

# **School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**(As of August 3, 2020)**

## **Masks/ Social Distancing Expectations/ Health, etc.**

### **How will students socially distance with everyone arriving and departing at the same time?**

We will utilize more entrances to better balance arrival and departure times. Principals will communicate with their school community the procedures for morning entrance and dismissal closer to the start of school.

### **How will breakfast and lunch operate in the schools?**

Breakfast (pre-packaged) will be eaten in the cafeteria or outside. Students will sit at individual small tables in the cafeteria situated 6 feet apart from each other. Students will pre-order lunch, and meals will be pre-packaged. Checkout will be contactless. When possible, secondary students will eat outside. Students will not be permitted to leave campus and go home for lunch.

### **Will all students be screened every day for COVID-19 symptoms?**

Information will be provided to families and protocols will be provided to staff in identifying students who are symptomatic. Parents/caregivers will be asked to perform temperature checks and to monitor their child/ren for symptoms, and to keep their child/ren home if they have any symptoms.

### **Will the school test students before returning, and will they test during the school year?**

No. Testing will not be provided by schools.

### **What happens if a sibling or family member of a student becomes ill? Does that student stay out of school?**

When a student or staff member tests positive, the Montgomery County Office of Public Health will take over contact tracing and determine which contacts need to be quarantined. The District will endeavor to identify the individuals with whom the infected individual had close contact, as that term is defined by applicable guidance, and notify those individuals of the potential exposure.

### **Will COVID-19 be considered an “outbreak” that students who are not vaccinated, when one is released, will not be permitted to attend school? Will you require ALL students to be vaccinated for COVID?**

These guidelines do not currently exist because vaccination has not yet been approved. We intend to comply with the school code and regulations.

**Will there be dual office spaces for the school nurse - one for COVID-19 symptoms and one for other health issues?**

Yes

**Will you have more than one school nurse available during the day?**

Yes, in addition to Liz Hetrick, we will have a school nurse intern every day, as well as another part-time nurse two days per week.

**Will parents be required to pick up sick students in a timely manner?**

Yes, we will work with families and ensure emergency plans are in place.

**Will students traveling out of state, who are requested to quarantine for 14 days, need to attend school virtually during that time?**

Yes

**If my child needs to stay home due to a cold/fever, what is the protocol for him to be able to return to school? Will you require a COVID test?**

We will not require a test for a student to return to school after a cold/fever. We will follow the then-current guidance provided by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health in determining how to proceed.

**If in-school students are exposed to COVID when classes resume, will just that class be isolated, or the entire school closed again?**

Montgomery County Office of Public Health will advise us, based upon contact tracing, whether or not a positive test is the result of an outbreak within the school. They will advise the district based upon their determination, and we will adhere to their guidance.

**If parents send their child to school, will they be required to sign a waiver?**

No

**How will you enforce mask wearing all day? Will there be disciplinary action?**

Wearing a face covering will be a school rule. Consequences may be imposed for students who do not comply with the school rules. In the event that a class is able to obtain enough space to provide a brief mask break, one will take place. If a student is unable to wear a facial covering due to a disability, the District will engage those families in the interactive process to determine how the District can reasonably accommodate that student.

**Should my child wear a mask or face shield?**

According to the Governor's mask order, a face shield is a face covering option. A cloth or surgical mask, with a shield, has been recommended to us as the most effective approach to decreasing the spread of COVID-19. For those who do not want to wear both, we do encourage all students to wear a mask rather than a face shield. Masks will be provided to students who may forget them, but parents are urged to assist their

children in remembering to bring them to school every day. Disposable masks and face shields will be provided by the district for students and staff who do not bring their own.

### **What will be the protocol for student bathrooms?**

School personnel will work together to limit the number of children using the bathrooms at any one time. Only one child per class will be permitted to go to the bathroom during class periods.

### **How will handwashing be monitored? Will portable hand-washing stations be added to classrooms?**

Students will be reminded to wash their hands or to use hand sanitizer upon entering or leaving a classroom and before eating. Portable handwashing stations will not be installed, but hand sanitizer will be added in all classrooms and throughout the buildings.

### **Will there be plastic shields in front of and between the children's desks to give them further protection beyond their face coverings?**

Plexiglass will be used to separate students who sit at tables, such as in kindergarten; however, desks will not be grouped together; they will be distanced apart.

## **School Cleaning and Sanitation Efforts**

### **Will desks be wiped down between classes?**

Teachers will be asked to assist with cleaning between classes, and students may wipe a desk at any time they see fit. Students at the elementary level will not be switching classrooms during the day. It is recommended that students regularly wash their hands and use hand sanitizer when entering a classroom. We will follow all CDC guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing.

### **How is air filtered in schools? Will there be any updates to the ventilation system?**

All building HVAC systems have air filters that are maintained throughout the year, the system is serviced, and filters are changed two times per year, as recommended. Ventilation systems will be started two hours in advance of normal time, and two hours later, per ASHRAE guidance, and if possible windows will be opened when weather permits. All buildings have HVAC systems that circulate air and introduce outside air in all occupied spaces.

We are currently working with a consultant regarding specific details related to air purging and filter ratings and will make updates as needed. The air ducts will be cleaned, and air quality surveys will also be conducted prior to the start of school.

### **How will schools be sanitized each night?**

Our buildings are staffed appropriately based upon square footage. We will follow all CDC guidelines for cleaning and sanitation.

**Are cleaning supplies available?**

We currently have enough supplies to begin the school year and are working to procure enough supplies for the entire year.

**What is the protocol for restroom disinfecting throughout the day?**

Shifts will be adjusted to adequately support the needs of the building during the school day.

**What are ULV foggers, and will these be used in the classroom daily?**

The foggers allow for the disinfectant to be sprayed over larger areas of space and on desks, doorknobs, books, etc. These will be used after school hours and in spaces without occupants.

**Hybrid Questions/In-Person Questions****Will there be closed captioning available for all online classes?**

We will work with families of students with disabilities to meet their needs. We will be using GoogleMeet for online classes, which has a closed captioning feature that teachers can turn on. There are also applications that can be integrated that are more sophisticated than these embedded tools. We will do what is needed to support each child's disability.

**How will tests and quizzes be given?**

Tests in the hybrid format will look very similar to the in-person structure. The online format will also have formative and summative assessments of student learning and will be graded accordingly.

**How will cheating and sharing of information be avoided?**

There are numerous ways to assess students that will prevent cheating. An example is simply an interview assessment with a student in which a teacher can converse with the student to ask questions and measure content mastery. Cheating is a significant violation of our discipline code and will receive a strong response.

**Can siblings be scheduled on the same hybrid days?**

Siblings in the elementary school will attend in-person instruction on the same days. Siblings in the MS/HS will attend in-person instruction on the same days. This will not be possible between buildings.

**Will the teachers in the hybrid model be simultaneously teaching students online and in the classroom?**

At the elementary level, teachers will teach synchronously to students both in attendance and virtual. Elementary lessons will be recorded and retained, for a sufficient time, to allow students who cannot attend at the scheduled time, to view asynchronously later that day. We ask that all lessons be viewed on the same day they

are occurring so that students do not fall behind in instruction. Direct teacher instruction will be at least 50% of each lesson, starting at the beginning of each class period. Small group or individual work may be assigned for the remainder of the class period.

At the secondary level, teachers will teach synchronously to students both in attendance and virtual. The synchronous lessons will occur at the regularly scheduled time, and students will be expected to attend the live sessions.

**How will 504 plans be honored in the hybrid model?**

The District will work with each family to implement each child's 504 plan to the greatest extent possible in each educational setting.

**Where will the hybrid students eat breakfast and lunch?**

Students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria upon arrival at school. Lunch will be provided in the cafeteria following socially distanced guidelines. Secondary students will have the choice to eat lunch in the cafeteria or in the other large spaces that we have designated outside. These areas will include adult supervision.

**In the hybrid model, what opportunities are there for students to get 1-on-1 help/information from their teachers?**

At the elementary level, teachers will provide 1-on-1 support during the two days students are attending class in-person and additionally virtually on Wednesdays for all students.

At the secondary level, the teachers will be teaching all students when they are synchronously learning, similar to a live instruction day. Students will have the same opportunities to get support, whether they are live or virtual, during remediation periods, before or after school, or any other time that the teacher is available to provide support.

**Does the hybrid model offer enough credits to graduate?**

Yes. Students will obtain the same number of credits in the hybrid program. Virtual attendance will not impact the number of credits that a student earns.

**In the hybrid model, will JSD teachers be teaching the virtual part?**

Yes. The same JSD teachers will provide instruction in person and virtually.

**In the secondary hybrid model, can the teacher get real-time questions from the students, and can students interact with one another?**

Yes. Students will be able to ask questions and get real-time answers as long as they are following along synchronously.

**How many hours a day would virtual learning or hybrid learning occur?**

The courses in the online environment are designed to take approximately the same length of time as normal courses. Hybrid students will follow the schedule, so their school day would be the same.

**Are there limits to how many students are allowed in each classroom?**

Occupancy limits will be based upon distancing recommendations of public health authorities, which is currently 6 feet to the maximum extent feasible and the specific room dimensions.

**Elementary hybrid option: Will students have the same teacher for in-person and virtual learning?**

Yes. Students will follow along with the teacher's instruction each day, whether they are in-person or virtual.

**Are virtual and hybrid models all day?**

Yes, these would be full instructional days.

**Will students move from classroom to classroom as usual, or are they in one class for the entire day with different teachers moving into and out of the classroom?**

In the MS/HS, students will be changing classes throughout the day. Desks will be sanitized after each class period. At the elementary level, in-person students will remain in homeroom classes. Teachers in departmentalized grades will rotate, not the students. Students may move to special area classes on a limited basis.

**If a student has or is exposed to COVID and needs to be quarantined, how will the student keep up with work?**

Absences will be handled similar to the way they have been in the past. Teachers and students will communicate via email and Google Classroom. In addition, elementary parents can reach out to classroom teachers via email. Students who are in quarantine and feeling well may certainly participate virtually.

**What are the protocols for subjects such as chorus and band?**

Students will not be singing or playing instruments (other than string and percussion instruments) indoors. Social distancing will be strictly enforced for all outdoor instruction for the chorus and band.

**What measures will be taken to sanitize PE equipment or shared spaces, and will masks be required?**

Any shared equipment will be cleaned between classes or rotated for several days prior to the next usage. This said we will adjust activities and curricula to reduce the amount of shared equipment. If activities are outside, and students are able to maintain social distancing throughout the period, students will be able to have a mask break.

**Virtual General**

**What is the Physical Education requirement for our virtual students?**

Students in the virtual program will be assigned a PE class, which will align with grade-level PE standards. PE may include assigned activities or video instruction. PE for virtual students may not be synchronous.

**How will virtual students be engaged with their peers?**

Students will be able to talk with the teacher and their peers if they are engaged in synchronous instruction.

**Do virtual students have assigned times to meet with teachers?**

Teachers in the virtual program are readily available to meet students individually to support students in their learning.

**How is lunch going to work for virtual students?**

Students will have planned breaks during the day for lunch.

**How can students get help who may need extra support?**

Students enrolled in the virtual program will have the benefit of meeting with their teachers virtually for extra assistance and support in their course work in the event that they are falling behind, or merely need some extra support with a specific topic. Students are able to request this virtual support of the teacher, and teachers will reach out to students if they feel as if the student is demonstrating a need. At the elementary level, teachers will be monitoring student progress daily; teachers will be differentiating lessons daily to meet the needs of students.

**General Questions**

**Can a student switch from virtual to in-person and back again?**

We are asking families to commit for at least one marking period to their choice. Extenuating circumstances or medical reasons could necessitate a change in placement mid marking period.

**What is the plan for in-person students if the governor closes schools again?**

If we do need to pivot and shift to an exclusively online environment, we will be better positioned to do so. Certainly, the experience this past spring was helpful in preparing us to do so. The feedback and survey results that we received from our families, students, and staff will allow us to improve the virtual experience for everyone. We do anticipate a significant portion of the online experience to be synchronous in the event that all students are in the online environment.

**What is happening with extra-curricular activities?**

As of now, we are still expecting to have extracurricular activities. However, they may be limited or not offered if the situation necessitates.

**How is the District supporting the mental well being of students?**

At the elementary level, the Second Step program will be implemented in the primary grades. All elementary school teachers will have a Morning Meeting with their class to

promote social and emotional well being. The Second Step Bullying Prevention program will be implemented in grades Kindergarten through 6th. Seventh graders will participate in an Advisory class that addresses many topics including mental health and social and emotional learning. Individual counseling and social skills groups will take place for students as outlined in their IEP or 504 plan. School psychologists and guidance counselors are available to all students as needed.

**What is the “final decision” date going to be for selecting options for Jenkintown?**

The Board will be voting on a plan at the August 17th Board meeting.

**Is it acceptable to have two students in the same household choose different options?**

Yes

**Have you checked in with other local districts to see what they are doing?**

Yes, we have looked at all local districts and are frequently on calls with administrators from those districts.

**Will parents be limited to certain times during the day when or if they have questions for the teachers?**

The availability of teachers will vary depending upon each model. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the teacher via email with questions etc. Teachers will respond within 24 hours.

**Will children be responsible for completing assignments and turning them in so teachers can grade and evaluate them?**

Yes, students will be responsible for the completion of assignments so teachers can provide feedback and monitor progress.

**Will the school year meet the required number of days that the state requires?**

Yes, the school year, as planned, will meet the 180-day requirement.

**Do you still call the school to say that a student will be absent on a given day?**

Yes, absences must be reported to the school office. If everyone is virtual, absences can be reported to the offices through a provided Google form.

**What is the maximum amount of students in a classroom?**

The most any class will have is half the amount of students scheduled for that class. By offering a virtual model and a hybrid model, we are minimizing class sizes even further.

**Will you adjust the truancy policy? So parents won't be afraid of citations if they keep their sick children home?**

Yes. Given that the guidance is to stay home when one does not feel well, we must be flexible with our student attendance policies. While students will be marked absent and



they must still be excused by a parent/guardian, the truancy guidelines will be more relaxed during the 20-21 academic year.

**What is the plan for orientation?**

Orientation for all students is being planned for the week of September 8th. Schedules and specific information pertaining to these events will be sent to families at a later date.

**For our families who rely on free lunch and breakfast, but are unable to return to school full time, will nutrition services be providing meals for students during the school year?**

Yes, students who receive free lunch and breakfast will continue to receive meals in every model we are offering.

**Elementary Specific Questions**

**Will before and after school care be provided?**

Yes, before and after school care will be provided but enrollment will be limited.

**What will recess look like for elementary students?**

Students will have recess with the same cohort of students in their homeroom. There will be staggered times for recess, along with various locations for students to spread out. Students will not be allowed to access the play structure or share equipment.

**Are elementary students permitted to take masks off at any point during the day?**

Mask breaks will be provided throughout the day.

**For elementary students participating in the hybrid model, on days home, will they be watching the actual class synchronously?**

Lessons can be accessed synchronously or asynchronously.

**For Kindergarten students in virtual or hybrid, will they be given some sort of instruction on how to use/navigate their Chromebooks either prior to the start of school or at the very beginning of the school year?**

We are currently working on plans to have several informational sessions for our Incoming kindergarten parents at the end of August. More information will be forthcoming once plans are developed. Kindergarteners will be introduced to the online platforms and how to navigate the Chromebooks.

**What will Wednesdays look like in the elementary school in the hybrid model?**

Teachers will be providing virtual instruction to all students. They may work with small groups or provide remediation and/or enrichment activities.

**Will the children be strictly using their own supplies?**

Yes, there will be no sharing of supplies or communal supplies. Students will keep all supplies in their desk, chair pouch, or school bag. Supplies that are needed will be outlined on the supply list that is provided to all families.

**How are specials provided to online-only students?**

Specials for fully online students will be a combination of asynchronous and synchronous lessons.

**Will 4th, 5th and 6th-grade students have multiple teachers for different subjects to help prepare for middle school?**

Yes, since Grades 4, 5, and 6 are departmentalized, teachers will instruct by their content area. Teachers will rotate classrooms, not students.

**Will there still be an allergy table for elementary students?**

Yes

**Middle School/High School Specific Questions**

**Do you have to be “in-person” in order to participate in extracurricular activities?**

No. Students will be able to participate in all extracurricular activities regardless of which option they choose as long as each activity is offered. Students who do not participate in virtual or in person instruction on a particular day, due to illness or quarantine, are not permitted to participate in any in person extracurricular activities.

**Will backpacks be allowed?**

Backpacks will be allowed.

**Will lockers be available for students?**

No, students will not be permitted to use the lockers this year.

**How will social distancing occur when changing classes?**

We will ask students to space 6 feet apart when changing classes. There will be a one-way flow of traffic in the middle/high school.

**High School Specific Questions**

**How is college guidance going to be managed for seniors opting for the Hybrid or online options?**

The guidance counselor will be working both virtually and in-person with students to help them navigate the college application process.

**How will a student seek out College recommendations from instructors if they don't have access to these instructors in on-line or hybrid models?**

Students are encouraged to contact teachers via email regarding college recommendations. This process should not be impacted by the hybrid or virtual models.

**Will one option be more attractive to colleges?**

All school districts across the country are dealing with the same challenges. The type of model students choose will not appear on their high school transcript.

**No matter which model is selected, will seniors get all credits needed for college?**

Yes. Students selecting non-traditional options will earn full credit for their courses, assuming that they pass each class.

**Special Education Specific Questions**

**How will IEP students and IEPs be supported?**

The IEP team will work closely to review students' IEP goals, related services, and accommodations across all settings (virtual or hybrid). Special and regular education teachers will continue to collaborate regarding academic programming to ensure all social, emotional, and academic needs are being met.

**Will special needs students still take part in inclusive classes if they may not be able to adhere to COVID restrictions (can't wear masks, social distancing, etc)?**

Yes, if a student with an IEP or 504 is determined not able to wear a mask, they still will participate in the hybrid and/or in-person option. Teachers will work collaboratively to make sure that social distancing is adhered to when possible. Face shields should be worn if possible.

**How do one to one services work for eligible students?**

Support for students using a 1:1 paraprofessional will look different in the two settings. It is recommended that parents of students receiving support from a 1:1 paraprofessional are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the IEP team. Support should fall within the guidance adhering to social distancing when possible. Additionally, virtual support may be provided for students to access their education.

**How will Speech therapy and Wilson reading instruction be implemented?**

Speech therapy and Wilson reading instruction will continue as directed and outlined in a student's IEP. Every effort will be made to provide services virtually and/or adhere to the CDC social distancing guidelines.