

## **Questions from July 28th BOE Meeting**

**How are the ventilation systems in all three buildings?** Ventilation systems in the buildings will increase the airflow to the rooms, which means increasing the amount cubic air turn over in the room per hour to above the 15% turn over, which is currently required by NYSED. This will pull in more fresh air and require greater heating demands by increasing the fresh mix with room temperature air. Air filters will be changed with increased frequency from every 6 months to every 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.

**Specifically could you address:**

**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.