



DIERINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 343

Frequently Asked Questions from the Board of Directors September 28, 2020 Board Meeting regarding our Phase 3 Reopening Hybrid Plan:

Q. If students and teachers are wearing masks, can they be closer than 6 feet?

A. Even with a mask, everyone should stay 6 ft apart as much as possible.

Q. Where do I access the State Department of Health Decision Making Tree referenced in the meeting?

A. This is a document provided by the state that guides us on our decision making.

Please click the link for more information: <https://www.doh.wa.gov>

Q. Why is the school district choosing to reopen when we are approaching the flu season which will most likely cause COVID numbers to spike?

A. We're following the guidance from the state. The data shows the best thing for our younger learners is to be in person for learning. Also, the feedback from our surveys has shown the far majority of the community wants their children back in school.

Q. Why not try a full day schedule twice a week (A/B Hybrid) instead of the AM/PM Hybrid?

A. The AM/PM Hybrid provides more consistent contact with students and teachers, easier to keep cohorts separate, will minimize movement during the day, and students will be provided meals to take home in lieu of a lunch break minimizing the biggest risk of transmission. Ultimately, this is what was decided to be best for the kids.

Q. Many families have students in more than one school, can you make sure the siblings have the same am/pm schedule?

A. Yes, students will be grouped by family and attend school at the same time across all 3 schools.

Q. May I request my students not go at the same time?

A. That may be an option, we would need to have a further conversation.

Q. May I request an AM vs PM schedule for my children?

A. Currently we don't have enough data to be able to answer that question yet. It's dependent on the results of the survey and what those numbers tell us.

Q. Will we go back to remote learning if the Pierce County COVID rate goes higher than 75 per 100,000?

A. If there is a spike in the numbers we will most likely go back to a fully remote model.

Q. How can you be sure proper sanitation is done between the AM/PM groups and on the busses?

A. In preparing the potential schedule, every afternoon there is a 1½ - 2 hour block of time set aside for cleaning. We have also timed how long it takes to clean and sanitize a bus, so the schedule will allow for this crucial step in the process as well.

Q. Is the survey just a survey or a commitment to the choice made?

A. We ask the elementary school families to commit to the end of the 2nd trimester (March 23rd) and middle school families commit to the end of the first semester (February 1st). We need to be able to adjust quickly if we are required to go back to fully remote learning.

Q. If 1/3 of North Tapps students chose to stay with full time remote learning, will the school have enough teachers to accommodate both in class students and remote learners?

A. Yes, we have enough teachers to teach the students we have. It would be a matter of adjusting to fulfill the need.

Q. When kids are in school, will teachers be moving to different classes?

A. We haven't made an official decision about this yet.

Q. How will school supplies work in a hybrid model? Supplies travel with the students?

A. Students will carry their devices with them to and from school. We don't have specifics regarding school supplies, other than students will not be sharing supplies.

Q. Are students able to checkout library books? Is it safe?

A. Yes, students are able to check out library books through each of our schools. DHES and LTES books can get checked out via a Google form on the school's website, NT books can get checked out on the school's website via Destiny. Is it safe to check out books? The Department of Health states "Children books and other paper based

materials are not high risks for spreading the virus.” Handwashing and safety protocols are required and will be followed when sharing paper materials.

Q. How will the district implement Title/LAP into a ½ day schedule?

A. We will provide those services while the students are in the buildings. Some students that need additional services may stay in the building longer. It will be reviewed individually based on fulfilling the needs of the student.

Q. How will the schedule work at North Tapps? What about electives?

A. We don't have all the data yet, but we know the online schedule will be different and electives will be limited.

Q. Will drinking fountains be available for students?

A. Drinking fountains will not be available. Paper cups will be provided in classrooms with drinking fountains for those students who don't have a water bottle.