

South Hackensack School District

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Jason Chirichella, Acting Superintendent/Principal
Carla Moreno, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
Dina Messery, Business Administrator
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July 27th, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I am writing to update you on our reopening plans. A tremendous amount of time, preparation, and planning has gone into the development of our Reopening School Plan. While we know that there is no “one size fits all” we took into consideration the many different needs of our families and staff, while keeping the health and safety of the entire community at the forefront. Thank you in advance for continuing to participate in the surveys, which are very valuable in the decision-making process.

The survey you are receiving today needs to be filled out for EACH of your children. Please read the following reopening plan for September prior to completing the survey link at the end of this letter. Below is the In-Person/Virtual Hybrid Instructional Plan provided by the district OR as per Governor Murphy’s direction, parents do have the option to have their child remain on a Full Remote Learning Program.

In-Person/Virtual Hybrid Instruction Plan Option

***Based on the most recent parent community survey data and guidance from the CDC, we are offering this option as our In-Person Instruction Model.**

While we know a hybrid schedule may cause some hardships, we feel that the consistency of having “in-person” instruction is beneficial to the students socially, emotionally, and academically.

- In order to meet social distancing measures in the classrooms, the in-person instruction will run on a hybrid 50% capacity model. *Therefore, a class roster of 20 students may be split into two cohorts. The “blue” cohort (10 students) would attend on “blue” days for in-person instruction, while the “gold” cohort (10 students) would attend virtually. On “gold” days, the “gold” cohort would attend in-person, while the “blue” cohort would attend virtually.* See the attached chart in the email.
 - Accommodations will be considered to keep siblings in the same cohort across grade levels.
- Students will remain in these cohorts and staff/faculty will rotate to provide instruction
 - This ensures limited student movement with the exception of special education pull out services, ELL services, Basic Skills Instruction, and/or other related services.

- Staggered drop off/dismissal times. (*Subject to change, depending on student enrollment*)
 - o 6th - 8th Grades: Arrival: 8:15-8:30am Dismissal: 12:30pm
 - o 3rd-5th Grades: Arrival: 8:30-8:45am Dismissal: 12:45pm
 - o PreK-2nd grade: Arrival: 8:45-9:00am Dismissal: 1:00pm
- Special accommodations will be considered for arrival/drops off of siblings in the same family.
- At drop off, all students will be temperature screened.
- We are in the process of developing a platform for parents to complete a short questionnaire with COVID-19 screening questions prior to drop-off.
- In-person school days will run on a limited session day (1:00pm dismissal), with a remote learning component in the afternoon.
- In an effort to allow for the sanitization and deep cleaning measures to take place after 1pm along with avoiding the commingling of multiple students, unfortunately, no AfterCare will be available during Phase 1 of the Reopening Plan.
- Desk shields will be affixed to each student desk and workspace.
- All students will be mandated to wear masks when social distancing cannot be maintained unless there are individual student circumstances where documented medical needs override the ability to wear a mask.
 - o Given our 50% capacity hybrid model, students MAY lower their masks while sitting at their desks behind their desk shield, as social distancing measures are being practiced.
 - o Situations in which the student is required to wear their face mask will include, but not limited to: entering/dismissing the school building, walking about the classroom or in the hallways, going to the restroom, getting personalized instruction from a faculty member, and any other situation where social distancing measures can't be met.
 - o Teachers/staff members will wear masks and face shields. There are times, when teachers may be in a whole group instruction format (e.g. at the board) where social distancing allows that a teacher may lower his/her mask, while still wearing the face shield, to provide instruction.
- Pre-K - 3rd Grades will continue to have snack time, as with all 1pm dismissal days; No lunch. You will have the opportunity to purchase a grab and go lunch for your child to take home with them. In addition, breakfast and free/reduced breakfast/lunch will still be available in a grab and go option.

Full Remote Learning Program Option

Our Return to School plan provides a full remote learning option for families who choose not return to in-person schooling in the survey. For scheduling and planning purposes, we ask you to commit to full remote learning for the entirety of Phase 1 of the Reopening Plan, which is the first marking period, until November 4th. Note: Our full remote learning program and schedule will combine the best elements of the current model with synchronous and asynchronous instruction at home. For synchronous instruction, students will receive dates/times to meet with teachers and small groups of students. Participation in all class sessions will be required for students; attendance will be taken.

Please click on the link below to access the survey and complete by Sunday, August 2, 2020.

<https://forms.gle/kjJCzF2PhoELMX7N9>

*Please remember to fill out the survey for EACH of your children. *

The Reopening Committee's goal was to get this information to you as soon as possible so that you may make the proper accommodations and decisions that are necessary for your family. Please know that we are all in this together and I thank you for your continued support and participation in this very important process. ***We are Bulldog Strong!***

Sincerely,

Jason Chirichella
Acting Superintendent/Principal