

# Betsy Ross School

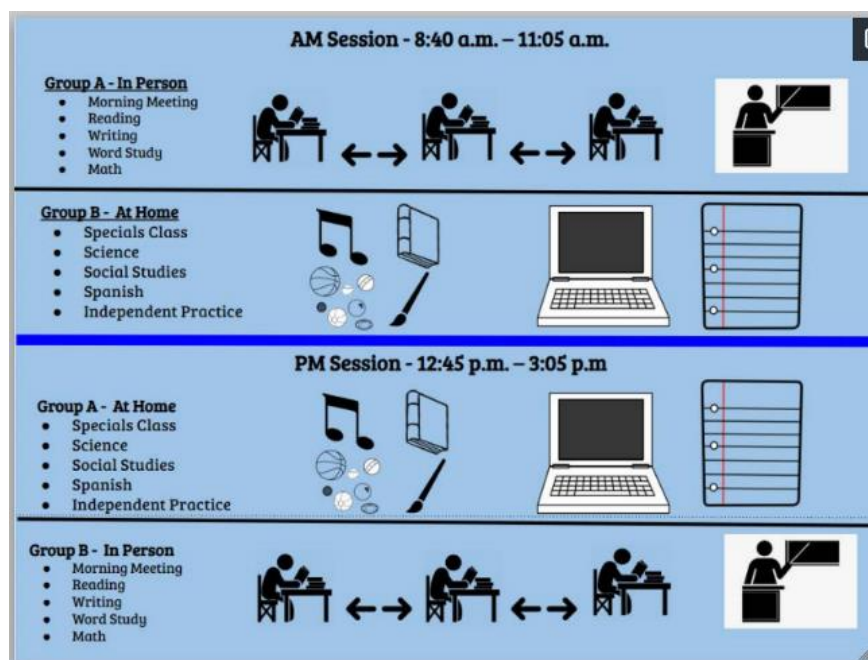
## Reopening Guide for Parents

We are here, we are ready to start next week, and we are ready to welcome your children into the school and on our screens. Although this will be a very different year for us, we hope that the best parts of being at Betsy Ross will shine through whether you are on a screen or in our rooms. Thank you to all of you for being supportive of us as we plan and prepare for an exciting opening on Tuesday September, 8. Our teachers have been in, setting up their rooms, participating in training and working together to ensure that your children have a great experience. There will be some bumps along the way and I just ask that we all take time to be forgiving of each other and continue to stay supportive of each other. The staff at Betsy Ross and I will always do our best for you and your children, and we look forward to a great year.

This document has all of the information that you have been given through different e-blasts, town halls, board meetings, and letters, but I wanted you to have this for you to review so that we are all on the same page and have a successful start.

### Hybrid Model:

Students will come into school either in the AM or the PM daily. During the in-school session students will be taught their core classes, Reading, Writing, Math, and Word Study. While at home during the opposite AM/PM session, students will have a virtual special, science/social studies, and independent practice time. In school core classes run from 8:40-11:05 for the AM session and 12:45-3:10 for the PM session.



### Virtual Model:

Students in the all remote model will be at home and assigned to a virtual core teacher for either the AM or PM session. During this session, students will be taught their core classes, Reading, Writing, Math, and Word Study. Virtual core classes will be a combination of live instruction, independent work time and live small group instruction. Independent practice of core skills will be assigned by the remote teacher. During the opposite AM/PM session, students at home will join their Betsy Ross homeroom for a virtual special and Science/Social Studies. Remote core classes run from 8:40-11:05 for the AM session and 12:45-3:10 for the PM session.



The virtual child will have a virtual Mahwah teacher and a Betsy Ross homeroom teacher. Students will receive information from their virtual teacher about their core instruction and their homeroom teacher about specials, social studies and science, and general happenings in the classroom and at Betsy Ross.

The school will contact you to pick up your child's

school supply box (if you ordered one with the HSO). The school will also ask you to come pick up your child's workbooks for math, word study and an at home learning bag. This bag will be filled with items that your child will need for core instruction at home. Please help your child keep their remote learning materials in one place so they always know where they are, and can get them when the teacher requests them.

### **Breakdown of schedule:**

A.M. Session: 8:40 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.

P.M. Session: 12:45 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.

*Each core session consists of:*

10 minutes: Morning Meeting

60 Minutes: Reading/Writing Workshop

30 Minutes: Word Study

45 Minutes: Math

*Each alternate session consists of:*

40 minutes: Live Specials (Music, Art, Physical Education, Library/Media, and Spanish)

40 minutes: Science and Social Studies (Slides, activities, and long-term projects)

30 minutes: Independent Practice (Extension from core work, RAZ Kids, Math Fact Monster, IXL)

**Every other Wednesday, beginning on September 16, 2020, will be a virtual learning day for ALL students. On this day, staff will come into the building to participate in PD, meetings and to hold small group virtual instruction groups. Students will also be provided with asynchronous assignments. On these Wednesdays, our cleaning staff will also be performing a deep cleaning of the building.**

### Curriculum and Instruction:

In both the hybrid and remote learning environments students will be taught using the districts approved programs for reading, writing, math, and word study. All students will be assessed either in school or virtually, in order to understand where the student is and how we can better teach the group and the individual child.

Science and Social Studies lessons and activities will be developed by the grade level team at Betsy Ross and the homeroom teacher will send out the assignments to you. Students will do this work independently (asynchronous).

Each day students will have a virtual special to join. Parents will be provided the schedule of specials for the week from their homeroom teacher. Information with the Zoom links will be sent to families so that you have easy access to all specials. We just ask that families help their child log in at the correct time so they do not miss their special.

### Grading and Reporting:

Students will be graded using our benchmark report cards using a trimester schedule for grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> and semester schedule for kindergarten. All assessments will continue in the remote setting and student work will be assessed in both hybrid and remote.

### Social/Emotional Learning:

Our SEL Task Force Committee spoke about the importance of teacher and student wellness. Our district has engaged Mindful Practices, a company that we have used for the past 3 years to train over 200 of our employees to provide dual support for us: Live(virtual) coaching, as well as SEL On Demand. In planning our return, it is very important to our district that we focus on our students' well being during the start of school. We need to help students understand how to learn, communicate, share, and show emotion in this new learning environment. For our district, we are committed to taking the first few weeks to develop routines, make connections, and talk with our students.

### Material for instruction:

Students will be provided individual manipulatives when possible and individual learning bags. When materials do need to be shared, items will be disinfected in between use. All remote learning students will be sent home with "at home learning bags" including such items as math manipulatives, white boards, white board markers, counters, hundreds charts, and all other personal items purchased.

Students will continue to "shop" for classroom library books in their classrooms. Teachers should encourage students to select an "on deck" book to read whenever they book shop. This will enable them to always have at least two books ready to go. They will keep those books for at least one week and return finished books on Fridays before leaving for the day. There is a labeled bin the books can sit in over the next week without being touched and then recirculated into the classroom library on the following Monday morning. This book quarantine is at least 5 days and goes beyond the suggested quarantine.

In kindergarten we will play using individual choice time activities and the materials will be cleaned before the next use. Students can continue to use cubbies and student backpacks, but teachers will monitor movement around the room to ensure only one student is at the cubbies at a time.

#### **Morning Meeting and Circle time:**

Morning Meetings or "rug time" can occur with students standing around the classroom while socially distanced or students can spread out while sitting around the meeting area. Greetings will be no-contact, and passed items will not be allowed.

#### **Traffic Patterns in the Classroom:**

Teachers will establish protocols for maneuvering about the classroom (getting a drink, sharpening pencils, looking for books, throwing things away, etc.). Teachers will work with students to develop these plans to give them some control over their environment.

#### **Outside learning and play:**

Our playground is closed during school hours. Teachers will take the students outside to learn and use our field space and outdoor classroom space. Please have each child bring in their own beach towel so they can space apart 6ft on the field as they work.

#### **Support Services:**

Reading and Math support teachers will provide service virtually on the opposite time of the core subjects. If your child is receiving support in reading or math, the support teacher will work with your child in a small virtual group to continue service and support their learning.

ESL classes will continue through virtual instruction during the opposite time of the core subjects. If your child is receiving ESL services, the ESL teacher will reach out to you to talk with you about the time in which ESL classes will meet.

If your child has an IEP, services will be provided during the hybrid or remote schedules. Therapy services will also continue regardless of the model you choose for your child. The therapist will be in contact with you to set up your child's therapy schedule. If you have specific questions about your child's plan, please contact their case manager. All IEP meetings will be held virtually.

### **Technology Needs:**

The district sent out a technology survey asking parents if they needed computers for remote learning. The district is in the process of filling those requests and contacting families to schedule pick up times. While your child is using our technology, if you have any questions please write an email to: [mahwahtech@mahwah.k12.nj.us](mailto:mahwahtech@mahwah.k12.nj.us)

### **Library/Books:**

This year library class will be virtual, however, we still want our students to have access to our library and the wonderful books that we have. Our library media specialists will be sending out directions on how students and families can pick out library books online. Students can place an "order" and we will fill that order and bring the books to the classroom. If your child is remote, the process would be the same, you would fill out an order online, and we will call you to pick up when we fill the order. Upon book return, all of our books will be held in a 5 day quarantine. After the 5 day quarantine period the books will be put back into circulation for another student to enjoy.

### **Snack and Drinks:**

There will be no snack in school. If a child has a health related issue and needs food during the day, they will need to come to the nurses office to eat.

Students will be able to have their own water bottle and have access to the water filling stations to fill their bottles, if needed. The water bottle must have a straw or a flip top. No open top containers will be permitted as this would require the removal of the mask to drink.

### **Lunch and Recess:**

Given the am/pm session structure, lunch and recess will not take place in the school setting. In addition, students will not have recess at this time.

Although the cafeteria is closed for students, parents can pre-order lunch online and the pre-packed lunch will be delivered to the child in your classroom. They will bring this lunch home with them or to the YMCA. Grab-and-Go lunches will also be provided for students on free/reduced lunch.

### **Student and Staff Safety:**

Parents will be required to complete an attestation form each day confirming that their child is fever free and is not presenting any symptoms of COVID-19. You will do this by signing into the parent portal. Students who come to school without an attestation form filled out will be brought to the nurses office for a temperature check. The nurse will also call home for you to fill out the form. All students before entering the classroom are required to have this form filled out stating they are symptom free. **If your child does not feel well please use caution and stay home.**

A designated quarantine area has been established for students or adults who present symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day. The parent or guardian of the student will be contacted and required to pick up their child immediately.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school district will work in conjunction with the Mahwah Health Department to determine the necessary steps to maintain community health and safety. Contact tracing and notification to the school community will be aligned with guidance from the Mahwah Health Department and CDC. Responses to maintain community health and safety may include: increased monitoring of symptoms, self-quarantine, and in significant cases of community spread temporary closure of schools.

### **Face Coverings:**

All adults and children must wear face masks at all times. Bandanas and Gaiters are not permitted. If your child comes to school with a bandana or gaiter they will be given a face mask.

### **Routines for washing hands:**

Upon entrance to the classroom both for the a.m. session and the p.m. session, students will be asked to wash their hands. Students will also wash their hands after going to the bathroom, blowing their noses, coughing/sneezing. We will teach children routines to keep them safe.

**Bathroom Breaks:** A paraprofessional will be stationed in the hallway to maintain entrance into the bathrooms. One student will enter the bathrooms at a time and they will be reminded to wash their hands.

Kindergarten classrooms each have their own bathrooms, so they will be able to utilize the bathroom in the room with the teacher monitoring one at a time use.

**Mask Breaks:** There are two areas designated outside where students and classes can take a mask break. In the mask break areas, there are dots indicating 6ft distance so students are safe to pull down their mask outside while standing on the dot.

### **Transportation:**

Students were split into AM or PM sessions based on bus routes. The bus routes only run one time per day either in the AM or PM session. Parents can see their child's bus information on the parent portal.

Masks will be required at all times on the school bus.

There will be paraprofessionals on each bus for a few weeks to ensure students are wearing masks and adhering to social distancing when possible. All paraprofessionals who are riding the buses will have a baggie that will include additional masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. Students will be given a pump of hand sanitizer as they enter the bus and exit the bus.

**Student Arrival:**

AM Student drop off: 8:25 a.m.

PM Student drop off: 12:30 p.m.

Students can be dropped off by car, walker, and bus. If you are driving your child to school, have them sit on the passenger side of the car so it is easier for them to exit. Please line your cars up on Malcolm Road starting by the top of the stairs. Greeters will come to your car door to open it and let your child out of the car. Please do not get out of your car. Make sure that your child has their mask on as they leave your car. As the students go down the stairs to the crosswalk, our crosswalk paraprofessional will help them cross the parking lot, give them a pump of hand sanitizer and direct them to the next staff member who will welcome them into the building.

Students arriving by bus will be given hand sanitizer while exiting the bus and be directed to the correct grade level doors.

If you are walking to school, you can drop your child off at the grade level door. Please do not stand around the entrance as this will impede our arrival process. Please also maintain 6ft distance to the public and other children as you leave the property.

K and 1 students will enter the building through the glass doors by the all-purpose room. 2 and 3 will enter through the doors by the 2nd and 3rd grade hallway. At each entrance a staff member will be there to direct the students in the direction of their homeroom. No parents are allowed in the building.

Students will enter the building and walk to their homeroom and stand on a dot in the hallway. These dots are spaced 6ft apart from each other. There will be staff members in all of the hallways monitoring the students before they enter the classrooms. Staff members will ensure that all students enter with face masks on and maintain social distance. As students enter the classroom, hands must be washed or hand sanitizer must be used.

Students who arrive late, will enter through the main office doors and a parent needs to escort them to the door.

**Student Dismissal:**

AM Student pick up: 11:05 a.m.

PM Student pick up: 3:10 p.m.

There are two ways students will dismiss: a car rider line or the bus. Please make sure that you put your child's dismissal process in Pick-Up Patrol prior to the first day of school. Prior to dismissal, each student will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before exiting the classroom. Students will go to a blue dot in the hallway and wait there. There will be staff members in the hallway making sure that students continue to wear masks and stay socially distant.

**If you will pick your child up by car please make sure to have the student's name, grade, and teacher identified on the front car windshield to assist with pick-up.** This will make the process go more smoothly and quickly for everyone. Please line your car up on Malcolm Road starting at the stairs. The greeter will read your child's name and radio into the school to have your child come to the dismissal doors. There will be two staff members at the top of the stairs putting children in cars. Please be patient with this process as it is new for all of us.

Students being dismissed via bus will be called by bus color to the hallway spots outside of the all-purpose room. Students will proceed to exit through the glass doors to the bus greeter to get on their bus. Attendance will be taken as students get on the bus.

### **Visitors:**

For the health and safety of our school community visitation to the school building will be limited during facilitation of our hybrid model.

No visitors will be permitted into the building without an appointment and appointments are required in advance. If you have an appointment, visitors must wear masks at all times.

No HSO volunteers will be in the building at this time and all HSO Meetings will be conducted remotely via Zoom.

A virtual Back-To-School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

If materials need to be dropped off at school for a student, parents/guardians will be directed to place the item in the bin located in the front office security vestibule.

### **Signage:**

Signage describing signs of illness have been posted at/near the entrance to the building, main office, nurse's office, and at other points in the school. There are 6ft distance reminders and one way arrows on the floors of the building. There are also signs in all bathrooms as reminders for washing protocols. We also have square dots on the floor throughout the building indicating a 6ft distance so students know where to stand.

**Childcare:**

Childcare is being offered on premises by the Wyckoff YMCA in the all-purpose room. Please contact the YMCA to ask questions about their program.