

RAIDER CONNECTION

*** REOPENING SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDITION ***

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Before the end of the school year in June as we were preparing for the High School graduation and end of year festivities, we were already discussing plans for the Reopening of Schools in September. Our discussions began more than six weeks ago and we have made much progress since that time. We surveyed the parents on June 30th and used the parent responses to begin to frame our very important work. And while we know that our Reopening Plan will affect all households differently, we have tried our best to consider all parent concerns in our Reopening Plan development. This special summer edition of the Raider Connection is intended to respond to the numerous questions that we have received regarding Reopening of Schools in September. Please carefully review the document as there is a great deal of information contained in the pages to follow. In addition, we will hold a second Facebook Live Session on Thursday July 23rd at 6:00 p.m. to dive deeper into our Reopening Plan. The Plan must be approved by the Board of Education on Monday July 27th at the July Business Meeting and submitted to the State Education Department by Thursday July 31st. We intend to prepare videos shortly after the Plan is submitted to the State that will further orient our families to the look and feel of schools in the Fall. I'd like to thank you all for your continued support and cooperation during these challenging times. Please stay tuned and continue to take good care!



Donna Jones, Ed.D.

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ELEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What time will school begin?

All elementary teachers and students will have the same arrival and dismissal times, and the times are noted below. Buses will be staggered by a few minutes to allow for less congestion in the hallways. There will only be half the number of students on a given day due to the Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday cohorts.

- Teacher Day: 8:40 a.m. – 3:52 p.m.
- Student Day: 8:55 a.m. – 3:25 p.m. (same as last year)

ELEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**What days will students be expected to attend onsite?**

At the elementary level, students will be assigned to a Monday/Thursday or a Tuesday/Friday schedule. The Transportation Department is working with building principals to create an equal balance for both the Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday cohorts. We will make every effort to accommodate siblings on the same days, but are unable to guarantee that will occur based on special programs or other logistical concerns.

How will the district determine which students will attend school on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday?

Students will be selected to attend on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday based on their household, which will allow for most elementary students in the household to have the same schedule. There may be exceptions for special programs such as special education and bilingual education. However, adjustments may need to be implemented to balance the number of students in classrooms and grade levels. Our Transportation Department will develop those schedules to ensure an optimal balance of students for the Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday cohorts.

Is phasing in grade levels a possibility?

At this time, all students in grades K-5 will begin on September 9, 2020 for a blended model of instruction including both onsite and remote learning in accordance with the Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday schedules. We will provide further information with regard to Pre-K, but it is anticipated that Pre-K will be phased in at a later date. The schedule allows for proper social distancing in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.

How much core instruction will my child receive when they are onsite?

The elementary schedule is designed to maximize core instructional time when students are onsite noted in the schedule below. The content blocks may be split to incorporate brain breaks, projects, games and other activities to allow for movement and support student engagement.

- 120 minutes of English Language Arts
- 90 minutes of Math
- 30 minutes Social/Emotional Learning (SEL)
- 30 minutes Science or Social Studies

How will elementary students attend specials?

Students will have in-school specials (physical education, music, art, library) on the days they are scheduled to attend onsite. These will be forty (40) minute periods on each day students attend onsite. Since students will only be attending two days a week, priority will be given to physical education on one of the days, which is mandated by New York State. Music, art and library will be rotated in on the other onsite day weekly. In addition, students will have specials during remote learning days. Those specials will be a combination of live virtual classes and recorded activities. If students are unable to attend live virtual specials due to not having a device at the scheduled time, recorded lessons will be available.

Will the students remain in the classroom for lunch?

Students will have a combined forty-minute lunch/recess period on the days they are scheduled onsite. Lunch and recess will either be in the classroom or outside, weather permitting. The student lunch/

ELEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**Will the students remain in the classroom for lunch? (continued)**

recess period will be supervised by a part time staff member designated by the school principal.

What does Wednesday look like for students/teachers?

In a blended model encompassing both onsite and remote learning, teachers need additional time to plan for delivery of instruction in both formats. Teachers will use this day for planning and corresponding with parents and students. Teachers may also be posting assignments for science and social studies. Wednesday is a remote learning day for students, and all students will be home on Wednesdays. Remote learning will include a combination of posted (reinforcement assignments) and live virtual instruction for specials.

How will live instruction infuse with remote learning?

On days when students are not onsite, they will be on remote learning similar to the way they were the last few months of school. **However, this school year, teachers will infuse some live virtual lessons for specials and science or social studies. Students who do not have access to devices at a specific time to participate in live virtual lessons, will have the option to watch a recording at a later time.**

How will the Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday schedules work for dual language?

We will provide further updates shortly.

How will my child receive related services and remedial services?

Related services such as speech, resource room, occupational therapy as well as remedial reading Math AIS, etc., will be provided in small group via both a push-in and pull-out model based on scheduling. Instruction will be a combination of in-person instruction when students are onsite and virtual on remote learning days. Partitions will be available for small group instruction to ensure student and staff safety.

Will there be an opportunity for remote learning for students who have medical conditions?

Students who provide medical documentation may be entitled for home instruction in accordance with Board of Education Policy 6173. Home instruction typically does not begin until 10 absences have been recorded, but there may be extenuating circumstances waiving that timeframe for documented reasons.

May I opt my child into only remote learning?

The district plan includes a blended model of instruction with both onsite and remote learning in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. This will be the only model offered unless otherwise directed by an Executive Order, however the district is still exploring options that may be considered based on individual circumstances.

What happens if I decide not to send my child for onsite instruction?

The district is exploring options based on individual circumstances, however we cannot commit to this option due to staffing implications. However, in accordance with BOE Policy 5120 parents have the option to apply for homeschooling through the Office of Instructional Services.

ELEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)

If school should resume full time, will my child have the same teacher?

The district will make every effort to keep students placed with the same teachers, but some shifts may be required based on staffing changes that were needed due to the blended model.

What happens if there is a school holiday on my child's onsite day of instruction?

Changing the Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday rotation due to a school holiday would cause too much confusion, so students will follow their regular Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday schedule regardless of holidays.

How many students will be in each classroom?

At the elementary level, class sizes are anticipated to be between 8-15 students. We are not able to give exact numbers until the transportation runs are solidified. We will do our best to create an equal balance on Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday, but it may not be an even split. **We will also do our best to create the transportation runs by household, but there may need to be adjustments based on programmatic need (i.e., special education and bilingual education) and to balance the number of students in classrooms and grade levels.**

Will there be clubs or other extracurricular activities?

Yes. According to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Reopening Guidelines, "Extra-curricular activities are an important aspect of student life and the school community. Attention should be paid to bringing back activities that can be conducted in a safe environment with appropriate social distancing protocols." The district is exploring opportunities for a combination of in-person, as well as virtual extracurricular activities.

What school supplies will my child need?

In accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, there will be no sharing of student supplies. Building principals will be posting supply lists to their building websites. Students should have both in-school and at-home supplies for use on remote learning days. Select instructional materials will need to travel back and forth with the students in the event that we need to make an immediate decision to close schools due to the pandemic. This will ensure that all students have the requisite materials when needed at home.

Will the district offer childcare?

Before and after care will be offered in each elementary building for students on the respective days they are scheduled for onsite instruction. To be eligible, parents will need to register for both days of the week to keep the numbers consistent and avoid mixed groupings in accordance with the Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. **Primary consideration will be given to medical professionals and emergency responders. Parents should plan for other childcare arrangements when students are not scheduled for onsite instruction.**

What can students expect at the bus stop, walking in the hallways?

The Elementary Committee is working on creating videos to assist students in seeing what the school days will look like in different settings.

SECONDARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**What will the schedule be for the students who attend BOCES programs and then transition back to the HS?**

We have reached out to Eastern Suffolk BOCES regarding the status of CTE programs. Unfortunately, they do not have an official answer for us at this time as they are currently discussing and reviewing options. They will keep school districts updated when they finalize their reopening plans.

Will the students remain in the classroom for lunch and recess?

Yes. Students will not be eating lunch in the cafeteria. Middle school and high school students will have a “grab” and “go” lunch. Middle school students will have a full 40- minute lunch period and will eat lunch in a classroom with their cohort. We are exploring scheduling options that will allow for special area teachers to push-in during this time. At the high school, we have scheduled two 20 minute “grab and go” time slots that will allow students to grab lunch and bring to their next scheduled class. Only two grades will be scheduled during each “grab and go” time slots to reduce the number of students.

How will the district determine which students will attend school on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday? Will siblings go on the same days?

At the secondary level, the master schedule and the courses students are enrolled in will determine who is assigned to attend school on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday. **We are unable to guarantee that siblings will attend on the same days as each child’s schedule is unique.**

How will the dual language classes work on the A/B schedule?

This requires further discussion and additional information will be forthcoming.

Will there be an option for student to participate in only remote learning and not in-person for parents who are not comfortable sending their child(ren) to school?

The district plan includes a blended model of instruction with both onsite and remote learning in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. This will be the only model offered unless otherwise directed by an Executive Order, however the district is still exploring options that may be considered based on individual circumstances.

How many students will be in each classroom?

At the secondary level, class sizes are anticipated to be between 13-18 students but may run larger for physical education classes. We will follow appropriate social distancing guidelines and will utilize alternate spaces within the building should a traditional classroom not be large enough to accommodate appropriate social distancing.

If students should attend school on a Monday, and school is closed for a holiday, will the in-person day be made up?

No. If child is scheduled to attend in-person instruction on Monday and Thursday and school is closed for a holiday on either of these days, a student will not be assigned an alternate day for on-site instruction to make-up for school being closed for a holiday.

Is phasing in grade levels a possibility?

At this time, our reopening plan has all grade levels beginning school at the same time.

SECONDARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**What does a split schedule look like for my child at the secondary level? What days will they attend school?**

At the secondary level, students will be split into two cohorts. One cohort will attend school on Monday and Thursday and the other cohort will attend school on Tuesday and Friday. On the days that students are not in school, they will receive daily substantial interactions with teachers (remote learning).

At the high school, we are in the process of redesigning our master schedule. When students attend school for the split schedule, they will follow a 6-period schedule. Each period will be approximately 55 minutes. Our goal is to schedule students for English, Science, Social Studies and World Language and one additional elective and/or lab. Below is a sample of a student's schedule at the high school level who is assigned to the Monday and Thursday cohort (*times may be adjusted slightly to reduce travel time from 5 minutes to 4 minutes since lockers will not be utilized*):

Teacher Arrival	7:05 AM	
Bus Arrival	7:15 AM	
PERIOD 1	7:45 AM – 8:40 AM	Math
PERIOD 2	8:45 AM – 9:40 AM	Science
PERIOD 3	10:00 AM – 10:55 AM	Lab (Monday), PE (Thursday)
PERIOD 4	11:15 AM – 12:10 PM	English
PERIOD 5	12:15 PM – 1:10 PM	Social Studies
PERIOD 6	1:15 PM- 2:10 PM	Spanish
BUS DISMISSAL	2:15 PM	

Similar to the high school, middle school students will attend a 6-period day. Each period will be approximately 1-hour. Students in grades 6-8 will be assigned a cohort and will be attached to the same English, Science, SS and Math teachers. In addition, we will also offer a period for lunch and a period for World Language and/or academic supports. We will be discussing a rotation of specials during their lunch period that will offer a push-in for Home and Careers, Music, Art, Business, Social & Emotional supports, Library, Health and Technology. Below is a sample schedule for a middle school student (*times may be adjusted slightly to reduce travel time from 5 minutes to 4 minutes since lockers will not be utilized*):

Teacher Arrival	7:45 AM	
Bus Arrival	8:10 AM	
PERIOD 1	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Math
PERIOD 2	9:32 AM – 10:32 AM	Science
PERIOD 3	10:34 AM – 11:34 AM	Social Studies
PERIOD 4	11:36 AM – 12:36 PM	Spanish
PERIOD 5	12:38 PM – 1:38 PM	Lunch (push-in special or support services)
PERIOD 6	1:40 PM - 2:40 PM	English
BUS DISMISSAL	2:45 PM	

SECONDARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**Will the children have live teaching when they are on remote learning?**

On days when students are not scheduled to be on-site, they will receive daily substantial interactions with teachers. **This school year, teachers will infuse some live virtual lessons for the courses they are not scheduled for when on-site. Students who do not have access to devices at a specific time to participate in live virtual lessons, will have the option to watch a recording at a later time.**

Should school reopen full time at some later point in the school year, will my child(ren) have the same schedule and teachers?

There is a possibility that a teacher may change if we return back to school full time. In order to accommodate the development of hybrid/split schedules, reduce the amount of traveling teachers and to keep cohorts of students together, a child may have one teacher during the hybrid/split model and a different teacher when we return back to school full time. We will try to limit this to the best of our ability.

SPECIAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**How will my child receive their related service of speech, OT, PT, and/or counseling as well as Resource Room?**

The amount and frequency of related services and Resource Room program on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) will determine how often in-person services can occur. Therefore, some students may have both in-person and remote related services and Resource Room. For example, if a student receives speech three times weekly, two sessions may be in person and one session may be remote. In-person services and Resource Room will occur in both individual and small group (no more than five students) settings. For in-person related services and Resource Room, each service provider or teacher will have a polycarbonate barrier for small group instruction. Each area will be cleaned between group sessions.

How will students' needs be met that have Individualized Education Programs?

The district must make every effort to provide special education and related services to students in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or, for students entitled to free appropriate public education (FAPE) under Section 504, consistent with a plan developed to meet the requirements of Section 504. During Statewide School Closures due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak in New York State," dated March 27, 2020, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) stated, "NYSED will allow school districts as much flexibility as federal and state laws and regulations allow in determining how FAPE is to be provided during the Coronavirus outbreak." With that said, Patchogue-Medford Schools will provide special education and related services to the greatest extent possible through a combination of in-person, and synchronous/asynchronous/web-based platform(s). Student progress will be monitored through data collection and reporting through of progress marks each trimester or quarter.

Will students that have 504s or IEPs still have their accommodations?

The school district must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability is provided the accommodations and modifications identified in the student's IEP or 504. However, the guidance from NYSED has recognized that during the COVID-19 emergency, schools may not be able to provide all accommodations and modifications in the same manner they are typically provided.

SPECIAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**How will the district meet the individual needs of alternatively assessed students or Academic and Career Explorers (ACES) students?**

The students in the ACES program have individual and unique needs that must be considered when returning to school. The students that attend the Elementary and Middle School ACES programs will begin with an alternate day schedule and will phase into four days of instruction as appropriate. At the HS level, the ACES students will attend four full days of school beginning on September 8th, with the students participating remotely on Wednesdays.

How will the district conduct CSE/CPSE and 504 meetings for the 2020-2021 school year?

As per the recent guidance from the Department of Health, school districts should consider limiting the number of visitors permitted on school grounds and in school facilities. Additionally, many of our conference rooms do not allow for acceptable social distancing. As per New York State Guidance CSEs are not required to meet face-to-face and are authorized to meet using phones or online means, with the permission of the family. At this time, we will begin the 2020-2021 school year conducting CSE/CPSE and 504 meetings on a virtual platform such as Zoom. We will continue to evaluate this as the school year continues.

My child was scheduled for an evaluation. Can this now be conducted?

As per the recent Executive Order 202.37, the NYS Education Department has interpreted the Executive Order to authorize in-person preschool and school-age initial evaluations and reevaluations for all children. The district will complete outstanding evaluations and initial evaluations in the order the consent was received.

How will the district meet the students' social/emotional needs when school reopens?

As part of our reopening plan, the district is outlining procedures to address the mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs of students, faculty, and staff when school reopens for in-person instruction. Additionally, the district is organizing a team to develop a districtwide social-emotional curriculum to be in place prior to September. The goal of the team will be to create a K-12 social-emotional curriculum to be taught in a connected, consistent, interdisciplinary manner.

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**What measures is the district taking to promote social distancing?**

We have been taking a number of steps to promote social distancing such as spacing the classroom desks six feet apart, marking the outdoor pavement near building entry points, and installing polycarbonate barriers in spaces where social distancing is not possible.

All desks (including teachers) will face in the same direction rather than facing each other to reduce transmission caused by virus-containing droplets. Coat hooks and cubbies in the classrooms will not be used, nor will hallway, gym, or instrument lockers. In addition, the use of restrooms will be staggered and every other stall/urinal will be unavailable for use as an additional measure to ensure social distancing.

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**Will students and staff be required to wear masks?**

Students must wear a cloth face covering whenever social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings will be required to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and must be worn when entering or exiting the building, travelling through the hallways, riding on buses, while in the restrooms, while riding in elevators, or any areas/situations where social distancing is not possible. The district will have an adequate supply of face coverings on hand if any student needs a replacement.

Exceptions include:

- Those who are medically unable to tolerate a face covering.
- During meals, instruction, and short breaks just as long as they maintain appropriate social distance.

How will students safely be transported to school on the buses?

Students riding the bus, along with the driver, will be required to wear masks and social distance measures will be put in place by limiting one child per seat. Students that are of the same household are permitted to be seated together. Buses will be disinfected after each route has been completed and the next group of students picked up. The district is currently investigating cleaning products that are designed to be effective for several weeks. Disinfectant wipes will also be used to clean the handrails or other high contact areas.

Upon arrival at school will all students use the same building entrance?

As an additional social distancing safety measure, we have identified several entry points to allow students entry to our buildings. Where possible, we have designated specific entrances for students riding on the large buses, those riding on the mini buses, those walking or being driven to school, and one for those students in our child care program.

Will the district offer breakfast and lunch during the school day for my child?

Yes, both breakfast and lunch will continue to be made available for our students. In the elementary schools, orders for breakfast and lunch will be taken by your child's teacher and served to them in the classroom.

In the middle schools, students will be able to pick-up a "grab and go" style breakfast at one of the two food kiosks available before heading to their first class. The lunch orders will be taken in the same manner as at the elementary schools and served to them in the classroom.

At the high school, breakfast will be available in a "grab and go" style from one of the three food kiosks available before heading to their first class. One kiosk will be located in the music corridor near the Main entrance, one in the auditorium/gym lobby near the north entrance, and the last one near the south entrance. Lunch will also be "grab and go" style with students on the third floor utilizing the food kiosks conveniently located on either end of the floor by the stairwells. Students on the first and second floors will be able to pick-up their lunch in one of the four cafeteria food courts that will be used to distribute these same meals. Once students have their meal they are to proceed to their next scheduled class.

What measures is the district taking to protect students with food allergies?

This requires further discussion as a separate space outside of the classroom will need to be made

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**What measures is the district taking to protect students with food allergies? (continued)**

available to students for this purpose. We are carefully reviewing the Department of Health guidance and once our room utilization plans are finalized for each building, we will determine the space(s) available to comply with these regulations.

How will students perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating?

Bottles of hand sanitizer will be placed in each classroom wherever a sink is not available for hand washing with soap and water.

Will meals be available for my child on days that they are assigned to remote learning and not reporting to the building for live instruction?

Yes, "grab and go" prepared breakfast and lunch meals will be available for pick-up in the security vestibules of the main entrances at each of the buildings.

What cleaning and disinfection procedures will be put in place in the schools?

Cleaning and disinfection procedures for the school have been developed in accordance with Center for Disease Control and Department of Health guidance. Most surfaces and objects will just need normal routine cleaning. Frequently touched surfaces and objects like light switches and doorknobs will need to be cleaned and then disinfected to further reduce the risk of germs on surfaces and objects.

The custodial staff will be cleaning the buildings throughout the day as needed in addition to the collection of classroom garbage due to meals being eaten in these spaces, periodic checks and cleaning of the bathrooms, and the wiping down of the water fountains/bottle filling stations.

Disinfecting the areas will take place daily after the students, staff, and faculty have left the premises. The custodians will disinfect the highly touched areas with an EPA registered antimicrobial products for use against the Novel Coronavirus SAR-Co V-2 (the cause of COVID-19). Deep cleaning throughout the entire buildings will be conducted on Wednesdays and Friday evenings.

Cleaning logs will be maintained that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection for each facility and area type.

What other measures is the district taking to assist my child while moving about the building?

Signage will be posted on the walls and use of directional floor markings will be put in place to assist students with proper hallway travel, any doorways designated for entry or exit only, and any corridors or stairwells designated for one-way traffic.

Will fire drills and lock down drills still be conducted?

Yes, schools must continue to conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills according to the existing statutory schedule. These drills will be conducted in a manner that maintains social distancing at exits and gathering points outside the building, while still preparing students to respond in emergencies.

ATHLETICS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**Will the students participate in extra-curricular activities such as clubs and athletics?**

As per the *Guidance for In- Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency* document from the Department of Health, 'Policies regarding extracurricular programs and which activities will be allowed, considering social distancing, PPE usage, and cleaning and disinfection, as well as risk of COVID-19 transmission (e.g., interscholastic sports, assemblies, and other gatherings). Policies should consider how to maintain cohorts, if applicable, or members of the same household....interscholastic sports are not permitted at the time of publication of this guidance, and additional information on athletic activities is forthcoming.

- The subcommittee for Arts, Music and Extracurricular Activities is working on guidelines and plans regarding extracurricular activities.
- In keeping with the DOH/State guidance provided, The Arts and Music subcommittee has been exploring methods of offering extra-curricular activities both virtually and in-person. We will better be able to offer concrete suggestions regarding in-person activities once building schedules have been finalized and space availability is determined. It is suggested that virtual extra-curricular activities are offered to students throughout the school year.
- The subcommittee for Athletics is working on plans outlining a return to athletics and awaiting further guidance from Governor Cuomo's office, NYSED, NYSPHSAA, Section XI, DOH and CDC regarding the 2020-2021 Athletic Seasons.

What is the NYSPHSAA?

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc. (NYSPHSAA) is a non-profit, voluntary, educational service organization composed of public, parochial, and private schools dedicated to providing equitable and safe competition for the students of its member schools. Membership is open to secondary schools providing interschool athletic activities for boys and girls in grades 7-12.

What is the NYSPHSAA Task Force?

The NYSPHSAA has convened a COVID-19 Task Force to examine potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the Fall 2020 season and the 2020-2021 school year. The Task Force has come up with several 'potential scenarios' regarding the 2020-2021 seasons. For more information, please visit: www.nysphsaa.org.

When are the start dates for Fall 2020 athletics?

*****New Start Date for HS Athletics: Monday, September 21, 2020**

The Officers of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), voted to delay the official start date of the Fall 2020 sports season, cancel the Fall 2020 Regional and State Championships and prepare to implement a condensed season schedule in January 2021 if high school sports remain prohibited throughout 2020 due to COVID-19. This decision comes at the recommendation of the NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force.

As per guidance on July 16, 2020, the NYSPHSAA Task Force decided that start dates for the Fall 2020

ATHLETICS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)

When are the start dates for Fall 2020 athletics? (continued)

athletic season be pushed to Monday, September 21, 2020.

The NYSPHSAA Officers' decision includes:

- Delay Fall sports start date until **Monday, September 21st (NYSPHSAA PAUSE)**;
- Cancel Fall Regional and State Championship events;
- Waive seven-day practice rule;
- Maintain current practice requirements;
- Encourage geographic scheduling for games & contests;
- Schools would have the option, if permitted by state officials, to offer off-season conditioning workouts.

***FamilyID Online Registration will now open on Saturday, August 22, 2020.

Will students receive Physical Education instruction?

Yes. Physical education is a mandated subject area and required for graduation. The district is exploring options for in-person and remote learning models for physical education instruction at the elementary and secondary levels. Students will participate in a variety of activities that require limited (which can be easily disinfected) or no equipment and follow the guidelines for social distancing, while following the NYS Standards and aligning with SHAPE America standards.

NURSING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will temperature be taken upon arrival for students and staff?

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations, students will have daily temperature screenings upon arrival to school. Students who present with a temperature of 100.0°F or higher will be immediately isolated and sent home. **Parents should not send their child to school sick or on medication used to reduce a fever.** Staff members will submit to a daily health questionnaire required prior to admittance to the buildings.

Will students need a health survey to complete each day in addition to the staff?

Staff members will need to complete a health questionnaire daily before they enter the school building and periodically use of a questionnaire for students, particularly younger students who may need assistance from their parents/guardians to answer.

Will students and staff be required to wear masks?

Students and staff must wear a cloth face covering whenever social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings will be required to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and must be worn when entering or exiting the building, travelling through the hallways, riding on buses, while in the restrooms, while riding in elevators, or any areas/situations where social distancing is not possible. The district will have an adequate supply of face coverings on hand if any student needs a replacement.

NURSING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**Will students and staff be required to wear masks? (continued)****Exceptions include:**

- Those who are medically unable to tolerate a face covering.
- During meals, instruction, and short breaks just as long as they maintain appropriate social distance.

What happens if a staff member is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day?

Any staff member with an oral temperature of 100.0°F degrees or above; or is exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is to be sent home or to an emergency health care facility immediately. They will be instructed to contact their health care provider for assessment and testing. Administration or designee will notify local health officials of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 by calling 311. We will follow the directives of the Department of Health on how to proceed.

What happens if a student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day?

Any student with an oral temperature of 100.0°F degrees or above; or is exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is to be sent home. The student is to be isolated in an isolation room which has been set aside in each building. A staff member wearing appropriate PPE is to remain with student during that time. Parent is to be contacted to pick up their child immediately and will be instructed to contact his/her physician. Parent will be asked to report any COVID-19 diagnosis to the Health Office as soon as possible. A record is to be kept of any staff or students that the ill child has encountered, in the event that there is a positive COVID-19 diagnosis and notification of those exposed needs to take place. A doctor's note must be provided clearing the student to return to school. The isolation room is to be closed for as long as possible (24 hours), and then thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Any area used by the sick student must be closed off until proper disinfection and cleaning has occurred. Administration will be notified of any student diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus. Administration or designee will notify local health officials of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 by calling 311. They will follow the directives of the Department of Health on how to proceed with notifications of staff and families. Confidentiality will always be maintained while sharing any information as per the American Disabilities Act.

How will you address proper hygiene to students and staff?

There will be training given to all students, faculty, and staff on proper hand and respiratory hygiene. We will provide and maintain hand hygiene stations around the school, as follows:

For handwashing - soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.

For hand sanitizing - an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.

MUSIC AND ARTS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**Will students receive in-person General Music instruction at the elementary schools?**

Yes. In addition to virtual general music instruction that will be provided during remote learning days, the general music teacher will push into classes to provide in-person music instruction. In-person general music instruction will be provided on a rotating basis with art and library.

MUSIC AND ARTS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**Will students share instruments/music, etc. during in-person general music?**

No. If lessons are designed to include the playing of instruments (i.e. tambourines, rhythm sticks, wood blocks, etc.) each child will be provided with an instrument for their sole use. Similarly, music/lyrics will be projected on the smart board or each child will receive his/her own copy for their sole use.

Will in-person instrumental and vocal music (band, chorus, orchestra) be offered?

For grades 4-12, in addition to the virtual component of these programs, we are currently exploring options to provide in-person rehearsals of ensembles that adhere to the New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department health and safety guidance.

Will vocal/instrumental lessons take place throughout the day?

In addition to the virtual component of these programs, we are currently exploring options to provide rotating pull-out lesson schedules in order to provide in-person lesson groups that adhere to the New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department health and safety guidance.

Will virtual music instruction be provided?

Yes. A combination of live virtual classes and recorded activities/tutorials will be provided for students to access remotely.

Will performances such as winter/spring concerts take place?

The District is currently exploring options to provide students opportunities to perform. These performances would be pre-recorded and presented virtually.

Will students receive in-person art instruction at the elementary schools?

Yes. In addition to virtual art instruction that will be provided during remote learning days, the art teacher will push into classes to provide in-person visual art instruction. In-person art instruction will be provided on a rotating basis with music and library.

Will students receive in-person art instruction at the secondary schools?

Yes. In addition to virtual art instruction that will be provided during remote learning days, the district is exploring opportunities for students to meet with their teachers in order to get the necessary feedback required for working with a discipline that is hands-on.

Will Students be sharing art supplies?

No. The district is currently looking into ways to organize and distribute art supplies so that every student has their own set.

Will music and art instruction address Social and Emotional learning?

Yes. By incorporating the District's Social Emotional curriculum that is currently being developed, music and art teachers will design lessons that ensure intentional and meaningful inclusion of social emotional learning. Additionally, opportunities for music and art instructors to collaborate with teachers of other subject areas, as well as support staff and mental health providers, will exist for the purpose of creating interdisciplinary lessons/units designed to reinforce the social and emotional curriculum.

MUSIC AND ARTS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)**Will extra-curricular activities be offered?**

Yes. According to New York State's Reopening Guidelines, "Extra-curricular activities are an important aspect of student life and the school community. Attention should be paid to bringing back activities that can be conducted in a safe environment with appropriate social distancing protocols." The district is exploring opportunities for a combination of in-person, as well as virtual extra-curricular activities.

Will masks be worn during in-person music and art instruction?

Yes. In the music classroom, students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks whenever singing and whenever they are not actively playing an instrument requiring the use of their mouth.

Will social distancing and safety guidelines be adhered to during art, general music, and instrumental/vocal ensemble rehearsals and lesson groups?

Yes. In addition to guidelines provided by the Centers of Disease Control, New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department, guidelines contained in several studies including, but not limited to those provided by The National Association for Music Education, The National Federation of State High School Associations, The New York State School Music Association, American Bandmasters Association, etc. will be considered in order to ensure that a safe environment is consistently maintained for students and staff.

Patchogue-Medford School District**Administrative Cabinet****241 South Ocean Avenue****Patchogue, NY 11772****Lori Cannetti,**

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