



# UPDATE

**August 7, 2020**

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## 2020-2021 District Calendar - Approved Calendar Changes

We would like to share with you the approved calendar, which includes changes of the **first day of school being Wednesday, September 9** and adding September 2 and September 8 as Staff Professional Development Days. These calendar changes reflect the needs for preparation to open school this fall. Click the link below to view approved calendar changes:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cOwURml9\\_240gnbllMilXqsintEyU2m0/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cOwURml9_240gnbllMilXqsintEyU2m0/view?usp=sharing)

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## Important Calendar Dates:

- **August 7, 2020** - NYS Governor's Announcement of Reopening NYS Schools
- **August 10, 2020** - Due Date for Distance Learning Enrollment Commitment
  - We need this to facilitate finalizing of class lists and transportation
- **August 10, 2020** - Due Date for Child/Children Self Transport Commitment
- **August 14-21, 2020** - Building's Summer Packets Mailed
- **August 25, 2020** - [Board of Education Meeting at 6:00 pm](#), Jr./Sr. HS Cafeteria & Virtually
  - <http://www.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1944>
- **September 1, 2, & 8, 2020** - Staff Professional Development Days
- **September 9, 2020** - **First Day of School**

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## Distance Learning and Class Lists

We heard from the Governor today that school can open in September for in person learning and distance learning by utilizing our reopening plans. Enrollment is open for Distance Learning and after Monday we will build class lists and will be able to share them soon. Sample distance learning schedules are below.

**Distance Learning Enrollment:** You can enroll your child/children in Distance Learning at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepiXhy58YovPMmgNzgow0g3AnuhtpIHZFm8XHW0ih6cW0wTA/viewform>

## Instructional Planning

Thank you to the parents who have already signed up for our Distance Learning Program. I know some of you are undecided as well, which is why I would like to share preliminary schedules with you to give you a better idea of how things will be structured. We hope that this information will help you to make a more informed decision about our Distance Learning Program. Again, this program will go through the first semester. **The due date to enroll in the Distance Learning Program is August 10, 2020 for fall planning, but open enrollment remains available during the school year.** The August 10 date is so we can finalize class lists and class size. Note: Our classrooms are capped based on CDC and DOH social distancing guidelines and the square footage of the rooms.

*The Onondaga Central School District recognizes that each student and teacher has differing—and some very challenging—circumstances at home, and different access to resources, **the resources, and suggested recommendations** here are intended to help the most students possible learn and thrive at this time. Below is an outline of **suggestions** for staff and students regarding distance learning.*

### **Administration Leadership Distance Learning Goals.**

1. Maintain a standard of high-growth students learning and NYS Learning Standards are followed.
2. Lead/guide grade-level teams and departments plan scope and sequence of instruction for NYS Learning Standards.
3. Ensure strong lessons are developed and excellent instructional/teaching methods are used.
4. Support teachers' and students' social, emotional, academic, and personal manners for school.
5. Lead student data analysis meetings, and collaborate with their grade-level teams and departments.
6. Observe, assist, and coach teachers.

### **Optimal At-Home Design**

- Continue using the elements of effective instruction
- Plan to ensure high-standards and student growth
- Lead (virtual) classroom lessons to engage students
  - Concept Development
  - Skill Development
  - Guided practice
  - Provide timely feedback
  - Daily face-time with students
  - Daily learning activities
  - Check-in with students frequently
  - Interventions- (as needed)
- Connect with students and families
- Execute rigorous, personalized lessons for mastery & growth
  - Monitor student learning data
- Adjust instruction to meet individual student's needs
- Share data with students and families
  - Providing timely feedback daily/weekly

### **Students at home participating in virtual/hybrid instruction:**

- Set up a work-friendly area. Make sure students have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
- Help them make a plan. Make sure students are logged into the computer and ready to participate virtually (be punctual)

- On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Students should aspire to balance their workloads.
- Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
- Make sure the child/children do their own work. They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. It's a kid's job to do the learning.
- Be a motivator and monitor. Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Encourage, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
- Praise their work and efforts. Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.
- Set realistic academic goals with your child/children. If you have questions about goal setting speak with your child/children's teacher or counselor.
- If there are continuing problems with homework, get help.
- Suggestions how to talk about hybrid with your child's/children: [The Hybrid Teacher - Survival Guide](#)

### What a virtual day of school may look like for Wheeler ES Students

Time	Activity	Notes
8:00 am	Log in to Google Classroom (all virtual students will log on for attendance purposes)	The teacher will take attendance and give instructions and assignments for the day.
8:10 am - 9:00 am	Google Classroom	ELA class - this may be a mix of direct instruction, guided practice, online assessments, the interaction between students and teachers, or other activities that engage the students in learning
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Independent work (offline)	Students will work on assignments to prepare for meetings later in the day
9:45 am - 10:15 am	Check-ins with teacher	Teachers will be available to meet with students independently or in small groups
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Special Area Class	Art/Music/Library/Technology/PE
11:00 am - 12:00 am	<b>Lunch/Recess</b>	<b>Lunch/Recess</b>
12:00 am - 12:45 pm	Google Classroom	Math Class - similar to ELA class, students will meet with their teacher for a combination of direct instruction, guided practice, and other activities that engage the student in learning
12:45 pm - 1:15 pm	Independent Work (offline)	Students will work on assignments to prepare to finish

		their day
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Google Classroom	Science/SS - students will meet with their teacher to engage with Social Studies or Science topics
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Google Classroom	Students will close out the day with their teachers ensuring they are aware of things they need to work on to be ready for the next day.

\*\*Students may NOT stay in the Google Classroom the entire duration of each block. Once individual students are ready to work on their own the teacher will let them go. Students that have questions or need additional help might stay the entire session.

### What a virtual day of school may look like for Rockwell ES Students

Time	Activity	Notes
8:30-8:45am	Log onto the Google Classroom	Read over the day's schedule and assignments (activities)
8:45-9:30 am	Log onto the Google Classroom for an ELA Lesson	ELA lesson with the classroom teacher. This may be a mix of direct instruction, guided practice, writing activity, online assessments, interaction between students and teachers, or other activities that engage the students in learning
9:30- 10:00 am	Independent Work (Work Offline)	Independent ELA guided practice. Teachers will be available to meet with students independently or in small groups
10:00-10:30 am		Movement break/snack
10:30-11:00 am	Log onto the Google Classroom	Check-in with the teacher for questions/help/review student work.
11:00-12:00 am	<b>Lunch/Recess</b>	Lunch/Recess
12:00-12:45 am	Log onto google Classroom	Special Area class Art/Music/Library/PE
12:45-1:15 pm	Log onto the Google Classroom	Math Lesson with classroom Teacher. Similar to ELA Class, students will meet with their teacher for a combination of

		direct instruction, guided practice, and other activities that engage the students in learning.
1:15-1:45 pm	Work offline	Independent Math guided practice. Teachers will be available to work with students independently or in small groups.
1:45-2:15 pm	Log onto the Google Classroom	Check-in with the teacher for questions/help/review student work.
2:15-3:00 pm	Stay on the Google Classroom	Log in with the Teacher for Science/Social Studies/Scholastic News/ Sharing time, Etc.

\*\*Students may NOT stay in the Google Classroom the entire duration of each block. Once individual students are ready to work on their own the teacher will let them go. Students that have questions or need additional help might stay the entire session.

At the **Jr. and Sr. High School**, the main purpose of the hybrid class is one in which the teacher and a portion of the students in the class are located in the brick and mortar classroom on District property, and a portion of the students are located off District property, participating in livestream instruction and other educational activities. The District will livestream instruction through the broadcast of live video content through the Internet and virtual platforms, which will be *Google Meets* and using *Google Classroom* other applications may be employed.

### **Instructional Shifts in Distance Learning**

- **Teaching methods:**

- Teachers spend part of each class teaching live via videoconference (Google Meet)
- Teaching is mostly with part of the class for short segments (e.g., 6–15 students)
- Class time may begin in a larger group briefly
- Students will move to Small-group
  - Break our groups
  - Flip Classrooms

[The Hybrid Teacher - Survival Guide.pdf](#) - Resource for teachers

- **Large and Small-group instruction:**

- Teachers facilitate discussion and analysis
- Synchronistic Instruction:
  - Lecture, Project-Based Instruction
- Examples: dissecting a poem, working a math proof, giving a phonics lesson
  - Break out groups/small groups
  - Flip Classrooms

- **When students are not with teachers, they:**

- Complete assignments
- Do skills practice
- Work on individual and group projects

- **Assignments are:**

- Communicated by teachers during school hours, and clearly articulated learning objectives and expectations.

- Turned in by students on Google classroom,
- Due at the end of the period, before the end of the day, or long-term projects dates specified.
- *Make needed arrangements for students with IEPs and English Language Learners to receive services and accommodations,*

**Schedule Shifts**

- **Follow established schedule**, so students have structure and certainty for
- **Establish virtual “office hours”** for quick teacher-student check-ins (prep time)
- **Use the same schedule as in-school learning, for continuity:**
  - Daily “class” schedule stays the same-following OCS bell schedule
  - After videoconferencing, students complete assigned work during the rest of the “period” or by end of day/week.
  - Maintain usual times for meetings, i.e. faculty meetings, observations, etc.

**Sample Schedule: Jr./Sr. HS Distance Learning/Hybrid/In-Person**

Period	Time	Notes
Period 1	7:50 – 8:37 AM	Homeroom
Period 2	8:40 – 9:22 AM	
Period 3	9:25 – 10:07 AM	
Period 4	10:10 – 10:52 PM	
Period 5/6	10:55– 11:25 PM	Lunch will be built into each students schedule
Period 6/7	11:28 – 12:10 PM	Lunch will be built into each students schedule
Period 7/8	11:40 – 12:22 PM	Lunch will be built into each students schedule
Period 8/9	12:13 – 12:55 PM	Lunch will be built into each students schedule
Period 10	10:55– 11:25 PM	
Period 11	10:55– 11:25 PM	

**Sample Schedule:** Distance Learning/Hybrid/In-Person schedule remains the same instruction will follow the year-long curriculum and pacing guides.

<b>Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School</b>		
<b>Cohort #1</b>		
<b>Semester: 1</b>		
<b>Name: Student Name</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Period 1</b> <b>Time 7:50 - 8:37</b>	PHYS ED 7-8 Teacher Name (GYM)	MUSIC Teacher Name (AUD)
<b>Period 2</b> <b>Time 8:40 - 9:22</b>	HEALTH 7 Teacher Name (148)	HEALTH 7 Vincentini(148)
<b>Period 3</b> <b>Time 9:25 - 10:07</b>	STUDY HALL Teacher Name(152)	STUDY HALL Teacher Name (152)
<b>Period 4</b> <b>Time 10:10 - 10:52</b>	MATH 7 Teacher Name (226)	MATH 7 Teacher Name (226)
<b>Period 5</b> <b>Time 10:55 - 11:25</b>	LUNCH	LUNCH
<b>Period 6/7</b> <b>Time 11:28 - 12:10</b>	ENGLISH 7 Teacher Name (147)	ENGLISH 7 Teacher Name (147)
<b>Period 8/9</b> <b>Time 12:13 - 12:55</b>	TECHNOLOGY 7 Teacher Name (T-1)	TECHNOLOGY 7 Teacher Name (T-1)
<b>Period 10</b> <b>Time 12:58 - 1:40</b>	SCIENCE 7 Teacher Name(132)	SCIENCE 7 Teacher Name (132)
<b>Period 11</b> <b>Time 1:43 - 2:25</b>	SOC. ST. 7 Teacher Name (150)	SOC. ST. 7 Teacher Name (150)

**Sample Schedule:** Distance Learning/Hybrid/In-Person schedule remains the same instruction will follow the year-long curriculum and pacing guides.

<b>Cohort #2</b>		
<b>Semester: 1</b>		
<b>Name: Student Name</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Period 6/7</b> <b>Time 11:28 - 12:10</b>	ENGLISH 7 Teacher Name (147)	ENGLISH 7 Teacher Name (147)
<b>Period 8/9</b> <b>Time 12:13 - 12:55</b>	PHYS ED 7-8 Teacher Name (GYM)	COMPUTER SCIENCE 7 A Teacher Name (145)
<b>Period 10</b> <b>Time 12:58 - 1:40</b>	SCIENCE 7 Teacher Name (132)	SCIENCE 7 Teacher Name (132)
<b>Period 11</b> <b>Time 1:43 - 2:25</b>	SOC. ST. 7 Teacher Name (150)	SOC. ST. 7 Teacher Name (150)

## Reopening FAQ's - Board of Education Meeting, July 28, 2020

**How are the ventilation systems in all three buildings going to run?** Ventilation systems in the buildings will increase the fresh air volume to the rooms to a level that keeps the rooms at or above NYS Education Dept. requirements. During the winter months, we will protect the equipment from freezing up and damaging the units. Weather permitting, we will safely open windows to allow more additional fresh air in the rooms. Univents will be cleaned, disinfected, and air filters will be changed every at least 3 months based on manufacturers and CDC recommendations.

**If a child starts in person, but finds they cannot function well with the masks, do they have the option to go remote?** Yes, they have the option switch from in person to remote learning.

**If instruction does not begin until after 8 am for Rockwell, but instruction times start at 7:45 am, are remote students expected to do anything in the interim?**

Instruction will begin at 8:30 am for Rockwell students and 7:55 am for Wheeler students; teachers will have posted assignments by 8 am for consistency purposes. Online learning will occur during “the school day” with online instruction and scheduled time for teachers to assist students. At the elementary level, we are not expecting students to be online from 7:45 am - 3:15 pm; there will be time for independent work, lunch, and recess breaks.



**Can parents donate supplies for kids for individual use?**

Yes and much appreciated. The PTO is looking to coordinate these efforts. Buildings welcome any school supply donations from families such as crayons, pencils, etc.

**So there is no hybrid model for Rockwell/Wheeler due to low numbers and students are able to spread out enough?**

That is correct, unless there is a surge of enrollment, Rockwell and Wheeler are planning for full-time in person learning following ALL safety protocols from the CDC.

**Is there a particular advantage to PE in the classroom vs. the gym where students can be more spread out?**

Outdoor spaces will be utilized for PE and other specials weather permitting. The CDC recommends student spacing for PE classes be expanded to 12-feet apart. Bringing special area teachers to the classroom limits the amount of time students spend in the hallways and helps maintain cohorts.

**What does the max class size look like at Rockwell/Wheeler (realizing that the grade numbers differ)?**

Rockwell is looking at 11-12 students per classroom. Wheeler is looking at 13-14 students per classroom. These numbers may decrease depending on the number of families that choose distance learning.

**Please make sure with distance learning that teachers do not assign assignments on the weekends or make them due by midnight on a Sunday...be consistent with having assignments assigned during the school day and due during the school day...this was happening in the spring.** Assignments and instruction will occur during school hours.

**Will the Jr./Sr. HS schedule be the regular 40 min periods as listed in School Tool? Or, will they be following a block schedule?**

Learning at the high school will take place according to the 42 min period schedule.

**What about sanitizing wipes on the buses?**

There will be sanitizing wipes on the buses so that high traffic areas can be cleaned in between bus runs. Buses will be deep cleaned daily.

**Are you attempting to have remote learning live streamed with in person class, or are they separate entities?**

This process is still being worked out. In some cases, there may be live streaming and in other cases, it may be a separate instructional period.

**Have you sourced enough technology for distance learning students who don't have it already?**

Students in need of technology for distance learning will be accommodated as they were in the Spring.

**Are Jr./Sr. HS students engaging in synchronous learning when they are at home remote learning? (be logging on to computer and following their classroom schedule)**

Students will engage in a class period schedule; what that will look like by teacher/subject is still being determined.

**Did you indicate if the plan approved by the state would be shared with some time to digest before parents are asked to make a decision about distance learning?**

**Did you say we would hear the final approved plan before we complete the survey? I don't think we can make a decision on distance learning until we know more about the approved plan. Many districts presented approved plans, to my knowledge, (that could change obviously if infection rates change), but they have something approved to react to.**

The plan presented at the Board of Education meeting is the one being submitted to the state.

**If students need webcams or other equipment, will technology requirements be sent home so families can prepare?**

At this time, a student that is distance learning needs a device to access Google Classroom and reliable internet.

**How much are we prioritizing and preparing students for distance learning?**

Teachers are working to prepare for both in person and distance learning. During the first few weeks of school at the K-6 level, teachers will work with students on accessing Google Classroom and other online resources needed for virtual instruction.

**If families have extra equipment, is there a way to donate to the school? Monitors, etc?**

Yes, families can contact Jennifer Woody, Business Administrator, to inquire about donating working computer equipment. We are limited to accepting new or one-two year old equipment and licenses for software and virus protections. Older equipment is best donated to families in the neighborhood and our counselors will assist family in finding a new home for gently used computer equipment.

**I think more Zoom instruction for all, but including younger kiddos, K-2 is BIG.**

**We have to prepare to support the social/emotional piece in a virtual environment.**

Distance learning will provide online instruction and teacher support sessions via Google Meets.

**Will there be an opportunity for virtual learners to meet their teacher beforehand to make everyone more comfortable?**

We are working on plans to make this possible. Look for more information from building principals in mid-August.

**What will happen if a student comes to school and refuses to wear a mask?**

**Will students be sent home immediately if not wearing a mask?**

If a student doesn't have a mask on, they will be provided with one. If they are non-compliant with wearing it, they will be removed from the classroom setting where principals and parents will work together to correct the issue. Safety of students and staff is our number one priority as we teach our children.

**It sounds like the administration will be flexible with families who go remote, but aren't able to maintain 8 am - 3 pm time? (Rockwell/Wheeler mostly)**

Remote learning will be flexible within the hours of the school day. Teachers and Principals will work with families given reasonable expectations and limited resources.

**Has OCM BOCES set up their schedule yet?**

CTE students will be attending school daily. Other programs at Crown Rd. Liverpool NY and McVoy in Cortland NY will go everyday and other programs embedded at other school districts have not reported out a schedule to date.

**Can families donate masks?**

Yes, families can donate masks to the PTO or the school district directly.

**Will students need to wear their masks while at their desks, but have mask breaks?**

**Last week in the slides you presented, students were allowed to remove masks at Wheeler once seated. Masks will now be required?**

Masks will be required at all times, except during scheduled mask breaks.

**Can a child wear a mask shield instead of a mask?**

Individuals with health issues or an IEP will be worked with to see what protection is best for them, but it must be in accordance with the CDC and New York State Department of Health Guidelines.

**If we opt to have our children distance learn for the fall, is there an option to have them resume in class learning at any time or after a quarter ends?** If distance learning is chosen, the district is asking that you select this option until January or at the half year mark. This is for consistency for instruction as well as the student. Individual cases/circumstances will be reviewed by the principals and superintendent.

**Could you provide more clarity on the positive COVID-19 diagnosis response plan?** The district will work with families, school nurses and medical directors and the Onondaga County Department to determine COVID-19 tracers to determine who needs to be notified, quarantined and tested. Communications from the school district will flow to appropriate families and district wide in accordance with privacy laws and DOH recommendations. **Additional clarity beyond "the district will work in conjunction with the DOH" would help families plan for this potential.**

**Will children from a given bus route be preferentially grouped in classes to minimize exposure?**

No, students will be grouped by family and individually by bus route.

**If parents commit to transporting their children, will that negate the need for such grouping?** Yes, families committing to transporting their child/children will reduce the numbers on the bus and improve routing flexibility.

**Could you prove additional clarity on how the schools will enforce proper mask usage?** Students who do not wear a mask at school will be sent home and if they are persistently insubordinate they will be enrolled in distance learning.

**Will the school be providing disposable masks if a child arrives without one?** Yes, disposable masks will be available for students in need on the bus and at school.

**What laundering frequency is the district following for cloth masks?** We are recommending people that wear reusable masks follow the CDC guidance on washing masks.

**What if any corrective action will be levied against a student for non-compliance or willful disobedience concerning the adopted mask usage procedures?** They will be assigned and signed up for distance learning.

**What should the parents be doing to prepare our children for in school mask usage?** Having younger students wear masks for short periods of time while at home and increasing that time periodically will help with the adjustment of having to wear them at school.

**If children are not complying with the mask usage procedures, will they be required to switch to the distance learning alternative?** Yes, they will be signed up for distance learning.

**The list of symptoms characteristic of COVID-19 are quite exhaustive at this point. What symptoms will be used diagnostically by the district as a means of keeping a student at home?**

Any symptom that a child is having should be considered an illness unless they are under the care of their family doctor or doctor.

**If a student has those symptoms, will the parents be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result before the student returns to school?**

Ideally prior to school starting, families with child/children with a pre-existing health condition with the same symptoms as COVID-19 will notify the school.

Determination of illness for similar type symptoms to COVID-19 will be determined by the child's medical history in consultation with the parent/guardian and the family's doctor.

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If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your building principal or me.

Sincerely,

Rob Price, Superintendent