

## Return to School Plan – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



*Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow, Rangers Forever*

We know our parents have many questions regarding our plans for safely reopening schools in the fall. As you know, we are facing a highly fluid situation influenced by factors mostly out of our control.

In an effort to respond to questions about planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we have created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page to answer questions about important topics that will affect school operations.

Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we take time to thoughtfully work through our plans, keeping the best interests of all students and staff in mind. This page will be updated regularly so visit often for the latest information.

Note: The nature of this pandemic is evolving every day, and our action plans could be adjusted to meet the needs of our community at any time.

### ❖ **What learning opportunities will be available for my child at the return of the 2020-2021 school year?**

- Benton #47 will be offering two learning platforms, in-person and remote instruction.

### ❖ **Can children choose the in-person platform on a part-time basis?**

- No. At this time, the district is offering 100% remote learning or 100% in-person instruction.

❖ **If I choose remote learning for my student, what does 5 clock hours entail? (Updated 7/20/20)**

- The instructional time will be a combination of reading passages, video clips, teacher recordings, online assignments and activities. Remote learning will require students to check into an online platform daily while covering all academic areas. The five (5) hour clock requirement can happen anytime, day or night, inside a 24 hour period. In addition, we will have teachers available for evening tutoring/Q&A when needed. The expectations, assignments, and grading guidelines will be the same as in-person learning. **While the instructional day will be planned for 5 clock hours, the time it takes your student to complete the assignments may vary based on his/her individual pace.**

❖ **What about meals for remote learning students?**

- Meals will be provided. Orders will be placed for meals daily and can be picked up at a location to be determined. Ordering details will be provided at a later date.

❖ **Will schools provide devices for students that choose remote learning, but do not have access to devices at home?**

- The district is currently looking at available options for students.

❖ **Can a student be turned in to truancy or be retained during remote learning?**

- Yes. Remote learning students will follow the same policy and procedures as in-person learners.

❖ **Can students change from remote to in-person learning throughout the semester?**

- No. Remote learning students will be given the option to change learning platforms prior to the start of the second semester. (December)

❖ **Who will decide which teachers will be assigned to remote learning and in-person instructions?**

- District administrators, building administrators, and the transition team.

❖ **Will remote learners be allowed to participate in sports/extracurricular activities?**

- Yes. Remote learners will be eligible to participate in sports/extracurricular activities and will be subject to the same eligibility requirements as in person learners.

❖ **Will services be available for remote learning students with an IEP?**

- Yes. Remote learning will be an option for all students.

❖ **If my child is a remote learner and struggling, will they have access to the teacher for personalized instruction?**

- Yes. Teachers will have designated times where they are available to assist students.

❖ **Will remote learning students work at their own pace or have scheduled times to log in?**

- There will be clear expectations for daily learning.
- Students will have access to remote learning teachers at various times throughout the day.
- While students are expected to complete 5 hours of coursework each day, there is flexibility as far as the time of day that work is completed.

❖ **If a family chooses in-person learning, can they move to remote learning at any time? (Updated 7/17/20)**

- Yes. If you choose in-person learning for your student and become uncomfortable with this selection for whatever reason, you will be allowed to move to the remote learning platform. All remote learning students will only be given the opportunity to return to in-person learning at the end of the semester (December).

- ❖ **Will the curriculum be the same for both remote learning and in-person learning? (Updated 7/20/20)**
  - Yes. The remote learners will be taught by classroom teachers who have been assigned as a “remote learning teacher”.
- ❖ **Will the school supply list for remote learners be the same as the in-person school supply list? (Updated 7/20/20)**
  - The school list will be modified for remote learning students.
- ❖ **What happens if any student refuses to wear a mask properly?**
  - Students will be directed to put their masks back on. If they refuse, parents will be notified and students will be moved to a remote learning platform.
- ❖ **If my child becomes ill and is an in-person learner, does he/she become a remote learner and what does that look like?**
  - Students who become ill or are required to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 will be transferred to remote learning for the extent of their absence from school. In-person instruction can resume once the student is medically cleared by his/her physician.
- ❖ **What protocol will be followed if a student or teacher in the classroom becomes ill and tests positive for COVID-19?**
  - We are currently working with the Illinois Department of Public Health on a flowchart that will guide us.
- ❖ **What will registration look like?**
  - Registration forms will be mailed to families.
  - An initial one page registration form will be used to gather information for the school to plan appropriately.
  - Drop boxes will be provided for families who wish to avoid face to face contact with large groups.
  - Designated dates and times will be set for in-person registration.
  - Full registration packets will be sent home once the school year begins.

- ❖ **If I am new to the district, what do I need to do in order to register a student?**
  - New student registration will be held on July 27th and 28th. See [www.benton47.org](http://www.benton47.org) for additional information.
- ❖ **How will students be monitored in terms of attendance and grading?**
  - Attendance and grading will be conducted as normal for both learning platforms.
- ❖ **How many times will the building be cleaned and disinfected?**
  - The building will be cleaned daily, with the high traffic areas addressed frequently throughout the day.
- ❖ **Will my child's temperature be taken upon arrival at school?**
  - No. All parents are required to self-certify their students' health using the provided certification form and COVID-19 screening checklist.
- ❖ **Will playgrounds be open?**
  - Yes. Recess at the elementary level will include designated outdoor areas that classes will rotate through on a weekly basis.
- ❖ **How do I continue to get information on the school updated plans?**
  - Information will be regularly updated on the district website ([www.benton47.org](http://www.benton47.org)). You can also download our new app through the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. (Search BGS #47)
- ❖ **How will students social distance themselves during school lunches?**
  - School lunches will be provided multiple locations. Visual indicators will be provided to help students maintain social distancing while eating to the greatest extent possible.

❖ **Will bus routes still run the same?**

- Yes. Routes will be determined based on the number of students using school transportation. You must register your student as a bus rider prior to the start of school.

❖ **Will my child have to share school supplies?**

- No. School supplies will not be shared. If it is necessary to share classroom supplies such as art materials, those materials will be disinfected between uses.

❖ **Will students be allowed to use their lockers?**

- Yes. 5-8 locker access will be scheduled in a manner minimizing the number of students in proximity to one another at any given time.

❖ **What will “Meet the Teacher Night” look like?**

- Plans for “Meet the Teacher Night” are currently under consideration.

❖ **Will there be fall sports?**

- That decision will be made by the SIJHSAA and communicated with families once announced.

❖ **How will car drop off work?**

- Car riders should be dropped off between 7:30 and 8:00 AM.
- K-4 students will drop off and enter the building at the following locations:
  - K - Kindergarten Entrance
  - 1st/2nd - 2nd Grade Wing Entrance
  - 3rd/4th - 3rd/4th Grade Office Entrance
- 5-8 students will drop off and enter the building at the following locations.
  - 5th - 5th Grade Doors
  - 6th - 5th/6th Hallway Entrance
  - 7th - Main 5-8 Entrance
  - 8th - Event Center

For any additional questions that you may have, please email Ellen Gibbs, Principal, at [egibbs@benton47.org](mailto:egibbs@benton47.org). Questions will be answered and added to the list in a timely manner.