet	Exceptions
Cafeteria	6 separate lunches Highest capacity lunch is 107	3-6	- If tables are utilized, students would sit staggered, as originally indicated. - If desks are utilized, 6 feet can be obtained.
Classroom	23 students	6 ft	
Busing	80% capacity	2 students per seat if filled traditionally	

Outlying Spaces – Primary School

- Specials: Students remain in classes and the teachers go to the students with the exception of gym.

- Recess: Students are grouped at recess. Grouping during playtime also assists if the District would need to assist in contact tracing.

- Hallways: Students are physically distanced when they walk through the hallways. Directional markings and lines are indicated on the hallway floors.

- The windows are open when possible.

- Classes are held outside when possible.

Intermediate School

Building Space	Population	Physical Distancing in Feet	Exceptions
Cafeteria	6 separate lunches Highest capacity lunch is 103	3-6	- If tables are utilized, students would sit staggered, as originally indicated. - Additional eating spaces may be utilized
Classroom	18 students	6 ft	
Busing	80% capacity	2 students per seat if filled traditionally	

Outlying Spaces – Intermediate School

- Specials: Students remain in classes and the teachers go to the students, with the exception of gym.

- Recess: Students are grouped at recess. Grouping during playtime also assists if the District would need to assist in contact tracing.

- Hallways: students are physically distanced when they walk through the hallways. Directional markings and lines are indicated on the hallway floors.

- The windows will be open when possible.

- Classes will be held outside when possible.

Middle School

Building Space	Population	Physical Distancing in Feet	Exceptions
Cafeteria	6 separate lunches Highest capacity lunch is 120	3-6	• If tables are utilized, students would sit staggered, as originally indicated. • If desks are utilized, 6 feet can be obtained.
Classroom	23 students(with existing cyber students)	6 ft	
Busing	80% capacity	2 students per seat if filled traditionally	

Outlying Spaces – Middle School

- Middle School and High School teachers in classes such as music, art, and world languages instruct both middle and high school students.

- Lockers are not in use.

- Classes are held outside spaces when possible.

- Hallways: Middle School students are assigned numbers 1-5 and are dismissed for hallway transitions using this staggered system.
  - This system is also utilized when calling students to the cafeteria service lines during lunch.

High School

Building Space	Average per class or space	Physical Distancing in Feet	Exceptions
Cafeteria	3 separate lunches Highest capacity lunch is 316	3-6	- If tables are utilized, students would sit staggered, as originally indicated. - If desks are utilized, 6 feet can be obtained.
Classroom	21 students per class (with existing cyber students)	6 ft	Higher class sizes will utilize commons spaces for further distancing.
Busing	80% capacity	2 students per seat if filled traditionally	

Outlying Spaces – High School

- The commons areas can be utilized for classes over the 21-student threshold.

- Classes are held outside when possible.

- Different exits can be utilized to reduce traffic flow.

- Lockers are not in use.

- Upper gyms, "skatepark," cafeteria lobby, and college corner can be utilized for extra distance during lunch when needed.

- Middle School and High School teachers in classes such as music, art, and world languages instruct both middle and high school students.

Recommendation of Educational Pathways as of September 22, 2020

- We know that some students benefit from more time in person with their teachers.

- We know that our online enrollment puts the District in a position where we can offer the option of 2 additional in-person days while maintaining distancing due to lower than typical class sizes.

Educational Pathway Options	Learning Style / Schedule
CV Cyber Academy	Fully Online
Hybrid	2 days in person/3 days remote (online)
Hybrid +2	**4 days in person/1 day remote (online)**

Recommendation as of September 22, 2020

- **The District will provide students and families with the option to benefit from two additional (+2) face-face-face instructional days.**

  - This approach enables the District to provide a cautious and contemplative return to more face-to-face instruction.

  - Students have the option to attend on the two days when they would have been remote. **Ex: An A-K student who attends on Mondays and Tuesdays will now have the option to also attend on Wednesdays and Thursdays.**

  - We will be able to observe the buildings at a higher student capacity and modify our procedures as needed as we move through this phase of reopening.

  - Students return to a 4-day week, with Fridays remaining as an online instructional day.

  - Due to our high percentages of online learners, and the potential absenteeism, it is essential to maintain our online learning management platforms (Google Classroom and Schoology)

  - The 4-day face-to-face week also provides for continued time for teachers to work with and plan for online instruction and continue their professional development.

"We have to go slow to go fast…"

The Primary School will be the first building to provide the +2 option. This option will begin on October 5th.

- The Primary School has students whose learning is in its infancy. These students serve to lose the most from not being in front of their content expert teachers.

- The Primary School has the highest online enrollment in the District, as high as 43% in some grades. This high cyber enrollment enables the face-to-face class size to be lower than traditionally.

Recommendation

- **The Intermediate School will be the next building to shift to the +2 option. This option will begin on October 12th.**
  - The rationale behind the Intermediate School shifting second is due to the educational need of these young students.
  - The Intermediate School has some solely dedicated online teachers, but the current high online enrollment begs for a dedicated online teaching staff to the furthest extent possible and as long as the high online enrollment indicates.
    - The process of dedicating online teachers will cause some schedule changes as a handful of teachers move to an online format. This may cause an initial disruption to the student and staff schedules, however, the consistency moving forward will be beneficial.
  - The Intermediate School 1-1 devices are to arrive in October.
    - The District was provided a window of September to October by the manufacturer. If the devices have not arrived by the +2 date of October 12th, the District will modify the Intermediate +2 date.

Recommendation

- **The Middle School and High School will be the final buildings to receive the +2 option.**
  - Some Middle School and the High School world language, music, math, and speech teachers instruct both Middle School and High School Students.
  - The secondary students may serve in a home capacity to tend to younger siblings.
  - The educational urgency may be better served by first phasing in the lower grade levels, where the students are less self-sufficient in an instructional capacity.

Next Steps

- The District request that Families/Students confirm their selected Educational Pathway via survey.
- The survey will be open from September 22 through September 27.
  - **If a student's pathway is not confirmed by September 28 it will be assumed they are staying in their current option.**
- The District will continue to monitor and evaluate our educational pathways, effectiveness of curriculum delivery, and safety and well being of our students and staff.
- The District asks that future changes (after September 28) in student's Educational Pathway are requested at the end the marking period.

Tentative Timeline Below

- **Survey confirming Educational Pathways distributed September 22, closing September 27th at midnight.**
- **October 5th - Primary School students who choose the +2 option will begin attending face-to-face Monday through Thursday. Friday will be an remote/online instructional day.**
- **October 12th - Intermediate School students who choose the +2 option will begin attending face-to-face Monday through Thursday. Friday will be an remote/online instructional day.**
  - If backordered student devices are not delivered by this date, the Intermediate School will be delayed in their 4-day return until they are delivered.
- **October 19th - Middle School students may select their +2 option attending face to face Monday through Thursday. Friday will be an online instructional day.**
- **October 19th - High School students may select their +2 option attending face to face Monday through Thursday. Friday will be an online instructional day.**

Considering Factors and Questions

- What does allowing students to attend in person on the other two days each week mean for the health of our students and staff?

  - Through distancing, compliance with PPE, use of hand washing/sanitization, and keeping with our cleaning measures, the District feels we can safely provide this option to students who would like to benefit from two additional days of face to face instruction.

  - An important factor to consider is the educational, social emotional, and mental health benefit for some students of attending in person on two additional days per week.

- With cold and flu season upon us, will providing two other days further complicate the matter?

  - Hopefully not, but that is the importance of keeping to our Google Classroom and Schoology learning management systems. If students need to *not* be face-to-face for a period of time they can still attend remotely.

- Key tenet: We must put children first.

Chartiers Valley Remains Committed to...

- Creating a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff.
- Providing choice for families.
- Offering high-quality CVSD curriculum, instruction, and assessment (in school or remote) with the opportunity to transition seamlessly.
- Attending to all students' social and emotional well-being.

References

- American Academy of Pediatrics: https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/

- Center for Disease Control: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html

- Pennsylvania Department of Education: https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/default.aspx