

FAQs from the Board of Education Presentation on Tuesday July 21st

Similar questions were grouped together while duplicates were listed only once.

If any of your questions were omitted or not answered, please feel free to reach out to me as I will do my best to address them.

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- 1. If parents are not comfortable sending their children to school is there an all virtual option?**
Yes, but to date there is no specific guidance from Trenton. We have been told that this information is forthcoming.
- 2. What is the plan for PE? Will it be in classrooms?**
PE can take place in the gym with social distancing. PE teachers however will be encouraged to take advantage of outside venues whenever possible. Also no gym equipment will be used to cut down on contact.
- 3. Have the details been ironed out with BoroKids and social distancing?**
As of now, BoroKids is scheduled to do Before and After care for in-person students utilizing the TJ cafeteria. The actual numbers will be dependent on state guidelines for day care.
- 4. Are masks required for students?**
Yes, as is staff. (This was discussed at the BOE meeting and revised from the original proposal as a way to keep students as well as staff safe. While it may difficult especially for the younger students through discussion we feel it is necessary and worthwhile.)
- 5. How will teachers in core subjects teach virtually for the group learning at home while they are teaching in person to the alternate group? Will lessons be live-streamed or will they be providing Google Meets or other liver interaction?**
On virtual days, students will receive instruction via a flipped classroom model. Presently, the admin team is working out the details to schedule in more live interaction between teachers and students.
- 6. Will staff be provided with PPE?**
Yes, CARES money was used to purchase a variety of resources and materials.
- 7. Will younger students be provided with Chromebooks if they choose at home learning?**
Yes, all students K-8 will be provided with Chromebooks no matter what platform their families choose.
- 8. Why is the schedule every other day instead of two days in a row for each team?**
One reason is that the gap between AA/BB models is almost a week between sessions. Also we are trying to align our overall schedule with the high school and other sending districts.
- 9. Will there be temperature checks?**
No, parents will be required to self-screen their children each morning and if symptoms are present, keep them home. Staff will be required to do the same. Guidelines will be included in the Parent Handbooks we are currently developing.
Are there procedures where families will be asked to self-report to school if ill?
Yes, parents will be asked to notify the school if their child(ren) will be out as well as share the reason. Nurses will address each case individually if needed.

10. If someone is unfortunately exposed and tests positive, will two-week quarantine be required of teachers/students?

As of now, yes, but we are awaiting further guidance from local health officials, but we believe that possibly the designated cohort and teacher will need to be quarantined.

11. What happens if God forbid we have a case at school? Have we addressed what will happen if we receive a confirmed case? How will the school and the greater community know when there is a potential case/exposure? How will we be informed if a child in any grade or teacher becomes infected?

If someone has a confirmed case, the school will work with the Board of Health to notify the school community in writing. All names of course, will remain anonymous but as per the BOH, the school will be identified and whether it is a teacher or student. As for closure, as of now we have been told that there will be a possible 10-14 day quarantine for all those in close contact with the individual or a possible 72 hour/3 day closure of the building so that a "deep cleaning" can take place. We are awaiting more guidance from both local and state health officials.

12. Will parents who choose homeschooling be given the curriculum prior to school starting?

Right now all districts are awaiting guidance from the governor regarding how to address families that choose virtual learning. Lessons will most likely however, be shared on a weekly basis. Homeschooling however, is different than virtual learning. When a family decides to homeschool their child(ren), they formally withdrew them from the district and assume the responsibility of their education.

ALSO, our curriculum in general for all grades and content areas can be found on our website.

13. When and how will kids be able to interact with other kids, especially for younger kids where social interaction is more important than actual academic learning?

Obviously school will look and be different, but teachers will try their best to encourage social interaction while adhering to social distancing and health and safety guidelines.

14. Will students who are on their remote day be streamed or zoomed into class for lessons or will they be expected to learn on their own?

Remote day lessons will be delivered via a "flipped classroom" method which may include pre-recorded videos as well as synchronous learning whenever possible. We have chosen not to use "live streaming" for a number of reasons which include the following: Live streaming may be difficult for students who do not have sufficient bandwidth available in their own homes or with those who may be in charge of their daycare, there are many legal ramifications and security issues regarding live streaming as well as confidentiality concerns, and live streaming would require students to sit at their Chromebooks all day long with limited breaks especially for younger children. To better serve our "virtual students", we are looking into ways to adjust teachers' schedules to allow them daily time to check in with and meet with students at home.

15. Are we testing prior to the start of school? Will students be required to produce a negative COVID 19 test prior to the start of school?

No we cannot require that.

16. How do we fit 20+ desks in a room?

We are keeping all the desks in the room, but only utilizing half of them on a given day as each student will be assigned a desk that only he or she occupies for the entire week.

17. Is a full day for in school or online learning or are they shorter ½ days?

In-person days will be full days. We anticipate that virtual days will be shorter and more comparable to a ½ day/early dismissal day.

18. If we aren't mandating masks, will there be shields/dividers in the classroom?

After discussion we have decided to require masks. We have however, ordered partitions and dividers for certain classes (PALS, MD, LLD), for therapists, for the front office, for the nurse's offices, the guidance counselors, and some interventionists where it may be more difficult to successfully social distance.

19. Will students be able to share supplies? And when we will be provided with supply lists?

Unfortunately, students will not be sharing school items. We are currently working on supply lists and we may be asking for additional health and cleaning supplies like wipes, hand sanitizer, and of course, face masks.

20. How will the district fit all the specials into two days in school and still teach everything?

We are still in the process of scheduling specials into the in person schedule. At minimum, students will have one special a day when in the building.

21. Will preschool also be doing virtual learning the days that they are not in?

Yes, just like in the spring but for 3 out of the 5 days.

22. Can fans be installed in every room to draw air out?

We are exploring this possibility, but need to make sure any action we take is compliant with building and fire codes.

23. Will teachers be shown new options and ways of teaching their lessons?

Yes, the district is already setting up professional development for teachers as well as the rest of the staff to enhance and support distance learning.

24. Can specials be taught one at a time for several weeks rather than a different special each day?

The admin team is exploring that option.

25. Has the division of A cohorts and B cohorts established?

While cohorts will be divided alphabetically, the admin team is still determining the actual split as every class has a unique configuration.

26. How often will someone clean the restrooms?

Definitely each evening and at minimum three times a day pending on needs.

27. Will families have to notify the school if they are going to travel out of the state? And if they go to a hot zone will they be required to self-quarantine for 14 days?

Travel to a "safe state" will not need to be reported, but to a hot zone (I believe there are currently 41 states on the list) will be required as the subsequent 14 day quarantine. Staff will be required to do the same. Paperwork addressing this issue will be shared soon with all parties.

28. If students are staying in cohorts or divided alphabetically, how will the advanced ELA and Math classes work for older students? Will students have to be in both advanced ELA and Math?

They will be grouped in the same cohorts. And yes, for this year, any student qualifying for one advanced class will receive instruction for both. Teachers will work with targeted students to make sure they receive the necessary support if needed. This practice, however, may only apply for this current year due to the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic.

29. How will there be continuity from A day to B day in discussing novels?

As with any reading assignment, the teacher will assign the given pages or reading and then students may be asked to comment about it on the virtual day or discuss the reading in person the next time they are in the building.

30. Will there be specific social emotional curriculum/programming that will taught/discussed or will it be incorporated into the curriculum?

Social emotional learning will be incorporated into the curriculum. We are also looking to introduce new programs to meet the needs of students, staff and families.

31. How are books in the library being disinfected?

For the time being, books will not be circulated as there is too much of a risk.

32. Are we rotating disinfectants?

No, as per our Buildings and Grounds supervisor, a virus cannot build a resistance or immunity to a registered chemical disinfectant so rotating is not necessary.

33. So when staff is quarantined, who is subbing? What is the procedure when there aren't enough teachers or subs? Will subs be trained in virtual teaching?

We will do our best to cover classes when teachers are out, and if teachers are quarantined and not sick they may be able to teach virtually from home. We will certainly train our floating subs as they worked with our staff last spring, but if staff numbers are drastically reduced for any reason, we may have to go virtual for a period of time.

34. Will students stay in the same classroom?

Yes, for the most part students in both buildings will be placed in cohorts and receive the majority of their instruction in one classroom to reduce exposure. Teachers will rotate to deliver instruction.

35. What about lunch?

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms. They can bring their own lunch but our food service (Pomptonian) will also be operating. Menus will be simplified; students will be encouraged to pre-order and parents will be encouraged to prepay online. Students will be required to wash their hands both before and after lunch.

36. What will happen if a kid loses or forgets her/her water bottle and needs a drink?

We will certainly take care of students and provide them with cups or bottles of water.

37. How will the buildings be ventilated?

Weather pending, teachers will be encouraged to keep windows open to allow for fresh air. In anticipation of this, our custodial staff have made sure there are screens for most windows and that all building exhaust fans are operable.

38. Do parents have a choice which day to send their child after the child gets schedule A or B?

For the most part no as it will be difficult once the schedule is made to change single students without affecting the entire group.

39. How will absences work?

Currently, we are awaiting guidance from local health officials that will aide us in updating policies that are related to COVID 19 absences as we believe students will not be penalized if they need to quarantine or have to stay home due to a confirmed case. They will, however, be marked absent for illnesses such as a sore throat, pink eye, stomach virus, etc. as they were before the pandemic.