

Q. In general, what can our school community expect as we start the year?

A. Since March, we have developed plans to keep kids safe, educated and fed. That will continue to be our focus. We understand that flexibility will be key and that there will be many adjustments as we start the year. We do not expect perfection, but we need to maintain communication. Support, compassion, and understanding will be critical for our school community to get through this together. This spring's closure and the continued struggle to re-open has created a significant amount of stress for parents, students, faculty and staff. As much as we want to get back to "normal", we need to understand that our "normal" may never be the same. We will get through this, but we need to expect some bumps in the road. This year will not be ideal. What we "want" is not always what we "need" to do. Having trust and confidence in each other will strengthen our relationships and better support our students as a community.

Q. Will students attend school every day or some type of alternating schedule?

A. OESD will open for full in-person instruction on August 26. An at-home learning plan is in place for students not able to attend in person. If the local COVID-19 infection rate increases substantially, a hybrid learning plan will be in place. This "yellow" plan will allow primary age students to continue attending school in-person, while providing a 2-week alternating schedule for the 5th-8th grade group and 9th-12th grade group. Every 2 weeks, these groups will alternate between "at home" and "in school" learning. The 5th and 6th grade would move to the high school to allow for greater social distancing.

Q. How will the school make closing decisions related to the pandemic?

A. Since March 13, we have followed the daily infection rate. It is important to understand what this data represents and what tools are available. The PA Department of Health (PA DOH) recently released a dashboard that will provide infection trends by county over two-week intervals. Using local data as well as regional data along with available recommendations from health officials will determine or operating status. If school buildings are closed for a few days or for longer periods of time, make up days are available in addition to our ability to provide instruction in a full-remote setting.

Q. What will a hybrid learning situation look like?

A. In our hybrid situation, the goal is to reduce the number of students in each building to allow for further social distancing. All PreK-4th grade students would continue to attend school as normal. All 5th-12th grade students would be engaged at home in remote learning for 2 weeks and would also be at school for two weeks. If we move to a hybrid situation, we anticipate a 4-week minimum. That would allow all 5th – 12th grade students equal time at home and at school as well as provide time for local infection rates to return to a level at which full in-person instruction may resume. To provide parents and students with some practice in the hybrid setting (and help us work out the "bugs"), we plan to schedule the week of September 21 as a hybrid week. During this week, 5th-8th grade students would attend in-person at the high school and 9th-12th students would be in a full remote learning situation. A formal announcement of this Hybrid Week will be issue closer to that date.

Q. What changes can we expect as students start the year?

A. Parents and students can expect communication from your building principal highlighting important changes. Changes include:

- Updates in start times / dismissal times. The elementary day will end at 2:20, with students arriving home sooner than previous years.
- Less hallway transitions will occur in each building. Elementary will be in self-contained classrooms and the high school will be in a block schedule.

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- Every student will be assigned a laptop (4th-12th grade) or iPad (K-3rd). These devices can be taken home and used to access instruction/activities/assessments/online tools. Back packs or bags will be provided to students needing a safe way to carry their device. Students will be responsible for the safe-handling and appropriate use of their device.
- As students enter their building and as they leave, they will be expected to sanitize or wash their hands.
- Students will be spread out during lunch at 6-foot intervals. Outdoor seating will be available to allow for further social distancing.
- Students will be required to wear a mask while on the bus and while in school unless an exception the mask order is in place.

Q. What specific changes will take place with arrivals, dismissals and bus planning?

A. We need to prevent gatherings of students before or after school. This will require changes in times for arrival and dismissal. At the elementary, no student should arrive before the first bus arrival at 7:40am. At the high school, no student should arrive before the first bus arrival at 7:50am. Bus Dismissal at the elementary will be at 2:20pm for all students. To decrease the number of students on bussing and prevent a large gathering of a 2nd run of students, elementary students will be delivered home prior to pick up of high school students. Unless there is an extenuating circumstance, students will be planned for one pick up location and one drop off location. Any changes to a student's after school bus transportation must be provided to the office by noon. *Due to the planning put in place for each bus run roster, we cannot allow students to ride home with other students (on a different bus run) as we have in the past.*

Q. What is our updated procedure for visitors?

A. Visitors will be permitted only when necessary. Parents are still able to pick up a child early and can still sign the student out. Any parent entering the building must wear a face covering. Early dismissals must occur prior to 2pm daily. Any pick up after 2pm must occur after dismissal of bus runs. Due to the safety measures in place, we will not be able to permit parents in the building at the start of the day to drop off students. When students are dropped off after an appointment or if they are late for any reason, parents do not need to accompany the student. Please send in note with the reason for the tardiness.

Q. Will the school need to close with a positive test result in our school community?

A. Quite possibly. Important factors that will determine if and how long a building or district will close include: sanitization needed, necessary contact tracing, timing for notification and number of positive cases. Each circumstance will be different. Students and staff will need prepared to transition to at-home learning on a moment's notice.

Q. What happens if my student is required to quarantine?

A. While under quarantine, a student's education can continue through the use of technology. Students will have access to classroom instruction either synchronously or asynchronously. Depending on the severity of any illness, it is understood that a student's ability to engage in learning will vary. Students engaged in learning at home should be prepared to log instructional hours daily.

Q. Will the school take temperatures of students or staff before entering the building?

A. No. Because of the variety of symptoms that may occur, taking temperatures is not an effective method to prevent illness from spreading in schools. As with any illness, temperatures may be taken as a consideration with other symptoms to determine student wellness. Parents are asked to assess student

wellness each day before sending them to school. Employees are also expected to assess their own wellness before coming to work.

Q. Because of quarantine situations or sickness, how will the school treat absences?

A. No matter the reason for absence, parents are asked to stay in contact with the school regarding absences and provide required excuse slips. Attendance policies will be relaxed while this pandemic is impacting our state and region. Teachers are better prepared with online tools and technology to maintain contact and instructional delivery with students no matter if they are home or at school. Our focus will be to ensure students are healthy and have the opportunity to learn, not to pursue truancy issues.

Q. What happens if my child becomes sick or presents with fever/symptoms during school?

A. Nurses will be prepared to isolate students suspected of having COVID-19 or who are generally not feeling well. A parent/guardian will need to pick up that student ASAP so that the potential for any spread is minimized. Student may return to school following the protocols adopted by the school board. PLEASE BE SURE ANY UPDATES TO CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO EACH BUILDING.

Q. How does the PA Department of Health Mask Order impact our school planning?

A. Per the August 17 update, anyone in PA is required to wear a face covering while in school. Acceptable face coverings include masks and face shields. This will impact students and staff. No matter our perspective on masks, this is a state requirement that we are required to uphold. It is important that students are supported at home and at school to wear masks appropriately.

Q. What are the exceptions to wearing a face covering?

A. Per the August 17 update, masks/shields are required unless one of the exceptions detailed in the PA DOH Order applies. For instance, students are not required to mask while exercising or if masking poses a health risk for the student. From PDE guidance:

***Under what circumstances are students permitted to remove their face coverings (e.g. masks and face shields)?**

Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during “face-covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes.

If you feel that your child falls under an exception, please contact your building office as soon as possible. Based on guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, “Cloth face coverings can be safely worn by all children 2 years of age and older, including the vast majority of children with underlying health conditions, with rare exception”. A Face Covering Waiver will need completed. Remember that masks protect others and the person wearing the mask. If your student is not wearing a mask, the social distancing requirement will still apply. Options for at home synchronous or asynchronous learning may be considered when a student is unable to wear a mask or shield.

Q. Will the children have to wear masks during instruction periods?

A. Guidance provided on August 17 requires the district to make some updates to our planning. Changes would be minimal (if any) at the high school, however, some changes in classroom planning will occur at the elementary. With the new guidance, socially distancing 6 feet apart does not remove the requirement to wear a face covering. Desk arrangements can now be made that would provide more space for students within each room to get up and move around (while masked).

Q. What times during the day do you anticipate the children being unable to maintain social distancing and be required to wear masks?

A. We will encourage staff to use outdoor spaces for instructional purposes. While outside and while maintaining 6 feet of social distance, masks are not required. Otherwise, masks can be removed while eating lunch (with 6 feet of separation) or during a 10 minute or less mask break (with 6 feet of separation).

Q. What is considered a mask break? How and when will they be implemented throughout the day?

A. Depending on age, we anticipate providing students a break from masking about once per hour for a few minutes (less than 10 minutes) or as needed based upon the need of the student. During this break, students would need to maintain social distancing. This will look different depending on the grade level/age/course. Some classrooms will have a designated "no mask zone" while other classrooms may alter student groupings or locations to allow masks to be removed.

Q. What will the Asynchronous and Synchronous options look like?

A. Asynchronous course options will be available through three providers using existing internet connections. These courses would be available in appropriate situations to students in grades K through 12. Students should have a supporting adult at home that can provide guidance when necessary in the courses. Additionally, students should demonstrate success working independently for extended periods of time during each day.

O-E's Synchronous option will include livestream connections to classrooms. This solution would be available in appropriate situations to students in grades 3 through 12 and would include a live video feed from O-E classrooms to student homes.

In either situation, students should be prepared to log instructional time each day. Additionally, a required orientation would be held for students and parents to be sure all understand roles and responsibilities. Students will receive direct support from O-E staff in any instructional setting.

Q. Will my student have his or her own laptop to use during the school year?

A. Yes! Students will be assigned a laptop (3rd-12th grades) or iPad (K-2nd) to support educational activities throughout the year. Devices will be under warranty and have limited damage protection. If full-remote education is required, students will be able to take devices home. During any part of the year, high school students can take devices home. Laptops or shoulder bags will be provided to students that need a safe way to transport devices. Internet hotspots will be available again for students with limited internet at home who live in an area with decent cellular coverage.

Q. What will fully remote instruction look like?

A. OESD staff have been trained in the use of MS Teams with the anticipated need to instruct remotely during some portion of the year. No matter our educational plan, OESD will ensure all students have access to an appropriate education. Bringing limited number students to school during remote instruction will be

part of our plan. OESD Faculty will be on site during any mode of instruction, assuming we are complying with current state guidelines or restrictions.

Q. What happens if my student's mask becomes soiled during the day?

A. Extra masks will be available in each building office or nurse's office. Also, O-E Alum have provided extra cloth masks for students. A student just needs to let a staff member know that a new mask is needed.

Q. Will there be shields of some type around their desks?

A. Currently, we are not planning for shields at desks or tables. The social distancing requirement or masking order is not impacted by installing shields at desks or tables. While at their seats, students will generally be facing the same direction, as spread apart as possible in each room.

Q. What type of testing procedure will staff undergo? At what intervals?

A. It is not recommended that large-scale testing be done absent an outbreak. If an outbreak occurs, local health providers are able to set up testing at either or both buildings.

Q. What protective measures will the staff be taking for themselves?

A. The mask order would impact all staff in our buildings. Frequent sanitization and hand cleaning will be the norm.

Q. Has the school made any building changes to reduce possible transmission rates?

A. We are securing UV lights to help with sanitization. Additionally, ventilation will be improved through increase air flow (open windows, open doors, increased fresh air flow through HVAC system).

Q. What kind of social activities will you be able to provide for the children?

A. Since we are bringing all students back, students can socialize as normal in classrooms and buildings. We will not be planning for large group gatherings while in school. Extra-curricular activities will be planned as permitted. Applications such as Teams or Zoom will be available to connect with students while at home.

Q. Will the sports season begin in the fall?

A. The PIAA will meet on August 21 to determine if the fall season will continue. Practices are scheduled to begin on August 24. OESD has developed an Athletic Return to Play Plan to support the safe return of extra-curricular activities. Assuming there is a fall season, game schedules will be altered. For the most part, competitions will be scheduled only with schools in McKean, Potter and Cameron Counties. Teams will not attend large group invitationals or tournaments. Currently, Marching Band and Cheerleaders are permitted at football games. We hope to see them supporting our Terrors at all home football games.

Q. Assuming there is a fall season, how will the spectator issue be handled?

A. As of right now, spectators are not permitted at games, matches, or meets. Each type of event has its own considerations, especially when away contents are included. Planning an indoor volleyball game with a limit of 25 in place is a challenge. Because our home cross-country meets and football fields are held at somewhat open venues, there may be some opportunity for some parents to watch contests from a distance. We do plan to livestream events to allow all to watch from a device. Because so much changes so quickly, we do not want to state anything definite in regard to spectators. If there is flexibility provided, we will prioritize parents of players, especially senior parents to provide them priority with viewing options.