SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING PLAN

2020-2021

PUBLISHED JULY 31, 2020

www.syossetschools.org/reopening

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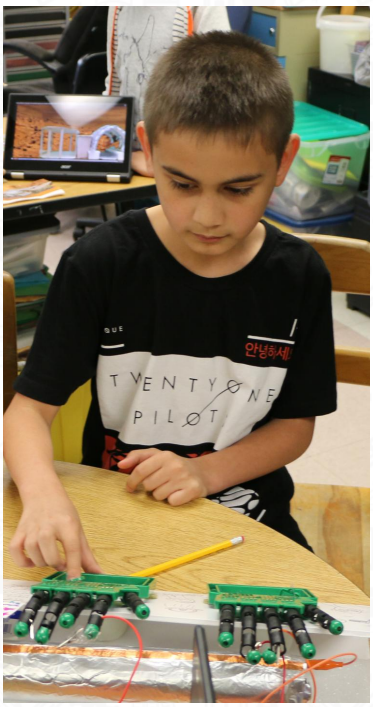

SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OVERVIEW

In response to the global pandemic, which has impacted our learning community in ways we could have never imagined and is expected to continue for an extended time period, the Syosset Central School District has developed comprehensive plans for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 academic school year with the health and safety of our learning community at the forefront of our planning. As we look ahead to a new way of operating that provides the safest learning environment possible, we are committed to delivering a high-quality instructional program (whether in-person or remote), nurturing the social-emotional and mental wellness of our students, and minimizing risk that cannot be eliminated.

This School Reopening Plan will define clear plans and protocols for the reopening of our schools and aligns with the regulations and guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

On July 13, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced data-driven guidance for reopening schools in New York State. Schools in a region are permitted to reopen if that region is in Phase IV of reopening and if its daily infection rate remains below 5 percent, or lower, using a 14-day average since unPAUSE was lifted. Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a 7-day average, after August 1st.

OVERVIEW

The NYSDOH guidance to schools states: "To ensure equity in education, (school authorities) should prioritize efforts to return all students to in-person instruction at this time" (p.2). In coordination with that directive, the State Education Department is requiring all school districts to develop 3 plans:

A plan for **In-Person** reopening, to maximize the number of students who return to the school buildings, with strict social distancing and cleaning/disinfecting protocols in place. Syosset's plan accommodates:

- All elementary students every day in smaller classes with appropriate social distancing;
- All middle school students every day, with a modified class schedule;
- High school students on a hybrid schedule with half of each class learning in school, and the other half learning from home on alternating days (as there is insufficient space to house all students with appropriate social distancing).

A plan for **Virtual** reopening, should the Governor's Office issue a directive requiring the closure of school buildings. All students learn from home. Syosset's plan incorporates advancements to the Learning from Home model implemented this spring including:

- Feedback from parents and faculty.
- Virtual curriculum work by 200 teachers conducted in the summer of 2020.Investments in online resources so teachers can focus more of their attention on instruction and students.
- Portals for parents to streamline assignments and schedules for multiple classes and teachers.A plan for Hybrid reopening, with a reduced number of students in the buildings at a given time. Syosset's plan would incorporate elements of the Virtual and In-Person plans on an alternating day basis.

A plan for **Hybrid** reopening, with a reduced number of students in the buildings at a given time. Syosset's plan would incorporate elements of the Virtual and In-Person plans on an alternating day basis.

The top priority in all decisions made by Syosset Central School District is the health, safety and well-being of our students, employees and community. This document outlines the extensive health and safety protocols that will be in place when schools reopen. Though daily routines for students will be quite different from years past, please know that we will continue to focus on the needs and development of all our children. Our teachers and staff will continue to provide exceptional academic opportunities while supporting the social, emotional, and physical needs of our students.

OVERVIEW

The situation surrounding the global pandemic is fluid. Our plans will continue to evolve as necessary to react to trends of the virus and directives and guidance from the Governor and New York State Education Department. It is possible that we may need to alternate between an in-person and remote learning model throughout the year.

Please visit the Reopening section of our website at www.syossetschools.org/reopening for updates.

The District extends its sincere gratitude to the 97 members of the Reopening and Recovery Task Force, who worked tirelessly to develop the plans and protocols outlined in this document that safeguard the health and safety of our learning community.

We are grateful for our students, parents, faculty, and staff for engaging so thoughtfully in our planning process. We continue to be inspired by the resilience, strength and compassion of the Syosset community, and firmly believe that together, we will successfully navigate our way through this new environment.

Syosset Central School District Board of Education & Administration

#syostrong

PATH TO REOPENING

Guiding Principles

All plans for the reopening of schools were focused on the health and safety of our learning community first and foremost, while addressing the academic, social-emotional and physical needs of our student body.

Health and Safety

- Minimize any risk that can't be eliminated
- Establish extensive protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus

Teaching and Learning

- Maximize students' intellectual development
- Develop a curriculum can keep pace whether live or virtual, and plan for a seamless transition between the two environments
- Address the social-emotional health and mental well-being of our student body
- Emphasize equity, access, and support for all students

Timeline

June-July	Eight Reopening Task Force Meetings
July 13	NYS Department of Health Guidance given; NYS DOH Checklist Provided
July 16	NYS Education Department Guidance given; Syosset staff survey opened
July 17	NYS Education Department Q&A Released; Syosset parent survey opened
July 23	Board of Education Workshop: Reopening Plans and Survey Results
July 24	Thought Exchange community feedback launched
July 29	Special Board of Education Meeting
July 31	Reopening Plans filed with NYS

August 1-7 Governor Cuomo's announcement regarding schools reopening (anticipated)

PATH TO REOPENING

Reopening and Recovery Task Force

A task force was organized to evaluate and establish comprehensive plans for reopening of schools in the fall that meet or exceed NYS requirements and safeguard the health of our learning community. The voices of all members of our Reopening and Recovery Task Force were a critical part of developing this reopening plan.

Membership:

- 97 teachers, nurses, administrators, PTA leadership, architects and safety consultants

Meetings:

- Eight Task Force meetings held during June and July, with additional meetings scheduled for August.
- Building-level meetings held with students and District administrators
- Parent focus group convened by the Syosset Council of PTAs
- Meetings with regional authorities and agencies

Task Force Sub-Committees:

- Health and Safety
- Facilities and Operations
- Teaching and Learning
- Athletics, Activities and Ensembles
- Special Education

2020 Summer Curriculum Work to Enhance Virtual Learning

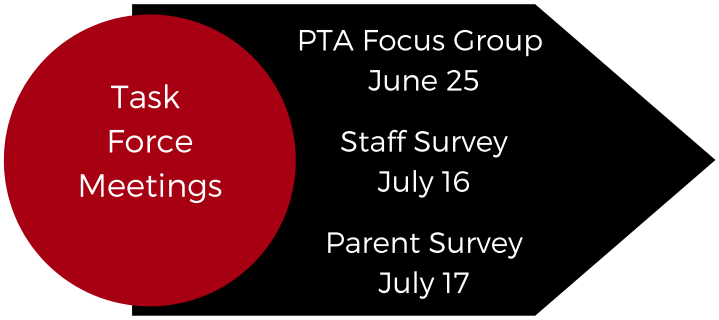
To advance the Virtual Learning model and build on the foundation established in the spring, teachers engaged in curriculum development over the summer

- 85 Elementary Teachers writing virtual grade level lessons for Project Based Learning, Reading and Writing, Science, and Virtual tools for small group instruction.
- 115 Secondary Teachers writing virtual curriculum for Middle School and High School Advisory, Secondary Social Studies, Math, Micro Economics, Technology, and Science.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

A strong relationship with our community and open lines of communication are vital to a successful educational environment for students and employees. The Syosset Board of Education and administration are committed to frequent, transparent communication with our community.

Timeline of community engagements on reopening plans:

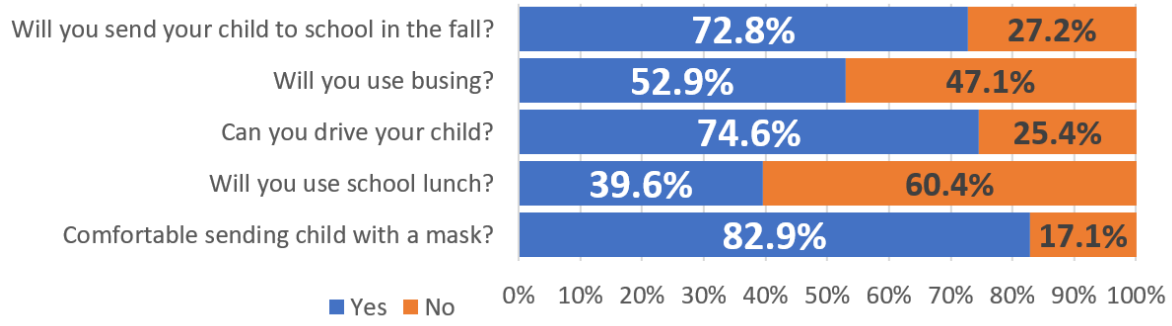


STAKEHOLDER INPUT

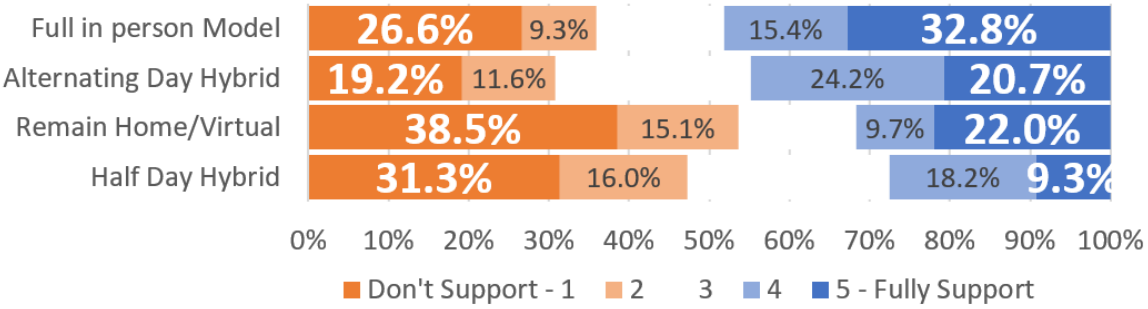
Parent Survey

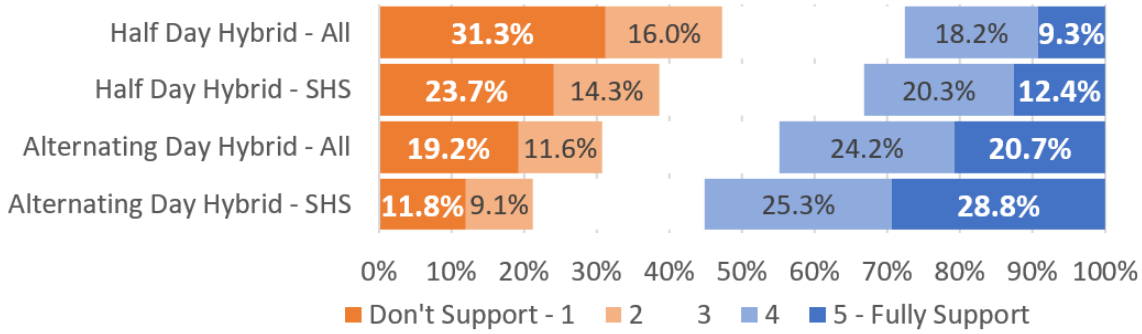
From July 17-22, Syosset CSD administered a survey to gauge parents' comfort level regarding the reopening of our school buildings. The survey data represents 3,945 respondents, and provided meaningful information to the Reopening and Recovery Task Force. Selected data is shown below. Full survey results will be posted to the District Website.

Comfort Level With Reopening of School Buildings:



Instruction Model Preferences

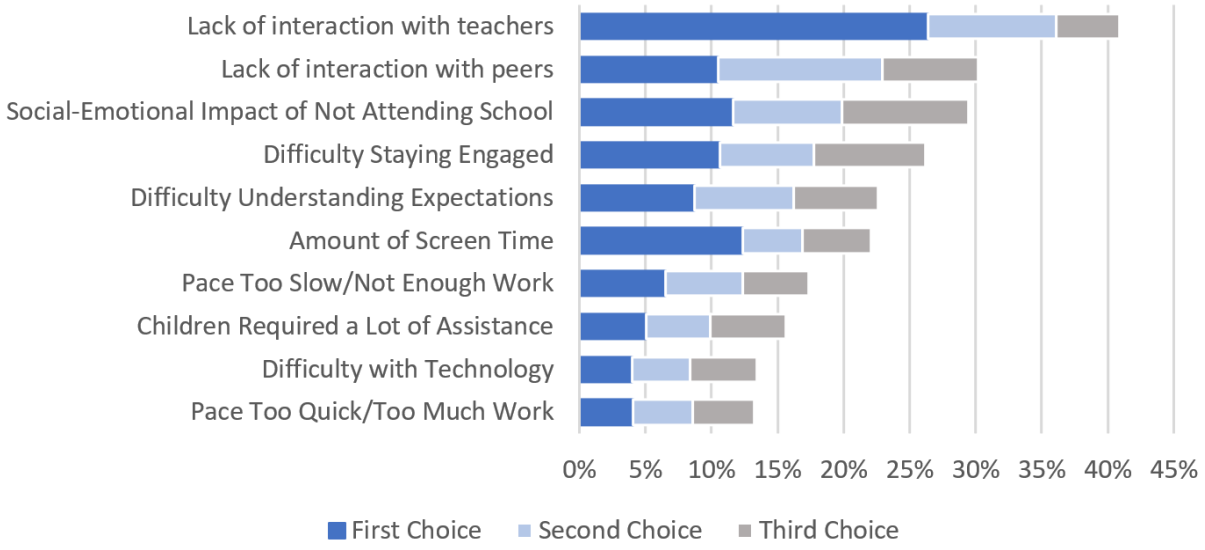




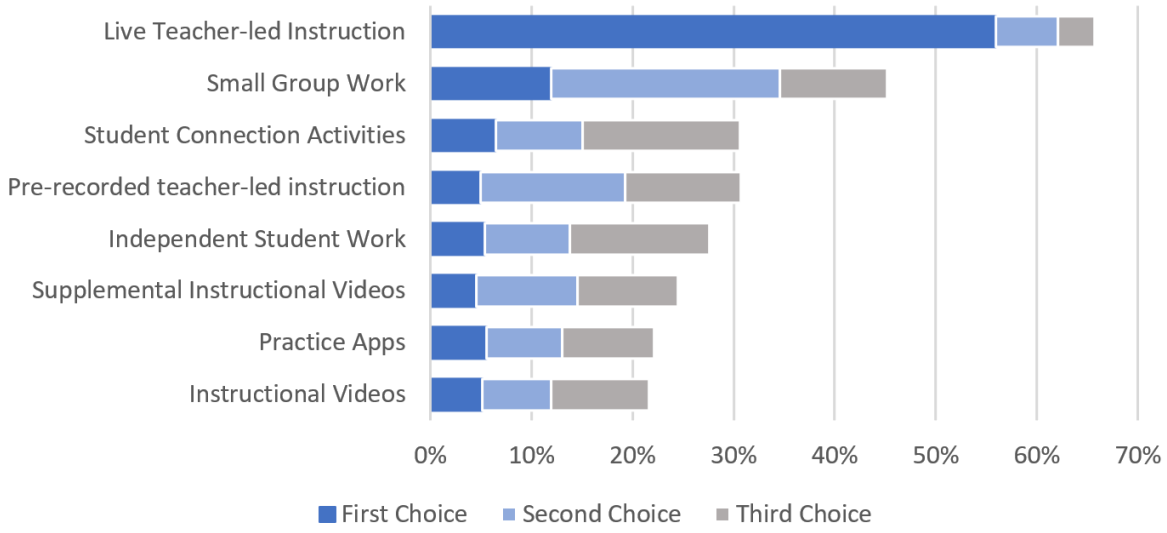
STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Parent Survey (continued)

Concerns With Learning Remotely:



Most Successful Remote Learning Strategies:

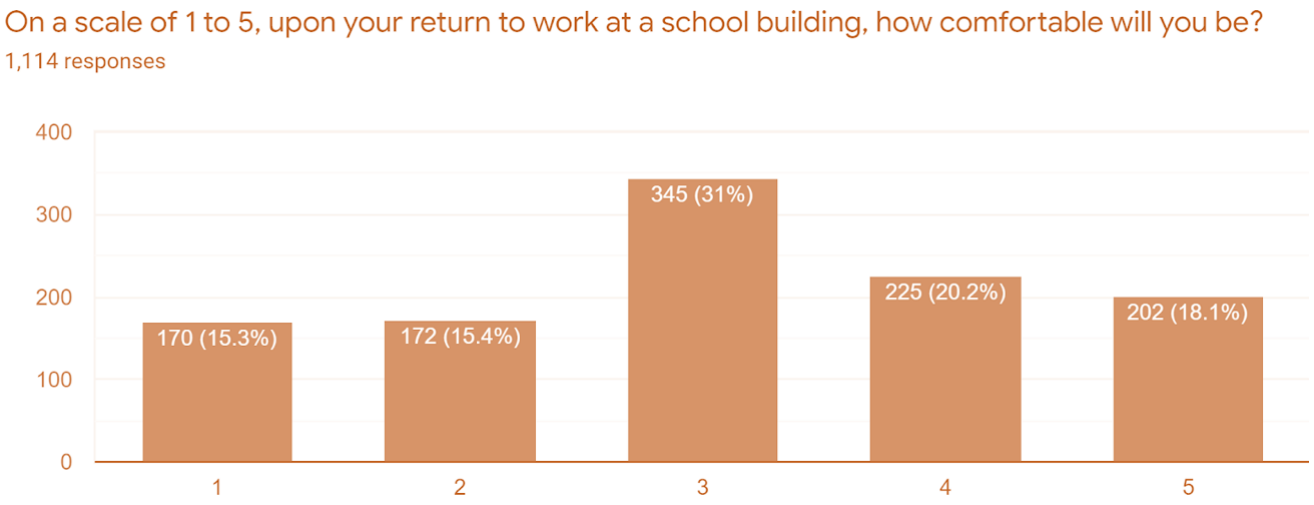


STAKEHOLDER INPUT

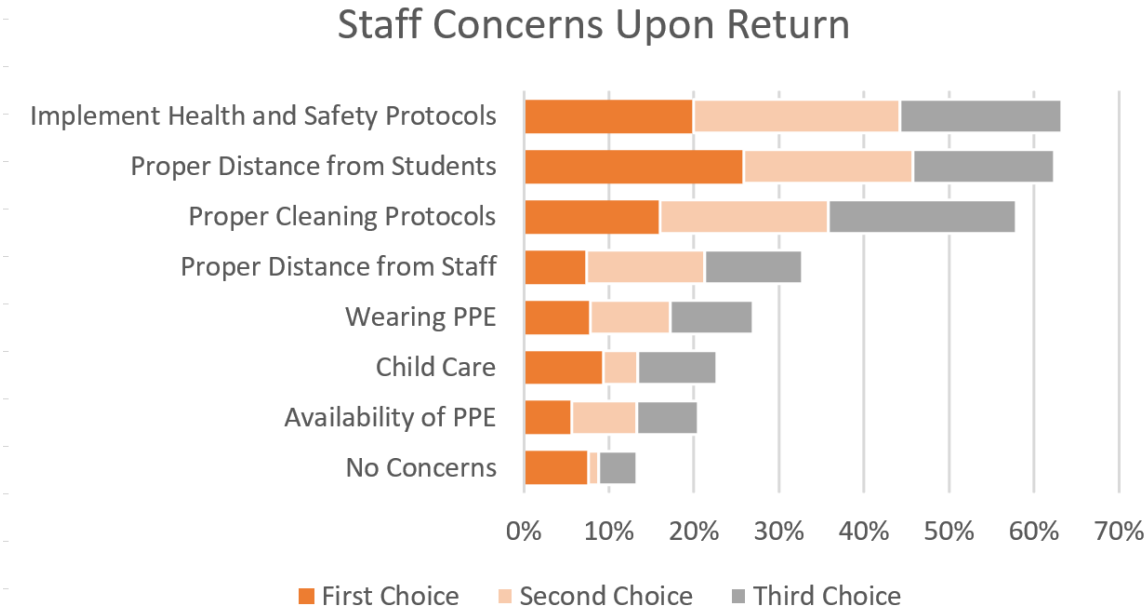
Staff Survey

From July 16-22, Syosset CSD administered a survey to gauge staff comfort level regarding the reopening of our school buildings. The survey data represents 1,114 respondents, and provided meaningful information to the Reopening and Recovery Task Force. Selected data is shown below. Full survey results will be posted to the District Website.

Comfort Level With Reopening of School Buildings:



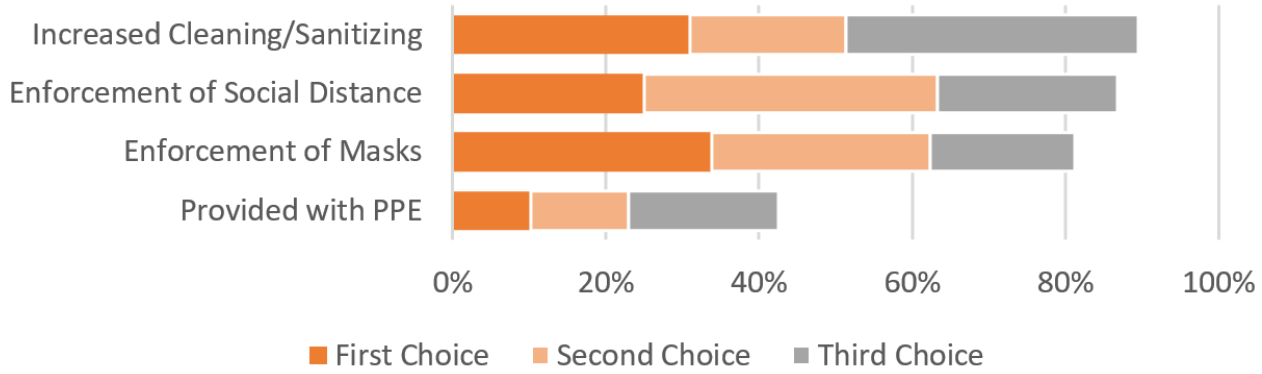
Importance of Health and Safety Protocols:



STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Staff Survey (continued)

What would make the staff feel more comfortable:



Thought Exchange Community Engagement

To gather additional feedback, we used an online tool named Thought Exchange which provides everyone an opportunity to share their perspectives and understand what is most important to the community. Participants share thoughts and rate how strongly they agree or disagree with the thoughts others have shared. The exchange was open to all members of the Syosset learning community, including residents, staff, and students.

Thoughts Ranked Highest by the Community:

Masks should be mandatory. It is the most effective way to prevent the spread of the virus.

Has the HVAC system been changed to have a higher filter rating? Since lessons will not be outdoors, risk of transmission is greater indoors with air re-circulating inside.

Air filtration system is essential. Will they be installed so that fresh air circulates prior to our return? This is essential to our safety.

If/when a student/teacher tests positive, what is the procedure for reentry into school? It is important to ensure students and teachers don't feel pressure to return to school too soon andrisk reinfection or the infection of others.

There can't be any exceptions if a mask rule is enacted.

There were strong opinions expressed by community members for both the In-Person learning and Virtual/Hybrid learning plans, though the ratings of the thoughts revealed common ground in support for strong health and safety protocols, such as wearing masks and social distancing.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Physical safety is at the foundation of all else. Although we cannot eliminate risk altogether, we can take significant steps to minimize it, to protect the learning environment, and to address health concerns quickly as they arise. Our protective measures are based on 2 overall strategies:

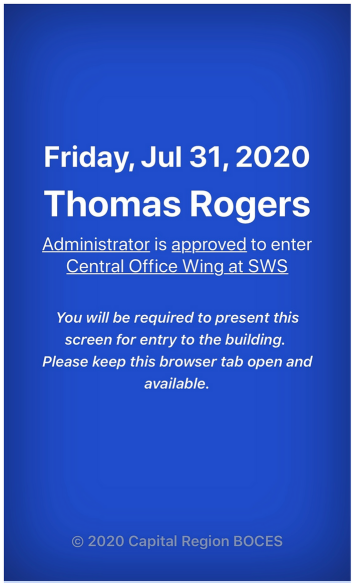
1. Reduce the likelihood of an infected individual coming into the learning environment (by requiring daily temperature taking, and screening for high-risk factors like symptoms or travel to areas experiencing outbreaks).

2. Create a system of redundant physical protections within the school environment (by employing social distance, mask wearing, and plastic barriers; using any/all of these measures simultaneously whenever possible).

Daily Health Screening

All students, staff, and visitors will complete a Daily Health Screening Questionnaire and attest to the fact that they are or are not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, that they have not been exposed to individuals knowingly positive for COVID-19, and that they have not traveled to a NYS quarantined state. Those who reply "yes" are directed NOT to enter the buildings.

- The Questionnaire requires one "Yes" or "No" response to all 4 questions:
  - Do you have any symptoms possibly related to COVID-19?
  - Have you had a positive COVID-19 Test within the last 14 days?
  - Have you been in contact with anyone confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
  - Have you traveled to any of the NYS quarantined states?
- "Yes" results in a **RED** screen directing the staff member or student not to come to school.
- "No" results in a different colored screen that "clears" the staff member or student to enter.



HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Symptoms of COVID-19

Students and staff will be excluded from school if they have any of the following:

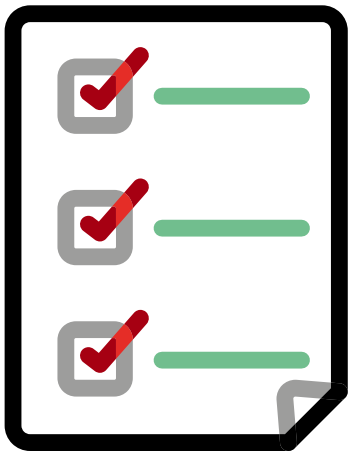
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- New or worsening cough
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Congestion/runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Students or staff excluded for these symptoms should not return until they have had a medical evaluation that determines that their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (e.g., sore throat due to strep throat). In this latter case, the individual can return when they meet non-contagious criteria for that condition.

Note: If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying condition (such as shortness of breath or cough for an individual with asthma) exclusion may not be necessary.

Protocol for Daily Temperature Taking

All students, staff, and visitors will have their temperature taken upon entrance to the buildings. IR non-touch temperature screening devices will be used to identify individuals exhibiting temperature of 100.0 Degrees F. or greater.



- Parents must take their child's temperature daily prior to sending the child to school or the bus stop.
- No student with a temperature of 100.0˚ F or greater should come to school or ride the bus.
- Upon arrival at school, trained personnel will also be taking student temperatures again with touch-less IR thermometers.
- Students with temperatures of 100.0˚ F or greater will be directed to the nurses office and isolated in a separate space. A parent or guardian will be called to immediately pick the child up from school.
- Students may return to school upon symptom resolution and documentation from the health care provider per NYS DOH regulations.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Masks/Face Coverings

The CDC strongly recommends face coverings at all times for children over 2 years of age, highlighting emerging research on the effectiveness of masks in stopping disease transmission.

Accordingly all students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings except during brief mask breaks. The District has and will maintain an inventory of cloth face masks for students, staff, and visitors that arrive without one.

Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school, so scheduling mask breaks is important. Mask breaks for students will occur during meals or instruction when other protective measures are in place, such as six feet of distance between individuals or when positioned between desktop barriers. The CDC considers a "close contact" to be of 15 minutes duration or more. Accordingly, mask breaks will be of significantly briefer duration to maintain a margin of safety from exposure in the event that a student or staff member may have been contagious. Mask breaks will also be structured in ways that make them most protective of the safety of others, such as having every other student alternate their breaks so there is even greater distance between simultaneously unmasked students.

Face coverings will not be placed on:

- Students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious;
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

Students and staff may use alternate PPE (i.e., face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g., speech therapy). These alternate coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g., hearing impaired) who benefit from being able to see more of the face of the staff member. However, per state guidance, face shields are not an acceptable substitute for cloth face masks. Also, to be effective, masks must cover both the nose and mouth.

Face masks will be incorporated into the dress code expectations for every student, which are already outlined in the District Code of Conduct. Non-compliance will be addressed as a Code of Conduct violation.

The mask policy will be reevaluated monthly based on any updates to CDC or NYSDOH guidance.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Social Distancing

Social or physical distancing means keeping at least six feet between yourself and other people while outside your home, and avoidance of gathering in groups, crowded places and mass gatherings. The goal of social distancing is to limit physical contact to decrease viral spread among people in community settings, such as schools.

Students, staff, and visitors will maintain a social distance of 6 feet at all times. If this is not possible, then masks and face coverings will be worn.

All classrooms have been measured to determine the capacity of each room based on social distance guidelines. The number of students in each room varies based on age of the building, total square footage, layout of the room (i.e. doorways, built-in cabinetry, etc.), and available furnishings.

- All instructional spaces have been redesigned so that students can maintain a social distance of six feet from one another.
- Furniture placement in the classrooms has been adjusted accordingly.
- Changes to foot-traffic flow through buildings have been identified to limit the amount of close contact between students in high-traffic situations.
- Desk partitions will be ordered for each student as an additional social-distancing precaution.
- Social distancing will be implemented on buses as well as in classrooms.
- Staggered arrival and/or dismissal times may be implemented.
- Multiple entry/exit points will be utilized rather than funneling all students through the same space.
- Bathroom usage may be monitored by staff to ensure social distancing.
- Signage, floor markings and visual aids (e.g., painter's tape, stickers, posters, cones etc.) will be used to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing indoors and outdoors.
- Size of groups/cohorts of students will be determined by the number of students who can be in each classroom while maintaining 6 feet of social distancing.

In classroom settings where social distancing is not possible, employees working with students with disabilities will be provided additional personal protective equipment.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Hand Hygiene

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains that one of the best ways to protect yourself against the virus is to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- Students and staff will be trained on proper hand-washing techniques.
- Handwashing breaks are built into the school day.
- Touch-free paper towel and soap dispensers installed in all restrooms.
- Touch-free faucets, paper towels, and soap dispensers have been installed in the newly renovated bathrooms.
- Hand-sanitizer dispensers available in every classroom
- Portable handwashing stations have been deployed at all schools.
- Practice of "no sharing" of personal items has been implemented throughout the school community.

Training on Hygiene and PPE

Schools will provide instruction to the school community on how to follow the new protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper face covering wearing, social distancing, and respiratory hygiene. Additionally, schools will post signs throughout the buildings and will regularly share messages with the school community promoting proper hand and respiratory hygiene and social distancing.

Schools will post signage in highly visible areas such as:

- Entrances
- Restrooms
- Cafeteria or other dining areas
- Classrooms
- Administrative offices
- Auditoriums
- Janitorial staff areas
- Gymnasiums
- Outdoor facilities/playgrounds

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Quarantine Criteria for COVID-19

Students or staff members may be informed they were a close contact to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and have to complete a quarantine period. This means they will be required to stay home so they do not risk exposing others to COVID-19 if they become sick.

- **Close Contact**: The standard quarantine period is fourteen (14) days after last close contact with a person while they were contagious with COVID-19 (48 hours prior to onset of symptoms).
- **Household Contact**: If the student or staff member lives in the same household as the confirmed case and has daily close contact, they will have to quarantine for an additional fourteen (14) days after the day their household member has been cleared from their isolation period.
- **Other household members in quarantine**: If the student or staff member lives in the same household as someone in quarantine, they will not necessarily need to quarantine themselves unless the household member in quarantine is then determined to be a COVID-19 case.

All students under quarantine may engage in Virtual Learning while they are not attending school in person.

Management of Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

The District has identified one Lead Nurse as the COVID Coordinator who will, in communication with the District Physician, the DOH, and District Administration:

- Oversee the articulated aspects of Health Screening, Containment, Contact Tracing, and Return to School.
- Communicate directly with the 12 Building-Level COVID Managers (school nurses).

School buildings have a room to isolate students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 identified during the school day.

- Students and staff should be moved safely, respectfully, as well as in accordance with applicable privacy laws or regulations, to the isolation room for evaluation.
- The individual should be provided a mask if they are able to use one, and students should be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least 6’ of distance and uses appropriate PPE.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Confirmed Case in a Classroom:

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they could have been contagious with the virus up to 48 hours before their symptoms began or before their test specimen was collected (for those with no symptoms).

- Prevention - Routinely using these precautions will help avoid the need to quarantine all classroom contacts of persons with COVID-19:
  - It is essential that staff ensure maximum distancing between students and other staff while in the classroom and throughout the day to limit the possibility of transmission.
  - Students and staff are required to use a mask or face covering except during brief “mask breaks”.
  - Anyone known to be a close contact, defined as being within six (6) feet for fifteen (15) minutes or more, to a COVID-19 case while contagious must be excluded from school for fourteen (14) days after last contact with the person with COVID-19. This exclusion requirement applies even if masks were worn if social distancing was not maintained.
- In the event there was a lapse in social distancing, all children and staff must be considered close contacts and must complete a fourteen (14) day quarantine period.
- Students and teachers in a classroom with a known COVID-19 case in which social distancing was reliably maintained should remain together in the same cohort to the extent possible. They should receive screening for fever and symptoms each morning until 14 days after last contact with the case. Note: anyone determined to be a "close contact" must be excluded from school.If any of these students or teachers who are monitored are found to have symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent home and will be required to complete the isolation period to return to school.The classroom will need to be closed for cleaning and disinfection before use again (see pages 17-18 for details on cleaning and disinfecting).

Return to School

Sick staff members and students should not return until they have met criteria for return as determined by the school nurse following the NYSDOH guidelines, in consultation with the Health Department, and after receiving appropriate medical clearance.

FACILITIES

By September, the District will have installed touchless soap and paper towel dispensers in each restroom in all school buildings. Sixteen bathrooms renovated during the summer of 2020 will have touchless faucets, touchless toilets & urinals, touchless soap and paper towel dispensers and touchless door opening systems.

The District has purchased 21 portable handwashing stations and continues to work with our architects to increase the number of sink fixtures to help improve handwashing hygiene.

Air Filtration / Ventilation

The District has been reviewing every building's air filtration and ventilation systems.Our architects and engineers are going through each room in every building to evaluate room ventilation. We anticipate that they will complete their work and provide recommendations by the end of July.

An important aspect of that work is reviewing the air filters that are installed in our building HVAC systems with the goal of upgrading filters wherever possible. The chart below indicates some preliminary work of the engineers. In the first column the air filtration system is indicated, the second column indicates the current filters and the column on the right indicates the recommended upgraded filters that will be installed.

For example, the first entry shows that Roof top unit (RTUs) air filters are being upgraded to MERV13 filters. MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. MERV ratings are on a scale of one to 16 depending on the minimum size of the particles a filter can be expected to capture. The higher the MERV rating the more effective it is at trapping specific types of particles. Filters in unit ventilators and other mechanical ventilation systems will be upgraded to the highest MERV filters allowable based on recommendations of architects/engineers and manufacturer's recommendations for the individual units.

Air Filtration	Present	Sept. 2020
Roof Top Units (RTU)	MERV 6	MERV 13
Classroom univentilators (older)	MERV 2 - 4	MERV 6 - 8
Classroom univentilators	MERV 7	MERV 10 - 13
Central Heating & Ventilation units	MERV 4 - 6	MERV 10 - 13
Ducted split AC fan coils	MERV 2	MERV 4
Ductless split AC wall units	MERV 2 - 3	MERV 10

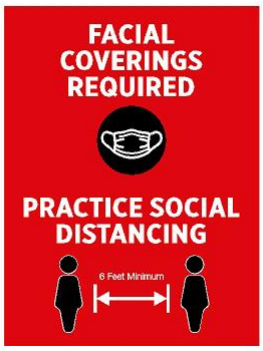
FACILITIES

Building Signage

Building signage will be installed throughout all school buildings to encourage social distancing, wearing of face masks and proper hygiene practices.

Signage includes the following:

- Floor decals for social distancing and foot traffic flow;
- Door signs to reinforce face masks, social distancing, coughing protocols and handwashing;
- Signage in stairwells to reinforce if a stairwell is one way only, and/or reminders to stay to the right;
- Signage in bathrooms to reinforce washing of hands for 20 seconds;
- Signage to indicate hand sanitizer stations;
- Signage in hallways to reinforce hygiene practices.



Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

Along with their daily cleaning requirements, the custodial team will increase the frequency of disinfecting surfaces, such as high-touch surfaces in common areas and in all classrooms and athletic areas.

Cleaning Products

The District's custodial staff utilizes cleaners that meet NYS Green cleaning standards and disinfectants that are EPA-approved to be effective against viruses similar to the COVID-19 virus on hard non-porous surfaces.

Cleaning Tools

The custodial team utilizes Victory sprayers and other applicators to thoroughly and effectively disinfect large areas. The Victory sprayers use the process of adding an electrostatic charge inside the liquid droplets when they are sprayed, helping the droplets to better cling to the surface and provide better disinfectant coverage.

FACILITIES

Cleaning Protocols

Elementary school level:

- Several times during the school day, custodial workers will clean and disinfect high touch points and surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, push bars, stairwell handrails, ledges), hallway and nurses office bathrooms.
- Classroom monitors and/or aides will assist custodians by helping gather food after classroom meals and performing periodic cleaning of classroom chairs, desks and polycarbonate barriers during the school day, as required, utilizing Diversey Alpha PH multi-surface cleaner or alcohol wipes.
- Nightly, the custodial staff will spot mop, dust mop, clean and disinfect each classroom, classroom bathroom, nurse office, offices, gymnasium, multi-purpose room and high touch points with one of the District's disinfectant products (Diversey Virex II 256 or Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution), using the appropriate applicator.
- Bi-weekly, the custodial staff will clean, disinfect and apply BioProtect on classroom, bathroom and other surfaces. BioProtect is an EPA established antimicrobial technology that provides protection to surfaces, protecting surfaces from microbes for up to 90 days.

Middle and High School:

- Several times throughout the day, custodial workers will clean and disinfect high touch points and surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, push bars, stairwell handrails, ledges), and hallway and nurse bathrooms.
- Classroom monitors and/or aides and assistants will assist custodians by performing periodic cleaning of classroom chairs, desks, and polycarbonate barriers during the school day, as required, utilizing Diversey Alpha PH multi-surface cleaner or alcohol wipes.
- Nightly, the custodial staff will spot mop, dust mop, clean and disinfect each classroom desk and chair, hallway bathroom, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, locker room and high touch points with one of the District's disinfectant products (Diversey Virex II 256 or Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution), using the appropriate applicator.
- Bi-weekly, the custodial staff will clean, disinfect and apply BioProtect on classroom, bathroom and other surfaces. BioProtect is an EPA established antimicrobial technology that provides protection to surfaces, protecting surfaces from microbes for up to 90 days.

FACILITIES

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures for COVID-19 and Flu Symptoms

The following are procedures in place for cleaning and disinfecting areas where there was a sick student or staff member:

- Following a student or staff member getting sick or exhibiting symptoms in a classroom, the individual will be immediately removed from the room and sent to the nurse's office.
- After the sick student/staff member has been removed from the classroom, the remaining students will be moved out of the classroom to decrease risk of disease transmission.
- Once the students are removed from the classroom, they are asked to thoroughly wash their hands.
- The contaminated area will be cleaned.
- The entire classroom will be disinfected with the Electrostatic Mister to disinfect all touch points in the classroom (desks, chairs, tables, doorknobs, lockers, etc.).
- Evening staff will use the Electrostatic Mister to disinfect all touch points in the classrooms containing the sick staff or students as well as the remainder of any common space used by the affected individual to help prevent the spreading of the germs.

TRANSPORTATION

In coordination with the District's transportation contractor, Huntington Coach, the District will continue to provide safe transportation for all students, with some adjustments to allow for social distancing. New health and safety and cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be implemented, as outlined below.

Bus Health and Safety Protocols

Safety protocols consistent with NYSED guidance are being implemented by the District and Huntington Coach, the District's transportation contractor, including:

- Students will be required to wear masks on the bus (a supply of masks will be given to all drivers should students arrive at the bus without a mask).
- School bus drivers, monitors and attendants are required to wear face masks and any drivers, monitors and attendants that have direct physical contact with a child will wear gloves.
- The district is developing low-density routing to reduce the number of students on a bus at a given time.
- Students will be educated on maintaining social distance at bus stops and when boarding and leaving the bus.
- Bus ventilation will be improved by opening windows a safe amount and by operating the roof hatches and their integrated exhaust fans.
- Huntington Coach affirms that its employees will receive training on the proper use of PPE and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Upon arrival to work each morning and afternoon, all transportation employees are screened for symptoms of COVID-19. This screening includes verbal verification that the employee is not suffering from the CDC identified symptoms, and a scan of their body temperature using a touch-free temperature scanner.

Bus Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning and disinfecting of buses will take place daily by Huntington Coach, the District's transportation contractor.

- Every day, all high contact surfaces (handrails, seat corners, etc.) will be resprayed using that same product.
- All interior surfaces of Company School Vehicles will be sprayed thoroughly with a sanitizing and disinfecting product called Valuguard VG-G200 every 30 days.
    - This product is EPA approved, and kills 99% of germs and viruses on contact, including Human Coronavirus. It is designed to dry on the surfaces, where it remains effective for up to 30 days. It is environmentally safe and non-toxic.

FOOD SERVICES

The District will continue to provide all students access to school meals each day whether the students are in school or learning remotely. In all cases, the District will enforce appropriate rules for social distancing and will encourage hand washing before and after eating.While initially the menu choices will be limited, all meals will be compliant with NYSED Child Nutrition meal pattern requirements.

Protocols for Elementary & Middle School lunch service:

- Students will eat in their classrooms.
- The District is purchasing clear plastic desk guards to provide an additional protective measure when students remove their masks to eat.
- A pre-order menu system will be available. Pre-ordered meals will be delivered to school classrooms

Protocols for High School lunch service:

- Students will be served a limited-menu in a grab-and-go style.
- Selections will be available via several mobile carts in the cafeterias.
- Students will make their selections from the cafeteria or cart while maintaining social distancing.
- Lunch will be served over several periods in 5 designated areas. These areas will be cleaned and disinfected between each of the lunch periods.

Food Allergens

The existing point of sale (POS) system will ensure attentiveness to students with allergies at all levels. At the elementary and middle schools, food service workers or monitors will scan the meals into the POS system prior to delivery to the classrooms. At the high school level, students will scan their cards into the POS system upon purchase of their meals.

School nurses will identify students with food allergies to staff working with these students. Particular attention will be paid to ensure that students are maintaining separation from identified food allergens during lunch in the classroom. Social distancing and the use of desk partitions will mitigate the spread of allergens. Moreover, the established room cleaning protocol will ensure that any surface area which may potentially retain food allergens will be thoroughly disinfected.

FOOD SERVICES

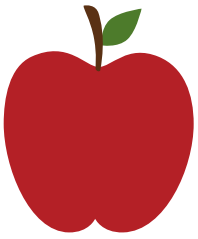
Food Services During Virtual Learning

The provision of meals to students engaging in remote learning will be accomplished through a grab-and-go pick up service at a school building as well as a home delivery service for those qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch that are not able to pick up meals.

Food Service Worker Training

The District's food service provider, Aramark, is implementing COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols and safety training, including the following:

- PPE Protocols
- Employee Health Monitoring
- Increased sanitation measures:
  - More frequent cleaning of all surfaces
  - CDC hospital grade disinfectants
- Health & Respiratory Hygiene Training
- Social Distancing



LEARNING MODELS

Our mission is to maximize students' intellectual development. While no socially distanced approach will rival the pre-pandemic classroom experience, Syosset will deliver the best instructional program possible, whether live or virtual.

Elementary In-Person Instruction

All students attend in-person Monday through Friday with normal school day hours.

- Instruction is delivered in-person, in class sizes appropriate for each individual space.
- Each space in the building has been evaluated for occupancy with appropriate social distancing.
- Many spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space with a focus on small group instruction when possible.
- Staff will be structured in a "pilot/co-pilot" methodology for classes split between two physical areas.
- Lunch and most specials will take place in classrooms.
- The student schedule will allow for breaks and recess opportunities.

Middle School In-Person Instruction

All students attend in-person Monday through Friday with normal school day hours, but on an 8-period schedule.

- Instruction is delivered in-person, in class sizes appropriate for each individual space.
- The shift from a 9-period day to an 8-period day allows for adequate staff for all students.
- Some electives are postponed until 2021-22.
- Each space in the building has been evaluated for appropriate social distancing.
- Many spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space.
- Classes that are split between two physical areas will be staffed in teams.
- Students remain in their homeroom space, and teachers rotate into the classroom to the extent practical.
- Lunch will be eaten in classrooms

The movement of students will be minimized. Special-area subjects (e.g., art, music, physical education) may be pushed into the classroom. Whenever possible, students will utilize outside space for physical education instruction. To the extent possible, students will remain in small cohorts if/when leaving the classroom, such as for recess or any necessary transition, so as to reduce their exposure to additional students. At this time, assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities will not be scheduled.

LEARNING MODELS

High School Hybrid Model

Due to social distancing requirements and building space constraints, we are unable to accommodate all high school students in the building at the same time. The District will therefore implement an Alternating-Day Hybrid Model with normal school day hours, with a combination of in-person learning and remote instruction, thus limiting the number of students in a school building on any given day.

- Students attend in-person learning on alternating days and engage in virtual instructional when they are at home.
- The Alternate Day model maximizes the hours in the school day (vs. the Half Day model which requires time for a transition between the school building and home).
- Only half the student population is present in the school building on a given day allowing for appropriate social distance.

High school students attend school in-person on alternating-days in a continuous 4-day cycle. For example: on days 1 & 3, the "A" Cohort would attend in person. On day 1, they would have their "red day" schedule, on day 3, they would have their "white day" schedule

Day	1	2	3	4
Cohort	A	B	A	B

Fully Virtual Model

If circumstances related to COVID-19 worsen, and based on directives/guidance from the Governor of New York and the NYS Education Department, the District is prepared to transition all students into a virtual learning model to ensure the health and well-being of students, staff, and families. Building upon the solid foundation established in the spring, the virtual learning platform has been significantly advanced and will provide an improved experience for students, staff and families.

- Feedback from parents and faculty on the virtual learning program implemented this spring has been incorporated into the plans for the fall.
- Investments have been made in online lessons and resources so teachers can focus more of their attention on instruction and students.
- Portals for parents to streamline assignments and schedules for multiple classes and teachers.

ARTS

Art and music education foster creativity, help students to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills, as well as teach self-discipline and the value of perseverance. The District will continue to provide our students with opportunities to explore and discover talents and passion. Arts instruction in each discipline area and grade level will be provided while adhering to social distancing and safety protocols.

Music Ensembles

Every effort will be made to run Ensemble Groups with the following criteria:

- Social Distancing with clearly marked spaces, separate entrances and exits.
- Cleaning of stands and instruments will take place throughout the day.
- Wind instruments will not be shared by students.
  - School-owned instruments must be assigned to individual students and not shared between students in different bands.
  - In order to minimize the use of shared drumsticks and mallets, students should have their own stick bags.
- For shared instruments (cellos and basses), the following protocols apply:
  - Students should wash their hands before and after using a school owned/shared instrument.
  - Shared instruments must be wiped down with a disinfectant cloth after each use.

- Chorus protocols:
  - Singing with masks, while certainly not optimal for proper vocalizing, is highly recommended.
  - Social distancing of 6' must be maintained if students are singing with masks. When singing without masks, due to the increased expulsion of aerosols during singing, students must observe 12 feet of social distancing.

ATHLETICS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, EXTRACURRICULAR

Athletics

NYS Public High School Athletic Association has announced the following:

- The official start date of the Fall 2020 sports season has been delayed to September 21.
- Fall Regional and State Championship events have been cancelled.
- If the Fall sports season is unable to begin on September 21, then a condensed season plan will be implemented, which is a 3-season schedule beginning in January.
- The condensed season plan will result in overlapping seasons which may require students to choose between alternative sports opportunities.

Once a determination has been made that Athletics will take place, the following health and athletic safety protocols will be in place:

- Athletes must abide by social distancing rules and not congregate;
- Coaches will reinforce social distancing and PPE guidelines;
- Masks will be worn when not engaged in physical activity;
- Equipment, uniforms, water bottles, towels or any other individual items may never be shared between athletes;
- Whenever possible, athletes will refrain from using the locker rooms. When necessary, teams will have separate locker rooms or designated spaces;
- All clothing and cloth items must be taken home daily for cleaning;
- Hard equipment will be sanitized after each practice or game;
- Teams will stagger practices to avoid cross-contact;
- Off- site practices will be on hold until further notice.

Physical Education

- All activities will be individual or small-group-based with minimal contact.
- Students will use individual pieces of equipment which must be sanitized after each use.
- Gymnasium will be marked with 12-foot distancing guidelines for student placement.
- All K-12 P.E. classes will be required to hold classes outdoors weather permitting.
- Lockers rooms will not be used. Students will not be required to change for P.E. class.
- Hand sanitizer, wipes and other PPE will be readily available.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are an important part of the rich breadth of educational opportunities offered in Syosset. Clubs will meet virtually whenever possible.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

The District recognizes that many students have experienced loss, financial instability, or the disruption of social isolation. We know, after this prolonged closure, many of our students will require social-emotional support to help them re-engage and re-enter school. Nurturing the social-emotional and mental well-being of students will be essential to resuming a life in school.

We are committed to maintaining an emotionally and physically safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment to promote all students' social and emotional well-being and development. The District will provide the following resources to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional support for both students and staff:

- General social-emotional learning/mental health resources are provided on the District website to all families, students, and staff.
- Referrals are streamlined through the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for mental health, behavioral health, and emotional support services. Resources provided to families through MTSS will be curated based on family/student needs.
- Counselors, Social Workers, BCBAs, and Psychologists are available to support in-district and to assist in making referrals.
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) supports (i.e. Advisory Program at secondary level and classroom SEL curriculum at elementary level) will be provided to all students to not only offer SEL skill-building, but also provide an opportunity for staff to have proactive check-ins with students to identify student SEL and mental health needs. Restorative practices will also be used.
- Referrals are made to community agencies, clinics, hospitals, private psychiatrists and therapists, community groups. Referrals are culturally appropriate and are made depending on the families financial/insurance needs.
- McKinney-Vento supports are in place remotely and in school, supporting families while maintaining confidentiality.
- Small group, virtual training for faculty and staff is available addressing various challenges regarding student tolerance for PPE and/or new health and safety procedures.

Parent Engagement Regarding the Provision of Services

- Parent Counseling will be offered remotely; both synchronous and asynchronous.
- Ongoing, on-demand information and outreach will be provided via Parent Resources section on the District website.
- The MTSS Team will provide curated and targeted resources to families based on need.
- CPSE/CSE meetings will be held remotely in the parent's preferred language.

SPECIAL EDUCATION, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTIONS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to eligible students identified by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) remains within the school reopening plan. Special education programs, related services, and supplemental aids/services are provided to students as listed in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) to the greatest extent possible to consistently protect the health/safety of students with disabilities and those providing the services. All accommodations, modifications, supplemental aids/services, and assistive technology interventions are provided to students to the greatest extent possible..

- Parent procedural safeguards remain in place.
- Student referrals to CSE continue to be accepted.
- CPSE/CSE, 504, and teacher meetings will be held remotely.

In a Hybrid instructional model, elementary special classes and high school Life Skills students will attend in-person sessions every day.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Using NYSED guidance, students will be provided English as a New Language (ENL) services according to their levels of proficiency.

- Continued support and instruction, to meet "units of study" requirements.
- Ongoing communication, in the language preference, regarding the identification and delivery of services for all English language learners.
- Attention to all timelines for identification, notifications, and placement for ENL students.
- Ongoing supports for students' emotional well-being.

ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTIONS

Curriculum and instruction will be structured to account for the potential loss of learning that may have resulted from the extended school closure. In addition grading policies will be established for the coming school year.

Assessing Student Progress

To accelerate students' progress, administrators and educators will identify what unfinished learning standards need to be addressed.

- In early September, administer curriculum-based measures in literacy and math to collect student performance data as a baseline for progress;
- Provide additional small group literacy/math support to compensate for academic skill loss to students identified as in need of such support;
- In early October, administer standardized measures of academic growth to monitor students' learning progress;
- Continue to provide small group academic supports to students as needed.

Academic Grading Policies

Teachers will establish course grading policies consistent with those in place prior to the pandemic to assess student learning and master of the curriculum, evaluate student performance on class assignments, and populate the transcript (where applicable).

TECHNOLOGY & CONNECTIVITY

All students K-12 are provided with a device (Chromebook/Tablet). Syosset teachers are well-versed in the use of technology to enhance instruction. Software has been purchased to support curriculum and diversify learning in all models of instruction.

Instructional Technology

In the virtual and hybrid models, teachers will use various digital platforms to enhance learning.

- Classroom teachers, through the use of Learning Management Systems (Google Classroom, CANVAS, and SEESAW), are enabled to continue the robust learning environment of the Syosset in-person classroom remotely.
- Students participate in learning through video conferencing classroom experiences and blended environments using Google Classroom, Canvas, Google Meet, SEESAW and GoGuardian Teacher.
- Whole class instruction is provided through Google Meet and individual conferencing/assistance to students is provided through GoGuardian Teacher.
- Digital Resources such as Castle Learning, Test Wizard, Think Central, McGraw-Hill Connect Ed, Google Forms, and Alex Learning provide opportunities for formative assessment.
- Digital resources such as NearPod, PearDeck, Google Slides, Google Docs & Google Rubrics, Discussion Groups in Canvas provide opportunities for summative assessments.

Technology Support

- The District reaches out at the building level to every household through the Library Media Specialists to analyze Internet capabilities.
- The Library Media Specialists provide digital resource online support and first-line technical support of at home devices and WIFI.
- The District provides 1:1 expert technical support to every household through dedicated technicians who are available online during the school day.
- The District provides a mechanism of communication for applying for free WIFI service from Optimum based on need.

STUDENT & STAFF SERVICES

Students Unable to Attend In-Person School

Medically fragile and/or students with medical conditions may need additional precautions when attending in-person school or they may be unable to attend school.

Plans have been created to address the needs of each special needs child (i.e., additional PPE, alternate setting, home/remote instruction, parents may decide to choose home schooling). If parents choose not to send their student back to school, plans will be made for remote learning.

Homeschooling

Parents of resident students of compulsory school attendance age who intend to provide home instruction to their child(ren) need to inform the District of their intention. A letter of intent including the name, age, and current school of attendance for each child is to be forwarded to the Office of Pupil Personnel Services. The parent will receive confirmation of the request and a packet of information/directions on the submission of an Individual Home Instruction Plan (IHIP) for each student. Please refer to the NYS website link for further information: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/100_10.html

Staffing Considerations

Some staff members may have a medical reason that may require special consideration if teaching occurs in-person at one of the school district buildings, and may request a "reasonable accommodation" from the District.

EVENTS, VISITORS, DRILLS, ATTENDANCE

Events

At this time, all field trips and large group events have been cancelled until further notice. Middle school Washington D.C. trips have been postponed until April, and will be reevaluated later in the Fall of 2020.

School Building Visitors

No outside visitors or volunteers will be allowed in school buildings at this time. Currently building visitors are limited to those participating in essential and/or necessary functions only, such as picking up a child.

- All parent meetings will be held via videoconference.
- All visitors will have their temperature taken upon entering.
- All visitors will be required to wear face coverings/masks and maintain social distancing at all times.

Safety Drills

Conducting drills is an important part of keeping students and staff safe in an emergency, however, steps will be taken to minimize the risk of spreading infection while conducting drills. As such, it may be necessary to conduct drills in the 2020-21 school year using protocols that are different from previous years.

Regardless of the modification used when conducting a drill, students will be instructed that if it was an actual emergency that required evacuation or lockdown, the most imminent concern is to get to safety; maintaining social distancing in an actual emergency that requires evacuation or lockdown may not be possible and should not be the first priority.

Attendance Protocols

Teachers utilize Infinite Campus to keep data on student attendance (remote or in person). Each teacher managing a classroom inclusive of in person, hybrid, and virtual will report attendance in Infinite Campus as per existing District protocol.

Students attending “virtually” on either alternate-day hybrid instruction, or fully virtual instruction will be expected to:

- Be present at both the beginning and end of each class;
- Have their camera “on” so that teachers can establish that they are present and potentially engage the student in the lesson.
- Keep their microphone muted unless called on.
- Compliance with these rules may affect a student’s participation grade.

COMMUNICATION

Syosset will provide staff, students, and families with comprehensive and proactive information about our school reopening plan and ongoing modifications to the plan as needed throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

We strive for clear communication channels that equip all stakeholders with essential information in a timely manner. We encourage the community to attend monthly Board of Education meetings, which are live streamed for convenience. A link to access the livestream will be available on the District website on the day of the meeting.

The District has created a section of the public website to communicate information, plans and protocols: www.syossetschools.org/reopening. In addition to the website, we will use an array of platforms including email, text messaging, telephone calls and social media to disseminate important information.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

NYS Education Department Reopening Guidance

NYS Department of Health Reopening Guidance

NYS Department of Health Reopening Checklist

NYS Department of Health COVID-19 Information

Center for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Information

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance for Schools

Nassau County Health Department

Official News from Governor Cuomo's Office

NYS Center for School Health

World Health Organization

This document is subject to change as conditions evolve in our community. If and when the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic change, the guidance we receive from state and local agencies may also change and cause adjustments to our plans. Please monitor the Reopening section of the District website for the latest information.

SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-2021 REOPENING PLAN

A SAFE REOPENING PLAN FOR STUDENTS & STAFF