

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RCSD SCHOOL REOPENING 2020-2021

This page is a work-in-progress and will be updated as we gather more questions and provide answers to those questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q. Who decides whether the schools will reopen in the fall? When will the decision be made?

A. Ultimately, the power to regulate education rests with the Governor's Office. Schools were closed this year through the Governor's executive orders which hold the power of law. The decision to reopen schools will also be directed by the State. Governor Cuomo has said he will make a decision on reopening schools sometime during the week of August 1-7.

School Districts in New York State were asked to submit reopening plans to the State by July 31 with three options for the reopening of school:

- Fully In-Person School - All students return to school full time
- Hybrid Model - Students have a combination of in school and remote learning
- Remote Learning - All students participate in school remotely but not in school buildings

The District's reopening plan, *A Path Forward in Learning*, is available on the District's website.

Q. What entities are providing guidance around reopening?

A. The [NY State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#) and [NY State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#) have both issued guidance that sets parameters around the types of social distancing, cleaning, contact tracing, transportation, etc., that school districts will need to follow. The District looked carefully at this guidance when creating its reopening plan. The District is also following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.

Q. How is the District planning for reopening?

A. The District created a Reopening Task Force to plan for the reopening of schools. The Task Force has a number of subgroups, including Instructional, Operational, Social-Emotional, and Communications. Each of these subgroups includes representation from parents, teachers, building administrators, and central office staff. Additionally, our planning efforts include input from other Westchester school districts, State and local officials, the Westchester County Department of Health, NYSED, and the Governor's Office.

The District website has information about the work of the Reopening Task force as well as each of the subcommittees, and the scenarios for which we are planning. The website will be regularly updated as our plans evolve.

Q. Are parents involved in the reopening planning?

A. There is parent representation on the Reopening Task Force. In addition, parents with expertise in areas such as infectious diseases and mental health have collaborated with task force groups and provided support and information. Parents will continue to have the opportunity to participate in surveys related to reopening scenarios. Ongoing and strong partnership with families will be essential as we head into the school year. Feedback and suggestions are always welcomed and can be shared by sending an email to feedback@ryeschools.org.

Q. What are the cleaning protocols for the school buildings should schools be allowed to reopen?

A. The Facilities subgroup of the Operations Task Group has developed a plan that provides for daily sanitizing of all District spaces. The District has invested in equipment to make sanitizing more efficient and effective. The sanitizing protocols follow [CDC guidelines](#) for cleaning, including the frequent sanitizing of surfaces and objects touched by multiple people. For more information, see the Cleaning and Sanitizing section of the reopening plan.

Q. Does the District have enough PPE/cleaning supplies?

A. The RCSD is responsible for making sure every school building is equipped with PPE – masks, sanitizer, thermometers, gloves, specific PPE for our nurses and teachers, etc. We are procuring as many supplies as we can before starting the year. The District has been purchasing electrostatic sprayers and sprayer fluid, wipes, etc. More have been ordered.

Q. Will there be fall sports?

A. Currently, fall sports (interscholastic athletics) are scheduled to begin on September 21st. The District expects to receive more guidance about athletics from NYSPHSAA before September 21st to know if we can move forward with the season. Interscholastic athletics includes modified (7-8th grades), junior varsity, and varsity levels. Therefore, all athletic opportunities (including intramural activities) will be delayed until we receive further guidance. Once decisions have been made, a re-entry plan for interscholastic athletics will be shared.

FULLY IN-SCHOOL QUESTIONS

Health

Q. Are the students going to be required to have a negative COVID-19 test before they attend school in person?

A. No, a negative test is not currently part of New York State requirements.

Q. Is there going to be continued COVID-19 testing of employees? Students?

A. School Districts are not requiring testing, but we will be asking parents of students, employees and essential visitors to complete daily self-health assessment screening questions prior to entering school buildings.

Q. Are parents required to ensure that their child or children do not show symptoms of COVID-19 or a fever before going to school each day?

A. To meet safety protocols, school districts are required by the State to have a protocol in place to perform temperature and health screenings for COVID-19 symptoms. Screenings by the parent/guardian prior to school are preferred. (See page 22 and 62 of NYSED Reopening Guidance). The District will be asking all parents to complete a [health assessment form](#) each day before students enter a school building. Entry to school buildings will not be permitted unless the student can present a completed form. As we get closer to the start of the school year, the District will send reminders of this new process to families.

Q. Can my students attend in-person school if we have traveled back to Rye from one of the states on the Governor's travel advisory list in the past two weeks?

A. No. Families who are returning from states on the travel advisory list cannot send their children to school until after the required two-week quarantine period has passed.

Q. If a teacher is out sick, how will safety of the children/substitute to fill in for the teacher be ensured?

A. A substitute teacher will go through the same health screening process as a teacher would.

Q. What will the procedure be if a student or employee has symptoms of COVID-19?

A. We have procedures in place with our school nurses to evaluate symptomatic individuals, including a separate room to isolate them in a separate space in our buildings until they can be safely transported home.

Q. If a student or employee contracts COVID-19, what is the response plan? Will the classroom be shut down? The school? The District?

A. The Westchester County Department of Health will be assisting the RCSD with protocols and

procedures around metrics for closing, and determining which portion of schools should be closed.

Q. How can the District help ensure that students who are sick are not sent to school?

A. This is very difficult for the District to control. We are asking for cooperation and partnership from parents/guardians to check their student(s) before sending them to school. Are they feeling well? Do they have a temperature $> 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38°C)? If a student is not feeling well, we strongly ask that parents/guardians keep their child home.

Social Distancing

Q. If the schools reopen, do students and employees have to maintain a 6-foot distance from others at all times?

A. Pursuant to NYSDOH Guidance, schools must ensure that appropriate social distancing (i.e. 6 feet/barriers) is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds (inclusive of students and employees), unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance. Schools must maintain protocols and procedures for students and employees to ensure appropriate social distancing to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when on school grounds and in school facilities, including the responsibility to configure spaces so individuals can maintain social distancing.

Q. Do students grouping have to maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times (NYSED Guidance p. 29)?

A. Yes. Students groupings must still maintain a 6-foot distance. Please see response to the question above regarding social distancing.

Q. If schools will be limited to 50% capacity, can all students be in school at the same time?

The District has assessed its classrooms in every school building to know exactly what we have and how to maximize our space to allow for social distancing. Unfortunately, given the number of students, the size of the District's buildings and classrooms will not allow for all students to attend school in-person simultaneously while maintaining social distancing. In order to maintain the required social distancing, we will need to stagger in-person attendance. The District's reopening plan has recommendations for how to stagger student attendance at elementary schools, the Middle School, and High School through the hybrid instructional model. They are

each different, based on enrollment, building configurations, classroom size, and curriculum requirements. Please see the reopening plan for more information about individual school schedules.

Q. What measures, if any, will the schools be taking to help support the emotional/mental well-being of students, especially the younger ones, that may be anxious about returning to school?

A comprehensive social-emotional learning plan will be in place for our students. We will work with our Social Workers, School Psychologists, Guidance Counselors and School Nurses to make sure we support all students, in or out of school buildings. Please see the reopening plan for further details.

Face Masks/Coverings

Q. Are students required to wear face masks/coverings?

A. Yes, RCSD requires face masks/coverings all day. The District will provide frequent opportunities to take face masks/coverings breaks.

Q. Will the District be providing face masks/coverings to all employees and students who do not have one?

A. We ask employees and students to come to school with face masks/coverings that meet the appropriate requirements. The District has procured a finite supply of face masks/coverings for those students/employees who forget them. However, the supply is limited, so bringing face masks/coverings from home is best practice.

Q. Do the students have to wear N-95 masks or are cloth face masks/coverings acceptable?

A. Per the NYSDOH Guidance, p. 2, acceptable face masks/coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face masks/coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana) and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Cloth masks are acceptable according to the Health Department and the District will be providing disposable masks to students, employees, and visitors who do not have access to one.

Q. How does the District plan to educate students on the importance of wearing face masks/coverings?

A. Faculty and staff will be trained to provide lessons on wearing face masks/coverings, healthy hygiene practices, and social distancing. There will be signage and floor markers in school buildings to promote proper hygiene, safety, and social distancing. The Communications subgroup of the task force will be preparing and sending developmentally appropriate materials to families to partner with us in this effort in advance of school opening.

Q. How do you plan to enforce face masks/coverings requirements, parent health screenings, etc?

A. We will educate and ask for help. In partnership with families, we hope to set a community standard of understanding that wearing face masks/coverings and completing health screenings is best for everyone.

Q. How would situations like snack/lunchtime be managed when wearing face masks/coverings is not possible?

A. For student schedules that allow for snack/lunchtime, students must be 6 feet apart or be separated by a barrier while consuming meals. Social distancing is key when students cannot wear face masks/coverings. Cafeterias and lunchtimes will be set up in a way to allow for social distancing.

Q. What plans do you have for addressing children with respiratory or other health conditions who will be wearing face masks/coverings for extended periods of time if their condition does not allow them to do so safely?

A. The District is following the NYS Department of Health guidance for dealing with the medically vulnerable population, see the above section on health and safety for further details.

Physical Space

Q. What new steps are being taken to improve ventilation at schools?

A. Health experts suggest an increase in outside airflow into our buildings is highly desirable. Wherever possible, windows will remain open. Over the summer, as an added precaution, the District invested in HEPA air filters which have been installed in the heating and cooling systems in our buildings. These air filters are able to cover approximately 85% of the District's classroom space. The District is currently looking into acquiring individual air filtration units for the remaining 15% of spaces in the District.

Q. Would RCSD consider outdoor classrooms to decrease the risks of COVID-19?

A. Yes. The District has made provisions for holding classes out-of-doors. At the elementary level, designated areas will be determined for each class. At the Middle and High School level, outdoor spaces will be assigned to teams and departments. The decision to use the outdoor spaces for instruction will be determined by a variety of factors including weather, safety, the educational activity, instructional goals, and needed materials and technology.

Q. Could the District erect tents to hold classes in?

A. Yes, however, the District cannot erect new outdoor structures (including tents, tarps, etc.) without proper approval from the NYS Education Department, generally a lengthy process (recently as long as 36-40 months) requiring architectural and site plans in order to obtain approvals. Instead of tents, the District has identified outdoor spaces that can be used for instructional activities. Please see the previous question.

Q. Is there any availability to use local buildings to provide more space for classrooms?

A. The District does not have funds to rent event centers or buildings to provide more classroom space. If spaces were donated and finances were not an issue, building codes would need to be considered. Any space used by the District will be required to receive approval and a review by the NYS Education Department. Architectural and site plans will be required for submission in the usually lengthy (recently as long as 36-40 months) approval process.

Q. Can the District redirect monies from the school bond to pay for tents, air filters, etc.?

A. No. It would be illegal for the District to use bond monies for anything other than the purposes approved by the community in the public vote.

Curriculum

Q. Will parents be able to opt-out of in-school learning and just do distance learning?

A. NYSED guidance states that this recommendation is only for students with pre-existing medical or health conditions or a disability that puts them at a higher risk. Medical documentation is required and is detailed in the reopening plan.

Q. What is the student to teacher ratio going to be?

A. The District is required to abide by social distancing guidelines and maintain a 6-foot distance

between individuals. Based on the size of the District's classrooms, it will most likely be a 10-12:1 student to teacher ratio in the elementary schools.

Q. What about students with IEPs who really need the in-person one-on-one services?

A. The District has and will continue to honor all IEPs to give students what they need. Our students with disabilities with the highest level of need will continue to have in-person learning with daily attendance.

Q. Will there be band, chorus, and PE if kids return to school in the fall?

A. PE will be modified to allow for social distancing and will take place outside, weather permitting. The current guidance allows for chorus if students are placed 12 feet apart. The same guidelines apply to wind instruments. The District is still considering how best to work within these guidelines. As we get closer to the opening of school a final determination about instruction will be made.

Orientation/Back-to-School Nights

Q. Are there any plans for a Kindergarten and new family orientation programs to prepare incoming students and parents?

A. The District and individual school Principals are working on plans for remote orientations. More information will be forthcoming.

Q. Will there be back-to-school nights or something like them in the Fall?

A. At this time, it is not prudent to bring groups of parents into school buildings. NYSDOH guidance only allows for essential visitors to schools at this time. We are planning alternative, virtual ways for parents to meet their student's teachers.

HYBRID LEARNING QUESTIONS

Q. There are many hybrid possibilities. Which one is in the District's reopening plan?

A. The District looked at the maximum number of students we can bring into school in an organized and safe manner. The hybrid model we feel is most ideal divides schools in half, by grade level, using students' last names to ensure families with multiple children have the same days in-person and remote.

At the **elementary level**, students will attend school in-person in either the morning (Group A) or afternoon (Group B) four days per week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students not attending in-person will participate remotely in classroom instruction for their specials. All students would follow a remote schedule on Wednesdays with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous lessons, allowing the schools to be cleaned. Teachers would also have a 1-½ hour block of time at the end of the day to engage in professional learning, collaboration, and planning while school buildings are cleaned.

At the **middle school and high school levels**, students will attend school in-person on either A or B days (2 times per week according to the following pattern: A, B ; A, B) and learn remotely three days. Students will take their core classes, ELA, math, social studies, and science, within a homeroom on their team, and will participate in other classes for their encore classes (i.e., Foreign Language, Engineering, Art, Music) and electives (i.e, Media Savvy, Canvas and Timber, Speech and Debate). All students will follow a remote schedule on Wednesdays, allowing for a 1-½ hour block of time at the end of the day for teachers to engage in professional learning, collaboration, and planning while the school buildings are cleaned.

Q. If the hybrid model is used, will the District make sure that siblings are on the same in school/out of school schedule?

A. Yes. This is one of the reasons we are trying to avoid a rotational schedule. We are looking to make sure if two (or more) siblings are going to school that we have them on the same schedule.

REMOTE LEARNING QUESTIONS

Q. For those students who are learning remotely, can we expect more live instruction from teachers?

A. Yes. We have been working to enhance our online learning model and improve on the remote learning experience this past Spring. The District has provided faculty with a great deal of professional development to raise their comfort levels with technology used to deliver live/synchronous instruction remotely.

Q. Will there be more consistency within the grade levels if school is remote this fall and/or beyond?

A. Yes. We have been working to enhance our online learning model and improve on the remote learning experience this past Spring. We will continue to have the proper training in place for our

teachers, students, and parents to offer a consistent education plan and schedule for students to attend school remotely.

Q. Will the District provide distance learning for students who are medically vulnerable and cannot risk in-person school?

A. Students who cannot attend school due to medical reasons will be at home participating in the district-wide remote learning model. Please see the reopening plan for details.

Q. Will attendance be required for virtual classes?

A. Yes. This is also a requirement from the State. The District will track attendance and will follow up with students who are not attending online classes. Attendance in all in-person, hybrid, and remote classes is required and will be taken daily. For further details on attendance procedures, please see the reopening plan.

Q. What if a family has limited computer resources, poor WiFi connection, or limited data capacity?

A. The RCSD will provide District-issued devices and hotspots to families that meet the [federal income guidelines](#) through a device loan program. Families who believe they qualify for this program may either complete the application ([English/Spanish](#)) or, for those who have already been approved, should provide a copy of the District-issued approval letter to Ms. Kaitlyn Sassone, Director of Technology/CIO, by emailing sassone.kaitlyn@ryeschools.org.

Q. What opportunities will parents have to give input about how distance learning is done and how it is going for both the student and their family, both before it starts and throughout the school year?

A. The District will continue to solicit input from our parent community and teachers via online surveys to find out what works and what doesn't so we can address any issues and adjust as the school year progresses. Additionally, parents should contact their child's classroom teacher with questions and/or concerns around their child's school performance as they would during a typical school year.

TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS

Q. How will you keep kids safe on buses? How will they sanitize?

A. Requirements from the State are very clear about bus transportation. The number of students permitted on a bus, social distancing measures, mask requirements, and cleaning protocols are all mandated by the State. Buses will be cleaned/sanitized after every run.

TEACHER-RELATED QUESTIONS

Q. Are school reopening plans being made with immediate involvement of the teachers' union?

A Yes. The Superintendent and RTA (Rye Teachers Association) heads have met regularly and will continue to meet throughout the planning process. State guidance also permits school districts to make adjustments to their plans as the school year progresses, and the teachers' union will help us "troubleshoot" anything we may need to change. All of the unions within the RCSD are involved in our conversations and planning. We are grateful for the collaboration and support of our teachers, teachers association and all collective bargaining units.

Q. What training will teachers be given for hybrid and/or remote learning?

A. We will use all of our resources to give teachers what they need to be successful no matter what model of schooling is selected to reopen. Professional development in delivering remote learning took place throughout the spring, continued over the course of the summer, and will be provided throughout the fall and school year. The Technology Department has numerous staff developers dedicated to supporting teachers with their technology needs.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Q. When will reopening plans be made public?

A. Our reopening plans were posted to the District's website and communicated to our community on Friday, July 31. Governor Cuomo has said he will make his decision between August 1-7. He has said his decision will be based on the New York phasing plan and metrics given to school districts for reopening and staying open.

Q. Are we locked into the September plan for the entire school year?

A. We believe that reopening plans are fluid as the Governor could make changes at any time, before or after school starts. The District is allowed to make changes/expand our plan as the school year progresses. We will adjust our plans as needed to be successful.

Q. How can existing after school programs help plan for reopening to serve students in the fall?

A. This is something we will discuss more in August as the District is currently focused on getting our remote and hybrid plans ready and in place first. We will then be able to add the after school programs once we have the school year in place. We are working with KIDSpace, the Rye YMCA, and Rye Recreation as they work on plans for their programming.

General

What is the decision process if Governor Cuomo gives individual school districts the option to decide how to open schools?

The Governor has announced that schools can reopen with an approved plan and following all guidelines from the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Education Department. Essentially, he is allowing districts to choose how they will begin the school year. The RCSD has chosen a hybrid model as our buildings cannot accommodate all of our students and comply with social distancing requirements. As we await approval of our reopening plan from NY State, we will continue to monitor infection rates and consult with the Westchester County Department of Health. Should those rates increase, we may need to switch to a remote model.

If Governor Cuomo and the Department of Education give clearance to open for in-person learning absent an increase in COVID-19 positive cases, is the District committed to opening with the full in-person learning scenario to begin the school year? If not, why not?

A full in-person reopening is only possible if there is no social distancing requirement. The District's buildings do not have the physical space capacity to contain all of the District's students at one time if they are to maintain social distance. The NYS Department of Health is still currently requiring social distancing.

If allowed to open full time for in-person instruction, will Rye City Schools be open? Or will the District take a more conservative approach, and use a hybrid or remote model even if full-time in-person instruction is allowed by the State?

The District will follow the NYS guidelines and consult with Westchester County as required. Safety of students and staff is the top priority.

Are you committed to full in-person learning while following the CDC's guidelines?

It is our hope that conditions will allow a full return to school at some point this school year.

Could you please explain to the Rye community the methods used to make the determination that full time, in-person learning is not possible?

Social distancing requirements prevent us from having all students in classrooms and on campus at the same time.

Have we really fully exhausted all the scenarios for an in-person experience that is still socially distanced?

Yes.

Why is the district treating all grades the same?

Our reopening plans are specific to levels. Not all grades are being treated the same.

What role will the community play into the decision?

Feedback from the community is welcomed and will be considered. Ultimately, decisions will be made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with the school physicians, the Board of Education, and the Westchester County Department of Health.

Health

Will social distancing be enforced?

Yes

What is the protocol for students who have symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection (e.g., runny nose, sore throat) but not the fever and/or cough which are common COVID-19 symptoms? Will all kids with these common symptoms be required to see their doctor? Will they require a COVID test to return to school?

Students who are showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and then asked to contact their medical provider. In order for the student to return to school, they must provide a medical note stating that they are free from any communicable illnesses.

How does the District define ‘having a cough’ as opposed to just ‘they coughed’?

Coughing is continual and not a single event.

How will you manage students with a common cold or a snuffle that do not have covid?

COVID-19 and a common cold have similar symptoms. An assessment will need to be made by the school nurse to help differentiate between the common cold and COVID.

Could you please comment on why your list of underlying medical conditions excluded those conditions identified by the CDC as possibly increasing risk and they are included in the reopening guidance of the NYSED (namely asthma, Type 1 Diabetes and other immunocompromised states)?

The list was determined by the CDC. It lists the medical conditions that place people at an increased risk of severe illness if exposed to Covid.

Are the students in the class also considered compromised/exposed and will be required to learn remotely until the affected student has a medical note and/or a quarantine period ends?

Decisions about who must quarantine based on exposure will be made by the Westchester County Department of Health. Each circumstance will be reviewed with the DOH and the family will be informed accordingly.

Assuming students are not allowed back into school, at what point will they be allowed to return? (To instruction at all?)

Decisions about who must quarantine based on exposure will be made by the Westchester County Department of Health. Each circumstance will be reviewed with the DOH and the family will be informed accordingly. The DOH will determine when a return to school will be allowed.

Is there any discussion of getting a tax rebate because of the reduced learning schedule?

There is no legislation currently that allows for this.

Given there could be children who are frequently unable to attend school due to the presence of a minor symptom, what provision is made for their continued learning so this does not negatively affect their learning?

Students will have access to all remote portions of the school day whether in school or home. It is suggested that the family contact teachers and the school administration for additional assistance in organizing instruction in this circumstance.

Will the schoolwork for children who need to stay home or quarantine (due to symptoms or exposure) be posted online for them?

Students will have access to all remote portions of the school day and all posted materials whether in school or home. It is suggested that the family contact teachers and the school administration for additional assistance in organizing instruction in this circumstance.

Has there been any discussion with healthcare providers to find a fast track route to get kids back to school who have had to stay home due to the presence of one of these symptoms (for the majority of cases when they are not COVID19 related)?

School nurses will speak directly to families and family medical providers to discuss individual health situations.

How would the following COVID-positive situation be handled? Student A and Student B are siblings either at the same school or different schools. Student A is in my child's elementary class. Someone in student B's class has COVID and, therefore, Student B was exposed. Will I be notified since my child is in the class with a sibling of an exposed student?

Decisions about who must quarantine based on exposure will be made by the Westchester County Department of Health. Each circumstance will be reviewed with the DOH and the family will be informed accordingly. The DOH will work with the school district for the contact tracing process and will contact any family with a child impacted by exposure.

Have you consulted any medical professionals with regards to not requiring masks during instruction?

We are following the current guidance provided by the CDC and the Department of Health and NYS Education Department.

Will students be required to wear face coverings if forced to share tables and sit closely together during instruction when class size makes social distancing impossible?

Yes, face coverings are required for all when in school unless a medical situation prevents the wearing of a face covering. The District is also providing student desk barriers for an added layer of protection.

Why are you allowing the kids to take off their masks during classroom instruction?

Students, employees, and visitors to our schools will be required to wear face masks/coverings indoors and outside while on school grounds, including on school buses. Students will be allowed to remove face masks/coverings during meals, instruction (specific to activities related to PE, music, band, and chorus), and for short breaks so long as they maintain appropriate social distance (6-12 feet).

Are individual teachers allowed to require, or request, that students wear their masks while in the classroom?

Face masks/coverings are required in the schools and classrooms.

Will teachers be required to wear face coverings at all times in our crowded department offices?

Yes, all employees are required to wear a face covering when on school property or in the buildings.

Will teachers and staff members have to purchase their own PPE (masks/face shields)? Can departments use some supply funds to purchase equipment for use during the school day? If using supply funds is allowed, then can the district recommend particular items for department coordinators to purchase?

The school district will provide face masks and face shields or goggles to all employees. Additional items, such as gowns and N95 masks are available when job duties require a higher level of PPE.

Are you able to provide clarification as to whether or not children will have their temperatures taken when entering the school? Or is it assumed that all parents will provide information as to the temperature of their children on the daily form to be handed in at the start of each day?

Parents are asked to take temperature prior to the arrival at school. The District will check temperatures for students who arrive at school without a reported temperature from home.

Are we relying on temperature self reporting for the most part and only offering that employees/kids have temp taken on entry if they request it?

Yes, we are relying on self reporting, which has been recommended by the [NYS DOH](#), page 18, and the District will take the temperature of anyone who has not reported one to the school.

Is it possible to randomly test staff and/or students for COVID or is this prohibited by confidentiality requirements?

We have been informed by the NYS Department of Health that school districts cannot conduct testing. The Westchester County Department of Health will conduct testing and the school district will provide information about locations for any necessary testing.

Can the daily health form required for students be completed online? Can there be an app so it's easier for parents to complete the form? There are email apps the cdc uses for this.

We are working closely with a vendor to have an app in place for this purpose. While this has not yet been finalized, we are working to do so prior to the start of school.

If online, will the daily health form be continually updated or do you have to submit by a certain time each morning?

If online, it will be a daily report with a submission time deadline.

Is this a paper form that is handed into the security guards or whoever is monitoring the student entryway?

Until we have an electronic version, the health form will be a paper form submitted at the door.

What are you going to do with the paper? Store it? Toss it?

Forms will be kept for 14 days and then recycled.

What about families who do not have access to a printer? How are we supposed to print and complete this form on a daily basis?

We will provide blank copies of the form and have copies placed in easy-to-access locations throughout the school community.

If there is a group of kids trying to enter the school, will they be asked to wait in a line 6 ft apart and enter one at a time?

Yes. Each building will have procedures specified about where students will enter and how. These procedures will be outlined as part of orientation sessions for students prior to the start of school.

What is the District doing for the people who don't feel safe sending their kids to school?

We have created a fully remote option.

With a physician's attestation, will children be automatically approved for learning from home? How, when and by whom will these decisions be made?

Yes, with a physician's attestation, they will be approved for fully remote learning.

Should a vaccine become available, how soon after can these children return to a fully normal school day?

The NYS Department of Health and the Westchester County Department of Health will take a lead in this decision. The school district will follow their recommendations.

What are the procedures for student lockers? Sports lockers?

Student lockers will not be used at the start of school. Students should carry their belongings with them.

Delivery of Instruction

Have we considered a hybrid model that incorporates maximum use of existing physical space and the least possible use of remote learning as an alternative to the proposed hybrid models that have many children receiving in-person education 40% of the time?

Yes, we have looked at many different models in an effort to provide a safe learning environment adhering to all health and safety guidelines.

Has the teacher's union pushed back on full in-person learning? And do their requests differ from the CDC and other official guidelines?

Our teachers have been very supportive of reopening our schools. It is the hope of teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education that conditions will allow a full return to school at some point this school year.

What types of resources, training, and collaboration for individual teachers and across teachers within a subject/grade are being implemented to improve standardized teachers' ability to deliver excellent instruction through on-line learning? How will teacher aptitude for delivery of this learning be measured?

Our technology staff developers offered workshops throughout the spring and summer on integrating a variety of technology tools in instruction. They will continue to work with teachers on Superintendent's Conference Days on Sept. 1, 2 and during the afternoon on Sept. 8 & 9 on infusing technology into the classroom. During the school year, teachers will participate in common planning, collaboration, and professional learning every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and, twice a month after school in department/curriculum and faculty meetings.

How will the District continually evaluate its learning models - especially those used in regard to remote learning & synchronous learning?

The District will gather information through ongoing assessment and feedback from teachers, administrators, students, and parents. Appropriate adjustments to schedules will be made along the way, if necessary.

Why don't the teachers 'broadcast' the daily lessons so the whole group is essentially together - one half in the classroom, one-half at home watching the lesson?

In the hybrid and remote models at the secondary level, live streaming will be implemented. All students will be attending classes together either in person or virtually through live streaming.

How will teachers use Google Classroom, that is to say, what are best practices for how assignments are communicated to students on GC, how files are named, when teachers reach out to students and parents, how deadlines are communicated and managed?.

Our professional development efforts this summer have focused on maximizing Google Classroom and all of our technology platforms. Coupled with upgrades to Google Classroom, we are confident that our teachers will successfully capitalize on the potential of the platform.

Why is the District treating all grades the same in the hybrid scenario, and not considering still bringing in younger elementary students full-time for which the risk profile is lower, and for whom remote learning is ineffective, as other districts in the state are doing?

The District developed different hybrid plans for elementary and secondary students based on developmental needs of students. At the elementary level students will see their teacher in-person for their core subjects 4 or 5 days a week.

Synchronous vs. asynchronous learning: Will a CONSISTENT approach to this breakdown be ensured? That is to say, it is up to the discretion of each teacher when and how synchronous will be offered, or will that be standardized across teachers and clearly communicated to parents what they can expect in terms of this breakdown?

A consistent, scheduled synchronous program will be delivered. Sample schedules are included in the reopening plan.

How will student's ability to cope / manage with this style of learning be monitored?

Teachers will have daily check-ins with students and our school counselors will check-in with classes on a rotating basis.

How is the district prepared to respond and make changes in real-time?

The district will conduct ongoing assessment and evaluation of the learning models through input from teachers, administrators, students, and parents. If changes are needed we will review our options and determine if a change is needed.

Why are our children only receiving 10 hours of in-person school while other districts, like Bronxville (k-8 in person), Bedford (K-2 in person), Chappaqua, Byram Hills, Somers (K-6), etc. Are providing students with over 32 hours of in-person school?

We can't answer for other districts, however, each district developed their plan based on their circumstances involving space, staffing, and developmental needs of their students. Our plan supports instruction that is appropriate for our elementary students within the confines of our staffing and space.

What is the average class size in each of the elementary schools, MS, and HS?

Our class sizes in elementary schools are typically around 20-22 students per class. At the secondary level class sizes are a bit higher depending on the individual course typically in the range of 25 students.

Are the size of our classrooms substantially smaller than the classrooms in districts like Bronxville, Chappaqua, Byram Hills, Somers, etc?

Our classrooms range in size from 250 square feet to over 1000 square feet. While we cannot speak to other districts' facilities, some districts have excess classroom space in their buildings

due to lower enrollment. In Rye, our facilities are at capacity with no extra classroom spaces available.

Will the synchronized meetings be at the same time every day and every week?

School will be following a regular schedule whether in person or remote. Detailed schedules can be found in the reopening plan.

The amount of synchronous teaching in the plan is far from enough. Is the teacher's union refraining us to do so? We are all having "our contracts" adjusted, so should they. Why do we have to provide the teachers with a full day of planning on Wednesdays if we never had that before?

Our teachers union has been very helpful in planning our reopening and are committed to the success of our students and the safe opening of schools. Wednesday will follow a regular schedule of instruction. On Wednesday afternoon, there will be ninety minutes of planning and professional development time.

If we go remote, will students be given a screen break?

If we move to a remote model, students will have a set schedule of synchronous and asynchronous instruction to follow. There are short breaks in between classes and for lunch.

What recourse do parents have if they find that the asynchronous and synchronous remote learning are insufficient?

An initial conversation should be had with the student's individual teacher. If the issue is not resolved then the parent should contact a building administrator for assistance.

How do we ensure teachers are actually teaching our students instead of just assigning work and leaving the students to learn on their own?

There is a daily schedule that all teachers and students will follow with required synchronous instruction.

How are the additional classrooms (Music room, art room, etc.) and spaces (gym, cafeteria, etc.) being utilized?

All spaces are being evaluated and utilized to support social distancing for our support teachers who often share space and need additional room for their classes.

How are the resources in districts like Bronxville, Chappaqua, Byram Hills, Somers, etc. vastly different from the resources in our district in that they are able to provide greater quantities of in-person learning?

While we cannot speak authoritatively to other districts' facilities, some districts have excess classroom space in their buildings due to lower enrollment. In Rye, our facilities are at capacity with no extra classroom space available.

In many districts professional development for teachers occurs in an hour block once a week at the end of the school day or occasionally during the school day and then substitute teachers/teacher residents are provided. Why is it that Rye needs to use a day of student in-person learning to provide professional development?

In our plan, only 1 hour and 30 minutes is dedicated to professional development. This is a similar amount of time to other school districts in the region.

Why can't we have 100% synchronous learning even in hybrid models?

We will have a fully synchronous learning experience at the middle and high schools. It is not appropriate for young children to participate through live streaming while the other students are in the class.

Why would the teachers need a day off from teaching to re-plan / learn?

There are no days off from teaching in our reopening plan. There is a 1 hour and 30 minute dedicated block for planning and professional development which will help to ensure consistency and alignment in our instructional program.

Why — for the first time — is professional learning, collaboration and planning coming out of our children's education time?

Much of our professional development over the past four years has been during the school day using classroom coaching and substitute coverage. In our hybrid model, there is a 1 hour and 30 minute dedicated block for planning and professional development focused on continuous consistency and alignment in our remote and in school instructional program.

Will the teachers be required to submit a weekly lesson plan at the beginning of the week?

Teachers are not required to submit lesson plans on a weekly basis. Administrators and teachers have regular discussions about lesson planning and review plans throughout the school year.

What are the requirements for switching from one model to another? What criteria makes RCSD switch from in-person to hybrid, and then back again?

Changes in infection rate will determine whether or not a switch is necessary. The decision to switch models will be made in consultation with the school physician, the NYS Department of Health and the Westchester County Department of Health.

Will the District offer affordable options for childcare for working parents?

While the District is not able to provide child care services due to stringent licencing regulations, we have worked with local community organizations to design and offer programs to our families.

How are you addressing the needs of dual working families or essential workers who aren't able to pick up children or be home mid-day?

We have been working with local community child care agencies to develop options for working families.

How will we compare to other districts that are similar to ours, not only in how we are addressing our proposed school plan but in how far behind kids may be in the next year or two?

We will conduct regular assessments of our students to ensure that they are developing appropriately in our program. Our intervention services and supports will continue as always in supporting our students.

How will teachers be held accountable for face-to-face time if we are remote?

Our teachers know what is expected of them in the reopening plan and will provide appropriate instruction. If there is a concern at any point, a parent should first contact the teacher to discuss the concern. If the situation persists, contact a building administrator.

What is the district plan to monitor and evaluate teacher adherence to district guidelines?

Our teacher and staff evaluation plans will be implemented this school year. Last year, Governor Cuomo suspended all teacher evaluation plans in NYS.

What standards are being used to assess teacher lesson planning and curriculum?

Our teacher and staff evaluation plans will be implemented this school year. Last year, Governor Cuomo suspended all teacher evaluation plans in NYS. Our extensive evaluation plans follow the NYS approved Danielson Framework for instruction.

Will there be an assessment of students to gauge needs and perhaps appropriate grade level?

Students will be assessed to determine their individual needs and to inform curriculum planning.

How will children receiving extra help for reading/Math be addressed?

Students will be assessed to determine their individual needs and to inform curriculum planning. Our intervention programs will be implemented as usual with students receiving any necessary academic intervention services.

My main question on the Reopening Plan is how was the decision made to have Wednesday be a fully remote learning day?

Health and safety experts continually point to limited contact and interactions are keys to successfully keeping the virus from spreading. A full remote day in the middle of the week at the MS/HS, where over 1200 students and staff will attend on alternating days, helps to limit the number of interactions and possible virus spread.

Facilities

Was outdoor learning, usage of other facilities, etc. looked into thoroughly?

Yes.

Why can't Rye with all our outdoor space not find a way?

We are continuing to search for outdoor space options while knowing that NY State has extremely rigid requirements for the use of alternative spaces by public schools.

Why can't the intense cleaning happen at the end of the school day (as in other districts) so that students can attend in-person school on Wednesday?

All of the buildings will be cleaned and sanitized daily, however, the custodial staff will take advantage of the opportunity and do a deeper cleaning when it is possible and when there are fewer people in school buildings.

How often will face mask breaks occur? How will this be executed given the kids will need to be 6' apart?

Mask breaks will occur as needed which will be determined by teachers. They will be managed by teachers and staff according to safety guidelines and social distancing requirements. As much as possible, mask breaks will occur outdoors or adjacent to open windows.

Can water bottles be brought in and will water filling stations be available?

Yes, water filling stations will be available. Drinking fountains will be turned off and we will encourage the use of reusable water bottles.

Where will handwashing breaks occur in a socially-distanced way?

We have sinks in some classrooms, some common areas and in restrooms throughout our buildings. Dedicated time for handwashing will be scheduled at the elementary level and reminders will be given at the secondary level. All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the schools in common areas and corridors.

Are there specific protocols for encouraging hand washing/sanitizing before meals?

Yes, elementary students will wash their hands before any meals. No meals will be served at elementary schools in the hybrid model. Secondary students will be reminded to wash their hands prior to meals.

How will the supply of soap, hand sanitizer, wipes, etc be managed? How will the supplies be tracked and ordered in a timely way so there is always back up?

The District has been stockpiling supplies in preparation for the school year. We keep a current inventory and order from a variety of vendors to ensure appropriate supply levels.

What is the plan for ventilation, it was vague, was this because these solutions are cost prohibitive, unnecessary based on health professional guidelines, or still under review?

We have replaced filters in all of the District's ventilation systems with MERV-13 filters that are recommended to filter out COVID-19. In addition, our PTO/PO organizations have supported the

purchase of stand-alone HEPA filtration units for any spaces in the older parts of our school buildings not covered by the ventilation systems with the MERV-13 filters.

Are there lids on the toilet seats?

There are no lids on toilets, and it has not been a recommendation to replace in school and commercial environments as you are greatly increasing touch points and contact with surfaces.

Will every other bathroom stall be closed to enable social distancing?

The stalls themselves are considered barriers, but in instances where sinks are adjacent to each other, they will be blocked from usage to ensure social distancing.

Can windows be opened in the bathroom?

If bathrooms do not have ventilation and exhausts fans, then windows can be opened to supplement fresh air intakes.

Can the gym bathrooms be used as a regular bathroom to increase availability of stalls?

There is a sufficient number of bathrooms in our schools. If we feel it is necessary, we will use gym bathrooms.

Will all soap and paper towel dispensers be touch-free?

The soap dispensers are not touch free, although all of the paper dispensers are touch free. The critical piece for sanitary purposes is the paper dispenser which is accessed after a bathroom user has washed their hands.

How often will school staircase banisters and bathrooms be sanitized? How will the cafeteria spaces be sanitized?

Custodians will be walking and wiping surfaces throughout the day. The cafeteria will be sanitized using the same EPA-registered disinfectants that are used throughout the building immediately after use.

Wouldn't it be better if supplies were not shared at all to avoid spreading of virus?

We have worked to procure supplies for individual students in an effort to limit sharing. We will be limiting the use of community supplies.

Will books be allowed to be taken out of the Library? Can kids leaf through books? What is the cleaning protocol after books are returned?

We are working on designing a safe protocol for the use of library books. Further information will be shared when school has reopened.

How will the supplies needed for sanitizing the classroom be managed?

The District has been stockpiling supplies to ensure we are prepared for the school year. We keep a current inventory and order from a variety of vendors to ensure appropriate supply

levels. We have begun to see many vendors with long wait times for supply delivery and are continuously monitoring those.

Can you please detail the plan for school cleaning, especially in the 90-minute period between elementary school classes, and between any elective classes in the middle/high school.

Each instructional space at the elementary schools will be sanitized using electrostatic sprayers. Instructional spaces at the middle/high school level will not be cleaned between classes. Students will use paper placemats as barriers on top of individual desks. Placemats will be discarded by students and replaced for each class.

Wouldn't an A day/B day schedule be cleaner and more hygienic?

There are many different hybrid models each with positives and negatives. Our plan follows safety guidelines and is educationally sound given the limitations of our physical spaces.

Teachers spacing from students: how far will students sit from the teachers? Speaking projects the virus. Will students sit at least 12' from the teachers?

Teachers will be at least 6 ft. apart from students, desk barriers will be used, and all room occupants will be wearing face coverings.

Will playgrounds be open and used?

Yes, playgrounds will be open and used with appropriate social distancing during school hours.

Communication

Has the district thought to conduct a Town Hall Type session so that they can present the plan to the public (parents, teachers, staff, other stakeholders) with the opportunity for them to ask questions?

The District has held numerous opportunities for community members, faculty and staff to learn about the reopening plan and to ask questions. Building level meetings with families and staff are being conducted via Google Meet.

What were the results of the parent survey? Why have we not seen these?

The results to the parent, student and staff survey can be found in the appendix of the reopening plan that is posted to our website and was emailed home to parents.

What role are the POs/PTOs playing in our re-entry program? Will the POs/PTO give the task force feedback?

We have shared details of our plans with the POs/PTOs and the community and will continue to do so as updates and modifications are made. Feedback has been given on many aspects of the plan and we continue to seek and use feedback from the community.

The Mayor of Rye has done such a good job giving weekly updates, will RCSD do the same weekly updates?

Throughout the spring, the School District provided weekly updates. We will certainly do so once school is back in session.

I am also very curious to understand how the reopening task force was selected? Was there any working parent present? Was there any parents in the lower to middle class income range who understand our needs? Any parents with children with IEP's?

Requests for volunteers were made at several board of education meetings in the spring. All volunteers committed to participating in reopening planning and brought unique perspectives to the work. We had a wide range of educators and parents participating in the planning and the needs of working families, families of students with special needs, ENL students and our entire population were considered.

What mechanism will be put in place to gather feedback regarding student/teacher performance?

As always, feedback is appreciated from students and families. Please share any feedback with individual teachers, building or District administrators.

Will there be a minimum level of feedback for the students be required from the teachers? Will there be any requirement for teachers to check in on their students on an individual basis?

Teachers are required to make meaningful daily contact with students. In addition, on Wednesdays, teachers will meet with individual students and small groups to provide feedback and support.

What are the requirements for the teacher to have communications with students and parents?

Teachers are required to make meaningful daily contact with students. In addition, on Wednesdays, teachers will meet with individual students and small groups to provide feedback and support. Parents and students are encouraged to contact a teacher with any questions or concerns via email.

How will the school District be more transparent in its communication with the teacher unions and the families? Is it possible to see the results of the survey?

The results of the parent, student and teacher surveys can be found in the appendix of the District reentry plan that is posted on the District website and was emailed to all families.

How will the Board improve on transparent communication throughout the year? Will they allow for live (virtual) town halls?

The District will continue to have meetings throughout the school year. While we are still in a virtual mode right now, if possible, we will hold in-person meetings.

Elementary

Has the District considered having older grades stay remote and utilize other school building space to accommodate younger grades?

The District has looked at many different options in developing our reopening plan.

Will there be live check-ins with both Group A and B, at the beginning and end of the full day, or just the original time they were intended to be on-campus?

There will be live check-ins with students as well as synchronous instruction on remote days.

Will there be a consolidated location/dashboard for progress, including tracking of submitted assignments with feedback/grades/marked complete?

PowerSchool is our student management system which is used to collect assignment and grading information. Additionally, regular communication with teachers is always encouraged and appreciated.

Separate to the plan in its entirety, will you provide an outline of the curriculum for each grade/course, in advance of the school year so that we as parents are better able to anticipate and support remote learning efforts?

Curricular questions at the secondary level can be directed to curriculum coordinators. Additionally, Sheryl Goffman, our Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instructional and Assessment can answer curriculum questions.

Why was the decision made to teach Social Studies and Science classes all remotely?

Social Studies and Science instruction at the elementary level is a combination of synchronous and asynchronous.

What Word Study program will be used at the elementary schools this year?

Teachers College Phonics will be used in grades K-2 while Words their Way will be used in grades 3-5.

Will there be any requirement for teachers to check in on their students on an individual basis?

Teachers are required to have daily meaningful contact with students. Additionally, our schedules have built in individual and small group time into each week.

Are you able to provide information as to how the split day was decided upon?

Using information collected from our surveys and considering all health, safety, facilities and instructional concerns, we selected the hybrid models for our schools.

How have the needs of our incoming Kindergarteners, who are entering elementary school for the first time, being considered?

We know how important kindergarten is as a child is beginning their school experience. Our wonderful kindergarten teachers do a terrific job supporting the entry of kindergarten students into the schools. They have been working and planning to continue that great work in our hybrid model.

How long will it be permitted for masks to be off?

Mask breaks will be short periods of time (several minutes) allowing for students to remove their masks in a safe manner.

Why will elementary schools kids be in the same room all day – including lunch?

In an effort to decrease exposure, elementary students will remain in the classroom during their time in the building. Students will not be having lunch in school.

How can the special rooms in the school be used more effectively?

We are using all of the spaces in our schools for instruction.

What about the extra grade level rooms? How are they being used?

We are using all of the spaces in our schools for instruction.

What additional precautions will be taken if some students/faculty/staff do have an exception to the mask requirement to protect everyone else?

Face shields are available to assist with this issue. In addition, student desks have been outfitted with 3-sided barriers to provide extra protection for all room occupants.

Can protocols for surveys of air flow within classrooms and other communal spaces indoors be conducted prior to the start of school to modify this risk?

We have installed MERV-13 filters in our ventilation systems and purchased stand-alone air purification units for areas that are not covered by the larger systems. Additionally, windows will be open in all spaces to ensure fresh air flow.

Why isn't synchronous learning more of a priority in the plan, if further background could be provided on the rationale for this option, it would be great?

Synchronous instruction is a priority in our plan and students will have a set schedule to follow each day when working remotely. The developmental stages of our students have been considered when designing our model and determining the appropriate amount of screen time.

Is a full day option being considered?

We have examined many different models for our plan and have selected what we believe is the best model in terms of safety, health and instruction given the limitations of our facilities.

Why can't each group have a full day - isn't it less disruptive, particularly for the younger children?

We have examined many different models for our plan and have selected what we believe is the best model in terms of safety, health and instruction given the limitations of our facilities.

How does the District believe the lack of live, synchronous learning will work for and benefit younger children such as kindergarteners and 1st graders who are unable to read

lesson plans and follow an asynchronous learning experience without 100% help from an adult at home?

Synchronous instruction is a priority in our plan and students will have a set schedule to follow each day when working remotely. The developmental stages of our students have been considered when designing our model and determining the appropriate amount of screen time.

In the elementary hybrid and full remote options here- why is live stream not an option for all subjects?

Synchronous instruction is a priority in our plan and students will have a set schedule to follow each day when working remotely. The developmental stages of our students have been considered when designing our model and determining the appropriate amount of screen time and the effectiveness of live-streaming.

Will there be creative supplemental programs and activities that drive engagement that are planned for? Have you considered how significantly this will burden parents of children with special needs or dual working families?

We recognize that any model that is not full in-person school presents significant challenges to our families. We have worked to identify engaging applications and to design excellent instruction to be used with the children both in school and in our remote instruction.

Why not live stream the class for the other "pod" so learning occurs progressively through the day and children remain engaged all day long?

Synchronous instruction is a priority in our plan and students will have a set schedule to follow each day when working remotely. The developmental stages of our students have been considered when designing our model and determining the appropriate amount of screen time and the effectiveness of live streaming.

In a typical elementary school these subjects would have a time breakdown as follows: Reading - 45 minutes, Writing - 45 minutes, Math - at least 30 minutes, Word Study - 20 minutes, Class meeting - at least 10 minutes. The 140 minutes as outlined in the hybrid model will not allow all subjects to be taught as they should be; what subjects will be cut short each day because of the lack of time?

Our teachers have been working to plan instruction that fits within the time constraints while achieving instructional goals. The small size of the cohorts will allow for greater efficiency of delivery and more individualized instruction for students.

Is the District committed to requiring some minimum level of one on one child/teacher interaction, teacher feedback and avenues for parent/teacher interaction at a time where we are more disconnected than ever? And if not, why?

The District is committed to more individualized contact and our models build that into the weekly schedule. We welcome feedback and expect that teachers will provide regular communication and updates to our students and families.

Why is Wednesday teacher planning necessary given it seems that teachers will essentially be teaching the same lesson twice per day to two different groups of children meaning their lesson planning changes from 5 days of lessons to 2.5 days of lessons?

Our schedule has 90 minutes of planning time on Wednesdays. Teachers will be providing instruction for the remainder of the day.

For Chromebooks in elementary school and for the webcams, does the district have the budget to procure these devices so that each kid in grades 2-5 has one? Is this something that they will look to the PTO's to help pay for?

Students in grades 2-5 will be assigned their own Chromebook device. Each student will be able to take their device home. These devices and chargers should be brought to school and home on a daily basis.

When will an update be given on the acquisition of funds to provide devices for each child in grades K-1?

We are grateful for the funding efforts from both the PTOs and the Rye Fund in assisting to support our COVID needs. We continue to work toward providing one on one devices at this level, however the biggest challenge has been availability of devices. There is a nationwide shortage of Chromebooks and other similar devices.

How will work done online be reviewed and graded? Will there be a minimum level of feedback required from the teachers?

All student work, whether in person or remote, will be assessed and evaluated. Teachers will provide regular feedback on student work and progress.

For the elementary hybrid learning model, will they rotate the schedule for groups A and B so that group A doesn't always meet in the morning and group B in afternoon?

Not at this time. For now the cohort groups will have a consistent schedule.

For the elementary hybrid learning model, for the at-home portion, will the kids have to log into a new Google Meet for each new special or period they have? Will attendance be taken for each special/period?

Students will log into Google Meet for specials classes. Attendance will be taken daily in all classes.

What does the plan for review of the materials covered from March-June look like?

Teachers will be assessing students early in the semester to determine specific areas that need to be revisited based on the spring closing.

Wouldn't it be better if each group took 2 days of the week to be in the classroom full time - e.g., group 1 Monday Tuesday, group 2 Thursday Friday?

We have examined many models for our schedule and selected what we believe is the best given health, safety, and educational guidelines along with our facilities limitations.

What consideration was given to spreading the elementary students throughout all five RCSD buildings and having more in person learning for the younger children and have the older children take more days virtual learning from home?

We have examined many models for our schedule and selected what we believe is the best given health, safety, and educational guidelines along with our facilities limitations.

Will the hybrid learning model, specifically the afternoon or morning assignment, be for the entire year?

We do not know this at this time.

What steps are the administration taking to ensure a smooth transition for the new students? Will children be grouped according to preschool classes? Neighborhoods?

We continue to offer new family and student orientation programs in an effort to provide a smooth transition into school.

Why is the chosen hybrid model deemed better for the RCSD, as opposed to alternating full days?

We have examined many models for our schedule and selected what we believe is the best given health, safety, and educational guidelines along with our facilities limitations.

Wouldn't a Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday alternating am/pm schedule be a better alternative?

We have examined many models for our schedule and selected what we believe is the best given health, safety, and educational guidelines along with our facilities limitations.

Will our wonderful after school programs such as kids space or the YMCA have longer coverage?

Our local community child care programs have made or are making modifications to their offerings due to the hybrid model of school.

Will these programs be able to assist our kids with online schooling and help with their school work for the latter part of the day and if so, what about the students that do not have Chromebooks and only have stand-alone PCs, how will that work?

It is best for you to communicate directly with the programs you are interested in accessing. We are aware that our local community programs are working to provide support during the remote portion of the school day.

Will the morning and afternoon classes take place in the same rooms?

Yes.

Will children in 3rd grade have the normal homework as they would in school?

Yes.

Will parents be given a supply list in order to optimize learning?

Yes.

There do not seem to be any office hours in the fully remote schedule. How will a child ask a question to something they are not understanding for the stagnant videos?

There is a regular schedule for the fully remote model that includes office hours.

Will there be any 1:1 time with the child and the teacher?

Yes.

What will be the expected turnaround time for a question from a student or parent? Is there a policy in place to make sure they are timely in the fully remote environment?

We expect that questions from students or families will be answered in a timely manner. If a question is not answered, please be sure to check the email address for accuracy. If the email address is correct and there is no response, please contact a building administrator for assistance.

How will work be submitted and reviewed?

Work completed remotely will be submitted through Google Classroom or via email.

When arranging the classes, will you also try to take into account any friendship bonds that the previous year's teacher might have recommended to be in the same class?

Yes, we build classes with great care and consideration of many factors.

We ordered the children's school resources packs as part of the big joint order - will any of those resources be able to come home to support the remote learning part of the day?

Yes

Please could the teachers consider a rewards strategy that can be applied at home too, to incentivise hard work, good attitude etc?

Incentive programs in the home are at the discretion of the individual family.

Will there be outdoor recess opportunities where class members can play together in unstructured/child led ways?

Yes, following all safety protocols.

Will the children be eating a snack at school?

No.

How will working parents make sure that their kids are able to follow along and get all the art materials they need?

Please contact your child's art teacher with any questions or needs.

For those of us working parents who may rely on Kids SPACE or the Y, is there an option where virtual learning sessions might take place there or would I need to rely on an independent person to oversee this learning?

It is best for you to communicate directly with the programs you are interested in accessing. We understand that our local community programs are working to provide support during the remote portion of the school day.

Will PTO funds that are sitting there unused be used for an important, if not the most important (our children's health) cause this year, or will parents continuously be asked to donate?

Our PO/PTO groups have always and continue to be supportive of the schools and provide funding for necessary materials and supplies. So far, the PO/PTO groups have donated over \$100,000 to purchase air filtration units and MERV-13 filters.

Why are any children sharing Chromebooks – especially at the K-1 level which is probably the most touch heavy group. Would it be possible to switch it so that 5th graders are sharing – a group that understands and can even clean down their own Chromebooks between students?

We are working to acquire additional Chromebooks and devices for K/1 students. All classrooms will have electronic cleaning wipes when devices are shared.

Will supplies be ordered in a timely manner so as to avoid a run on them, as demonstrated this past spring?

The District has secured large quantities of COVID-related supplies, however supply chain issues remain very challenging and many of our purchases have been and continue to be delayed.

Secondary

Is there room for project-based learning in the remote part of the school day?

The District continues to focus on increasing project based learning opportunities for our students.

Will the Middle School students still be split into R-M-S teams and then each team be split into Groups A and B?

Yes

What will be the student/teacher ratio in the high school and middle school?

Our class sizes in the high school and middle school will remain as usual with classes in the range of 24-27 students.

In the Middle School, will the students have the same teacher for their in-school and Remote Learning sessions?

Yes

How will actual learning work when half the students are in Class and half are at home for a class. Will Group B students at home actually be interacting with the teacher live at the same as Group A students who are in the class? What will be the technology platform they will be using?

Google Meets will be utilized by students and teachers for video conferencing, especially critical in a hybrid or remote teaching environment. Students are prohibited from recording any remote or live steamed lessons or activities, except as provided for in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

X period for middle school has always been scheduled for Mon-Thurs, is it possible to change it to Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri this year?

The X period schedule will remain Mon-Thurs. for the school year.

Can students in Middle School and High School stay in the same class throughout the day and can teachers come to them?

When this is possible in RMS we are following this model. At RHS, the individualized nature of student schedules and the low number of classrooms do not make this a feasible option.

What time will students need to arrive to enter in a socially distanced way? 7:30? 7:15? Where will they go until school starts? Any new rules for pick-up?

Students should plan to arrive approximately 15 minutes earlier than usual for the entry process. They will report to their assigned entrance where they will complete the screening process.

How will the students be socially distanced during lunch?

Designated seating will be made available to students during lunch arranged to maintain social distancing.

Will there Be plexiglass Between students?

Yes, student desks will have 3-sided barriers.

How will the high school and middle school be able to seat all the kids for lunch at least 6 feet apart?

Multiple spaces throughout the building will be utilized for lunch.

Will children be allowed to bring their own lunch?

Yes.

What are the kids going to do with Coats and hats and gloves and boots in the winter? Or raincoats and umbrellas in the rain?

These items will have to remain with students during their time in the building.

How will the kids be able to carry everything in their backpacks?

We expect that teachers will make appropriate modifications to what materials and resources are required in class.

Since kids cannot use the lockers, will teachers not require that they bring all of their materials to the classroom?

We expect that teachers will make appropriate modifications to what materials and resources are required in class.

Is daily in-school even feasible for middle and high school?

Our facilities prohibit full in school for all students due to space constraints and social distancing requirements.

On the remote days of learning for the Middle School how much of the day will be live and interactive with the instructors?

Middle schools students will follow their daily schedule and live stream into classes which will enable them to interact with their teachers and peers.

Will attendance be taken at each period?

Yes.

Where will the high school band practice? How will wind instruments sit 12' from others? Is there enough room for this?

High school band classes will be assigned to larger spaces based on the number of musicians in the class and the ability to provide 12 foot distancing between students.

How do kids sign up for X period? Will there be a time limit of say 5 min per student? Or is it more group topic oriented?

Middle school students will sign up for x period based on their particular instructional need. Our electronic sign up system will be explained to the students at the start of the school year.

Will X period be required for RMS as was being discussed in the spring (under the in person and hybrid models)?

Yes, X period is required this year. Our technology department is finalizing an electronic sign up as discussed in the spring.

What is the plan for remote learning breaks and homework?

Students will follow their regular school schedule and take breaks when possible. Homework should be completed as assigned by teachers.

Are we moving to blocks for the high school schedule? Or keeping the same schedule as last year?

The new High School schedule remains in place.

Why are we continuing with the rotating drop schedule in the high school? Why are we adding another level of complexity to the plan? Why wouldn't we try to keep the schedule as consistent and simple as possible?

Our high school teachers and administration are prepared for the new schedule and have been planning for the change.

Are we parents asked to give an option; if, we think our children have a choice for Regents Testing?

No, NYS exams are required and not optional.

How are you going to prevent cohorts from happening among the high school kids especially when changing classrooms going from class to class?

Hallways will be assigned as "one way" in an effort to keep person to person contact while passing at a minimum.

Socializing for mental well being of students: what is the plan to keep students 6' apart?

We will continuously remind students to maintain a distance of six feet. Furniture will be arranged with social distancing in mind.

For the RMS hybrid learning model, will the at-home days all be live-streamed? If so, will teachers be recording these sessions (at least for the core classes)?

Live streaming will be used at RMS. Students learning from home will attend class via live streaming technology. Classes will not be recorded.

Will the live-stream go through google meet or some other application?

We will continue to use the Google education suite of products, including Google Meet and Google Classroom. .

Will teachers collaborate on asynchronous learning (i.e., annotated slides)? Possibly take turns posting material for a given grade?

This is an excellent idea and one that will be possible with the scheduled planning and professional development time each Wednesday.

What accountability will these kids be given when they don't hand in an assignment? What are the requirements for teaching notifying parents of missed assignments - I.e frequency in updating power school?

Attendance and grades are required for students. PowerSchool must be updated and regular communication methods should be used when a student is not completing assignments or attending class.

Will there be more detail on how English will be taught remotely in the middle school, particularly with regards to writing and particularly for those kids who need more structure around how to write as it gets closer to school?

Our curriculum office will continue to provide guidance and professional development throughout the school year in support of remote learning.

It says, benchmark and pre-assessments will be done in September, is this just for students with IEPs or 504s or does it include all students?

Assessments are for all students.

If the classes are live-streamed in RMS, what would happen if outdoor classrooms are used?

The technology department is exploring ways to live-stream from outdoor spaces.

For students with a visual impairment (or other condition impacting the ability to comfortably or effectively wear a face mask), would face shields be an acceptable alternative to a face mask?

We have a limited supply of clear face masks. The use of shields is an added layer of protection, but cannot be used in place of wearing a face covering.

Is there a way for the high school to follow the middle school schedule for remote learning?

Each school will follow their designed schedule.

Is it possible to do a reentry video for kids before they walk in the door?

We are working to create videos and materials for students about new procedures and protocols. We will also be holding orientation programs during the first days of the school year.

There is a requirement for all RMS and RHS students to bring in Chromebooks/Laptops. Are there adequate charging provisions in each class room?

We have a good number of outlets for device charging in classrooms. Charging stations are available at the Media Center. Students should make every effort to bring their devices to school fully charged.

Has there been validation done of the internet connectivity at the schools to support the heavy usage that will be required to support the model? how are you ensuring that the devices supplied are able to sufficiently and consistently access school resources? What level of technical support will be available?

We have made significant updates to our WiFi and signal strength. There is ample technical support staff working at all of our schools.

What type of physical barriers will be used at lunch?

Students will be assigned to designated areas during this time, and furniture positioning will be utilized to maintain social distancing.

If the students are not allowed to use their lockers this year and must carry their backpacks around all day AND carry these computers to and from, will the RMS teachers consider decreasing the amount of school supplies needed so as to decrease the weight they must carry with them on a daily basis. Or might there be a place where they can safely leave their computers at school?

Teachers are aware that lockers cannot be used and will modify their requirements for materials and books as appropriate.

Could the school work with the High School PTO to source inexpensive but sufficient computers (I assume Chromebooks), either as a gift to the school, or for parent purchase?

The District is not able to purchase devices at bulk discount rates for the purpose of resale.

What is the district's position on how the district and guidance department will support Rye High School Seniors in their college placement?

Our RHS Guidance department will continue to sport the students and families through the college application process.

Why aren't classroom spaces being cleaned during the day in the high school?

Barriers and disposable placemats will be used in all classrooms at the high school. In addition, EPA-approved, safe cleaning supplies will be available in every classroom for any necessary cleaning

Questions from Faculty/Staff

Has the WiFi been increased to support the additional number of students and teachers throughout the building who will be on it at all times?

Yes, the District has worked to improve WiFi signal and strength throughout the schools.

Has the District purchased microphones for teachers?

The District has ordered microphones and amplifiers for use by teachers.

Where will teachers go during prep periods to get work done or eat?

Teachers will go to department offices or classrooms during prep time.

Has the District hired an exterminator for the wasps on the second floor of the high school? Wasps will come in regularly through the windows because they do not have screens.

The District maintains an annual contract for exterminating services, faculty or staff should report any issues through the District's work order system

Will desks in departmental offices have plexiglass shields?

Work space are being spread out in offices and plastic barriers are being strategically placed

Will common use computers be removed from individual desks?

No, however electronic wipes will be provided

Will tissues be provided in the classrooms?

Yes.

Where can teachers get tissues if needed?

Please submit a work order as needed.

When will we be given instruction on how to conduct a lockdown drill without hiding?

Building level emergency management sessions will be conducted once staff returns prior to the students returning on September 8th

What will be the consequences for students record live streamed classes? What about other people (like parents) recording these live streams?

The District will enforce the AUP in the event that a student violates it during remote learning.

As teachers, how are we expected to cover the content and keep out courses consistent if the students do not have equal instructional time?

The hybrid model was built to provide an equivalent amount of in school and remote time for all students.

How will students know if their class is synchronous or asynchronous that day? Will teachers be required to do a certain number per week per class?

There is a daily and weekly schedule with detailed information that will be provided to students and parents.

Can the time set aside on Wednesdays be used by teachers to adapt their labs to a more asynchronous and online platform?

Professional development and planning time can certainly be used for adaptation of instruction.

Is it possible for clubs to meet via Google Meet as a way of keeping students connected to each other and the larger community?

Once school is reopened and we have started classes, we will begin discussions on how to safely begin clubs and extracurricular activities.

Special Education

Is there a way to lessen the burden on families and streamline group or individual services [IEP/504] to occur directly before or directly after their “in school time”?

Specific concerns and plans should be raised by individual families during meetings with the Special Education Department.

And will the district be working to have providers work consecutively rather than have all of the services spread out?

Specific concerns and plans should be raised by individual families during meetings with the Special Education Department. This would include any schedule considerations.

What is the plan for delivering accommodations for students with a 504 via the remote and hybrid channels and how will you train teachers to help these students to access the curriculum via these online channels?

All accommodations and modifications will be implemented as per a child’s IEP or 504 plan. Our teachers have been participating in professional development and training all summer on how to maximize the use of our technology platforms.

When parents are expected to receive the first communication from the special education department to discuss the year?

A Q & A session was held for the families of our special education students. Parents/guardians who were not able to join the session can view a recording on the District’s website. In addition, all families have been invited to meet with the Special Education Department to discuss their child's needs and plan for the school year.

How accommodations and modifications can be successfully implemented in the remote and hybrid models.

All accommodations and modifications will be implemented as per a child’s IEP or 504 plan.

My kids like many kids with IEPs cannot learn remotely and I want to understand what consideration and what plan has been outlined for them?

All families of students with IEPs will have a meeting with the Special Education Department to discuss the individual plans and needs of each child.

Will my son still receive his 504 plan services (support for emotional and social skills needs) with the modified schedule?

Yes, all students will receive any supports or services as dictated by a 504 plan or IEP.

When will this schedule be modified and is it possible that school will resume on a normal schedule in the 2020-2021 school year?

We do not know this at the current time. The status of the virus and recommendations/mandates from NYS and the DOH will dictate our next steps.

I was wondering how are you going to ensure that the 504's are followed? In her 504 it says she will have daily contact with her teachers and regular contact with her guidance counselor. If we are totally remote or even the hybrid model, how will you ensure she has regular contact with her teachers and the guidance counselor? Also she is supposed to go to the learning center each day. How will that be set up remotely for the kids?

All teachers are still responsible for adhering to the 504 plans. Teachers and/or counselors can set up times to meet with the student in person (if possible) or remotely through a Google Hangout.

Parent FAQ Sheet

Chromebooks/Technology

Could you please discuss the Chromebooks for grades 2-5 and confirm that students will be able to take Chromebooks home for remote learning?

Students in grades 2 - 5 will each receive a Chromebook and charger from the RCSD that will go to and from school each day. Chromebooks will be distributed Thursday and Friday of next week, additional information including scheduled pick up times will be provided Monday, August 31st.

If kids have chromebooks at home could they leave their school chromebook at school and use the one at home?

Students will not be able to leave items at school outside of their AM or PM cohort session. Chromebooks should go home daily for proper charging, prepared for use the next day.

Can we use our own chromebooks or do we have to use school designated books?

Every student in grades 2 - 5 is being provided with a RCSD approved Chromebook with the proper applications and settings. It is recommended that students use the District provided devices.

For K and 1st grade who do not have individual school issued chromebooks what technology will they be required to have at home for the remote learning portion of the day?

Kindergarten and 1st grade students should have access to a laptop or tablet to participate in their special area classes.

How do new incoming K parents access the google classroom?

The teacher will send google classroom information to you.

How can I log in to the parent portal?

Each parent received in the mail information on how to create an account and log into the parent portal.

Can the school provide access or links to instructional materials in case parents would like to do extra work with their kids at home?

There are a number of subscription-based applications available to students, such as IXL, Raz-Kids and See-Saw. A document was created late last year, "Elementary Web-based Application 2019-2020" and we anticipate a revised version for this school year.

Will students have access to apps?

Students will have access to a variety of apps. There will be a list of usernames and passwords given to you.

Synchronous

Is there any synchronous work for the remote portion of the day?

PE and FLES - 1 synchronous meeting per 6-day cycle and the second class will be either synchronous or asynchronous at the discretion of the teacher.

Art and Music - 1 synchronous meeting per 6 day cycle

Also, if your child receives services during the WIN period, a minimum of 2 out of the 3 meetings will be synchronous.

Will a child's synchronous time be consistent everyday?

Yes, synchronous specials and WIN services will be provided at a consistent time.

How will the asynchronous work with the youngest children(kindergarten) be monitored if it isn't the same in-person teacher that they will see?

All asynchronous work that will be given, will be monitored by the homeroom teacher.

Will instrument lessons take place in school or remotely? When is band and orchestra?

Instrument lessons will take place remotely during the WIN period.

Wednesday

What does a Wednesday schedule look like for both in school and at home?

Wednesday

Groups A & B

ALTERNATE Weeks In-Person

& Remote

In-Person Group

8:40-11:40 AM

Instruction

Class meetings, ELA (Reading, Writing, Word Study) and Math

Science/Social Studies

Remote Group

8:40-11:40 AM

Students engage in synchronous/asynchronous remote learning at Home

Science/Social Studies, Support classes, i.e., ENL, AIS, Related Services, Specials, and Instrumental Lessons

11:50-1:30

Grades K-5 Staff Lunch and Prep

11:40-3:00

In-person group transitions to home.

All students eat lunch and

engage in asynchronous follow-up and/or extension activities remotely.

1:30-3:00

Teachers participate in collaborative planning and professional learning

Can you explain the schedule for the start of school next week?

Tuesday, September 8 - 8:40-11:00am - AM Cohort

Wednesday, September 9 - 8:40-11am - PM Cohort

Tuesday, September 8th (Day 1)
All students in Group A attend School In-Person
All students in Group B follow their Remote Schedule

- **8:40 - 11:00 AM**

TIME	In-Person (Group A)	Remote (Group B)
8:40-10:50	Building Community: Class Meeting, "Getting to Know You," Class Health and Safety Protocols	Specials (art, music, PE, FLES, library) times specific to each class based on schedule, Welcome videos
10:50-11:00	Dismissal	

Wednesday, September 9 (Day 2)
All students in Group B attend School in-Person
All students in Group A follow their remote schedule

- **8:40 - 11:00 AM**

TIME	In-Person (Group B)	Remote (Group A)
8:40-10:50	Building Community: Class Meeting, "Getting to Know You," Class Health and Safety Protocols	Specials (art, music, PE, FLES, library) times specific to each class based on schedule, Welcome videos
10:50-11:00	Dismissal	

On Wednesdays will the B cohort attend mornings or afternoons?

All cohorts will attend in the morning from 8:40 until 11:40.

Who will teach the remote students on Wednesday?

Remote Group on Wednesdays:

8:40-11:40 AM

- Students engage in synchronous/asynchronous remote learning at Home
 - Science/Social Studies, Support classes, i.e., ENL, AIS, Related Services, Specials, and Instrumental Lessons

On Wednesdays when students are fully remote, are the specials still going to be at the same time?

Remote Students will receive their specials in the morning following a building specific schedule.

Who will teach the FULLY remote kids on Wednesday?

Students who are fully remote will be taught by their assigned remote teacher up until 11:40. 11:40 to 3 PM All students eat lunch and engage in asynchronous follow-up and/or extension activities remotely.

How will we get to 180 days if Wednesday is a shortened day?

Wednesday will count toward the 180 day rule as per the NYS Board of Regents due to COVID-19 flexibility. From the July 2020 NYSED Board of Regents: "In order to provide additional flexibility for regulatory requirements relating to the instructional hour requirements for state aid purposes, the Department is proposing to revise the proposed amendments made to section 175.5 of the Commissioner's regulations to provide that for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, school districts may be eligible for a waiver from the annual instructional hour requirement if the district is unable to meet such requirement due to an Executive Order(s) of the Governor pursuant to the State of emergency declared for the COVID-19 crisis, or pursuant to Education Law §3604(8), or due to reopening procedures implemented as a result of the COVID-19 crisis".

Arrival/Dismissal

Where do you pick up kids if you have kids in more than one grade?

Kindergarten and first grade students must be dismissed to an adult. We suggest that older students walk to the pick up point of their younger siblings.

Are children able to park bikes at school?

Yes, children can park their bikes at each school's bike rack.

How will traffic be managed if the driveway is a drop off location?

We have traffic monitors and city provided crossing guards stationed at key locations at each school property.

How will pick-up be managed between the school and programs like Rye Reads and the YMCA?

Each building administrator is working with the Directors of these programs to finalize dismissal procedures due to the unique layout of each elementary school.

Health

When will the health form app be available?

The RCSD technology department is working hard to have this application up and running smoothly for the first day of school on September 8th.

Can you clarify whether the daily health assessments will be submitted electronically or whether a paper version needs to be brought each day?

The health form app must be completed electronically each day.

If a child gets sent home sick, will their in-school siblings be sent home as well? Similarly, if a child registers a fever/stays home sick, do their in-school siblings stay home that day, too?

In-school siblings will not be sent home if a child is sick. The District will reach out the County Department of Health when this occurs.

Will students' temperatures be taken at school each day?

No, you are required to take your child's temperature prior to filling out the self assessment form each day.

Cleaning/Air Circulation

Will bathrooms be cleaned between morning and afternoon groups?

Yes, all bathrooms will be cleaned between the morning and afternoon groups.

How will hand washing be enforced?

Aides will be stationed at bathrooms to ensure there is only one student at a time and to give reminders to wash hands.

Why would the playground equipment NOT be disinfected?

Playground equipment will not be disinfected which is consistent with CDC guidelines for outdoor equipment. In addition, RCSD employees will not be monitoring the equipment before and after school as they will be assisting with arrival and dismissal.

Is there additional custodial staff to complete all this in an hour? I am concerned for the PM cohort.

Yes, there will be enough custodial staff to complete the full cleaning between the AM and PM cohort.

Can you please discuss the HVAC/air filtration systems. Are high-efficiency filters being used / what MERV type? Will classroom windows be opened during the fall?

MERV-13 filters have been installed in our building-wide HVAC systems. In addition, we have installed HEPA filtration units in areas where the larger building-wide systems do not reach. We will open windows as much as possible, weather permitting.

How will the hepa filters work? also how will they work with the window AC units?

The HEPA filtration units will run throughout the day. Air conditioning units will run at the same time.

Will there be air cycling between morning and afternoon? There is a lot of focus on surfaces. But, this virus is in the air. Just curious how the air will be circulated when the morning cohort leaves - prior to afternoon cohort attending?

Our air filtration equipment will run all day long including during the mid-day break. We will also be disinfecting the schools with electrostatic sprayers that are used in the air and the entire areas of space.

Spaces

How often will the teachers bring out the students to the outdoor areas? For how long will you keep up outdoor classes?

We would anticipate once or twice a week. Outdoor learning is dependent on the weather and teacher discretion.

Will children be confined to their desks all day long? Will students be able to have a morning meeting, read aloud, shared rdg/writing time etc on the rug?

Rugs have been removed from classrooms. Students will participate in lessons from their individual desks. Children will have the ability to move within the classroom with appropriate social distancing.

Materials

Why does each child not have their own storage bin for supplies somewhere in the classrooms? (so they don't have to carry chromebook back and forth)

Desks have been removed from classrooms and desks have been placed 6 feet apart to allow for appropriate social distancing. There is not enough space to hold all student supplies. Also, we are trying to minimize the amount of materials left in classrooms in order to help with cleaning between cohorts.

Are parents expected to purchase materials that would normally be provided by the school?

No, parents are only asked to purchase the supplies on the school supply lists for each grade.

Masks

Will teachers be wearing clear masks for K/1 students to make communication a bit easier?

Yes for some, clear masks have been purchased for teachers if they would like to use them.

Will students need to wear masks at their desks if they have shields or are working behind clear plastic dividers?

Yes, masks must be worn at all times.

Why do kids need to wear masks when working independently?

Students will be working independently at their desks and in their classroom with their classmates and teachers. Masks must be worn inside the classroom and school building at all times. When working outside independently in outdoor classrooms, students may take a mask break.

Remote

What is the percentage of students that opt-in for fully remote learning?

Approximately <5% of students.

Will the remote schedule (especially the synchronous) be the same each day/week or change?

The remote schedule will be the same as the hybrid schedule. It will follow the 6 day cycle and will still have the alternating groups receiving synchronous instruction on Wednesday.

What will the remote-only kids be doing while the hybrid kids are learning about school-wide procedures and safety?

Their remote teacher will have appropriate lessons planned for their students.

Feedback/Homework

For asynchronous classes (eg science / social studies), will the children be able to receive individual feedback and guidance based on their work?

Yes, teachers will provide feedback and guidance to individual students on their work.

How will asynchronous assignments be evaluated by teachers and how will students receive feedback/guidance on those assignments?

Yes, teacher will provide feedback and guidance to students on their assignments.

Will teachers be checking and grading at home assignments?

Teachers will review students' work and provide feedback to students about the quality of their work and ways in which to improve their progress. Feedback will take a variety of forms, such as teacher's written comments, individual and small group conferences, checklists, and rubrics.

Curriculum

Will we get the assignments the night before (or more) so that working parents don't have hectic mornings trying to get the kids set up?

Classroom assignments will be posted each morning at the start of the school day.

What about catching kids up from last spring when they lost time? We will be taking the first few weeks of school to formally and informally assess students?

Schools will be assessing students over the first few weeks of school in reading, writing, and math. The data from these assessments will be used to properly group students, and used to help determine who may be eligible for additional support services.

Will teachers be able to cover the full curriculum this year with shortened lessons?

Teachers will be able to cover the curriculum over the course of the school year.

Social

What about recess and play?

Students are in school for two hours and twenty minutes. Lunch and recess will not occur as part of the hybrid school day.

How will the school address the needs of kids to socialize during the school day?

The elementary schools have allocated morning and afternoon meeting time in each classroom for social/emotional development. We are also working with the elementary school counselor and Rye Youth Coordinator on SEL activities.

Can the kids play on the playground in the break between AM and PM cohorts?

We ask that the playgrounds not be utilized between the AM and PM cohorts to help reduce the number of people on school grounds and ensure safe social distancing.