

JERSEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #100 FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS 2020-21

Jersey Community Unit School District #100
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between In-Person and full Remote Learning?

A:

- For Jersey 100 students who choose to participate in ***In-Person Learning***, they will be attending school Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and will participate in Remote Learning (from home) each Friday. Even though there is one day of Remote Learning it is still considered ***In-Person Learning***.
- For Jersey 100 students who choose to do full ***Remote Learning***, they will not be attending school in-person to obtain their academic lessons. Instead, teachers will send lessons to the Remote Learning students where they will complete those at home. Individual teachers will share how they will communicate these lessons with the students and/or their parents.

Q: How will educators address learning loss that may have taken place since the spring of 2020?

A: Committees of administrators, teachers, support staff, school board members and parents have worked diligently to identify key concepts that may need to be covered during the 2020-21 school year as well as the most important learning outcomes for each course. Teachers will focus on the key learning targets over the course of this school year.

Q: Why do families have to make a decision for a quarter?

A: In order to have proper staffing for in-person learning and remote learning we need to have families commit to a period of time. Courses are typically built on quarters/semester basis therefore making it difficult to allow for movement in and out. The online learning may move at a different pace than in-person learning therefore making it difficult for students to transition in and out at any given time.

Q: Did the district adhere to the guidance as provided by the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois High School Athletic Association in the creation of the plan?

A: Yes, we have and will continue to monitor and follow guidance from the above mentioned organizations.

Q: Can students get mask breaks during the day?

A: Yes, but they should be taken off only when outdoors and sufficiently spaced.

Q: What happens if there is a positive case of COVID in school?

A: Individuals who test positive for COVID will be contacted by the health department. The school will be contacted if a student or staff member tests positive. Contact tracing will occur along with the health department. Individuals who share a classroom, ride the same bus, or have been found to come into close contact with the individual who tested positive will be notified.

Q: Was remote learning for all considered as an option?

A: Yes, this option was considered; however we believe that we will be able to follow the detailed guidelines set forth from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Illinois Department of Public Health to allow students and staff to safely return to in-person learning because we are in

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Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan. The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. Also, students learn best when the teacher is able to respond immediately to a student's question and misunderstanding. Teachers are able to best support students' understanding and application of concepts when in-person. If the State of Illinois goes back into Phase 1-3 then students will all be learning remotely.

Q: Will groups be able to use Jersey 100 facilities in the evenings and on weekends (i.e. gyms, etc.)?

A: Jersey 100 will not enter rental agreements for use of our facilities for the first semester of the school year.

Q: Will Staff have to self-certify themselves daily?

A: Yes. All Staff will be asked to self-certify themselves each day by completing a questionnaire through Skyward. This can be done via any device-phone, computer, iPad, etc. All Staff will need to answer COVID-19 symptom related questions and their temperature will be taken before entering any school building/facility.

Q. Will parents/guardians have to certify their child(ren) before sending them to school?

A: Yes. All parents/guardians will be asked to certify their children each day before sending them to school. They can do this by completing a questionnaire through Skyward. This can be done via any device-phone, computer, iPad, etc. All students will need to free of any COVID-19 symptoms before attending school. Their temperatures will be taken before getting on any buses or entering any school building/facility.

Q. Will guest speakers, parents, etc. be allowed in the building?

A: At this point, we will only be admitting necessary staff and personnel. This includes not hosting events such as Open Houses, Parent Teacher Conferences, Meet the Teacher Night, etc. These events will be replaced with virtual meetings and/or scheduled appointments.

Q: If a student is required to quarantine, how will they receive their instruction?

A: Jersey 100 teachers will work with families to make sure that students receive instruction and missed work.

Q: Will school begin at its normal time each day Monday through Thursday for the 2020-21 school year?

A: Schools will open at normal times and buses will try to run normal routes as much as they can. Each school building will share their plan with parents that will include pertinent information for their specific building and students.

Q: Will school end at normal times each day for the 2020-21 school year?

A: All schools will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. each day Monday through Thursday. Jersey Community High School will outline a plan with varying dismissal times. Please see their plan if you have a child attending that school.

Early dismissal at 2:00 allows for our staff to participate in team meetings, planning and professional development. We feel this work is important to benefit our students who are attending both in-person and remotely. It also allows more time for the custodial staff to sanitize and clean schools.

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Q: Are disposable masks allowed?

A: Yes, disposable masks are acceptable.

Q: Will MAP tests be given? If so, how?

A: MAP tests will be given to students who are in-person.

Q: How will “in-person” learning that becomes “remote” learning look while a child is in quarantine?

A: Students required to individually quarantine will be provided work/activities to complete like they would for a typical absence. If whole classes would need to quarantine, the classroom teacher would provide online activities similar to what is outlined in the online learning section.

Q: When 2nd quarter comes and families want to change to in-person learning from remote learning or vice versa; will kids be able to transition well academically speaking based on the curriculum provided for online learning?

A: The remote learning courses offered by teachers and other supplemental lessons are aligned with state and national standards so the learning that occurs should be similar to the courses offered at the high schools and middle schools. The elementary teachers will work with each family to ensure a smooth transition can take place.

Q: How will students with an IEP receive related services such as OT, PT, or Speech if parents pick the online option?

A: Students will be able to receive related services using online platforms with Jersey 100 staff. It will be difficult to provide OT and PT services in this online manner given the physical nature of these services so parents should consider the in-person option carefully if their child requires these services.

Q: My child has a disability and cannot wear a mask. Will they be disciplined and sent home from school?

A: No, students with disabilities such as intellectual disability, developmental delay, or autism who qualify for a medical exemption can obtain a medical exemption through their primary physician. Parents should contact their pediatrician to obtain this exemption letter. We ask that these students attempt to wear a face shield in lieu of the mask. We understand some students may also not be able to tolerate the shield so we will provide other protection such as desk barriers, masks and shields for staff, and table barriers.

Q: If we do full remote learning, would we still have a principal? Would we still get the school announcements?

A: Students who choose full remote learning will not have an online principal. They will still be considered a Jersey 100 student therefore having a principal at their home school, the school they would have attended if they were in person. Parents and students will not receive daily announcements from the school but will still have access to district-wide announcements and could view school updates on their webpage. Teachers will contact the students and/or parents to let them know how they will be communicating with them.

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Q: Why do students who choose to attend in-person go four days a week and not five days per week?

A: Not having students in physical attendance on Fridays allows teachers time to prepare for both in-person and remote learning lessons, contact students and/or parents, collaborate with their colleagues, attend faculty meetings, and process what they learned and have follow up to any confusion or misunderstanding students and/or parents might have. It also allows the custodial staff to continue to sanitize and clean the facilities.

Q. Will a teacher be assigned to each Remote Learner and if so, will that be the same teacher for the whole quarter?

A: Yes, students will have the same teacher for the entire quarter unless the teacher needs to take a leave of absence.

Elementary K-4

Q. Will students who choose to do full Remote Learning be mainly taught by the parents or will the teacher be teaching over video? How involved will the teacher be?

A: Elementary teachers will provide instruction virtually some of which will take place through live-streamed lessons and other through pre-recorded lessons. There will be learning tasks the students will complete offline. Students vary in their ability to work independently so the amount of support required by parents will vary per student. The elementary teacher will have daily office hours to provide students with support. These times will be communicated between the teacher and student/parent.

JCMS and JCHS students will work with their assigned teacher to work through teacher provided lessons as well as the Edgenuity curriculum. Teachers will communicate due dates that students should complete work by but this work will be done primarily by the student. The teacher will monitor students' progress on their work and will be available to help answer questions. The teacher will also check in on students' social-emotional health through email and virtual meetings.

Q. For students who choose to do Remote Learning, are they photographed and put into the yearbook since they wouldn't be assigned to a classroom at the school?

A: We have not worked out yet how pictures will occur for students who participate in full remote learning. If having pictures taken for the yearbook is an option, we will provide information once it is available.

Q: Was a hybrid model considered for PreK-4?

A: Yes, however it was decided that our youngest learners need to be in-person as much as possible. We believe the best way to support our youngest learners academic and social emotional needs is daily in-person instruction. Younger students often need more visual and verbal instruction with hands-on opportunities to reinforce skills learned.

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Q. What will a typical day look like for students who choose to do full Remote Learning at the K - 4 level?

A: Classroom teachers will establish daily and weekly schedules. Teachers will design online and hard copy of a variety of learning activities. Many of these activities will be recordings of instruction and assignments through Seesaw and Google Classroom that students will complete independently at home. We understand many families who choose full remote learning may have various learning situations for students at home. Some students may be able to participate or complete learning activities during the typical school day. Some families may have other obligations and need to do school work in the evening or on weekends. Some may experience internet disruptions. We will provide flexibility for these circumstances by allowing students to access posted materials after school hours.

Q: How will the Remote Learning curriculum compare to the In-Person one?

A: We will use the district designed and approved grade level curriculum and resources. Grade level content will be designed and delivered for students to access. Teachers will communicate with students, and/or parents/guardians to answer questions about those lessons and activities. The ability to differentiate for each student's unique needs can't be replicated in a digital format. In addition, student peer socialization is much different in a virtual setting with significantly fewer opportunities for collaboration and group work. Our focus during remote learning instruction will be on reading, writing, word study and math at the Elementary level. Teachers may integrate some science and social studies concepts into reading and writing instruction. Enrichment courses such as art, music, and other classes will post lessons/activities and will also communicate this with students and their parents/guardians.

Q. How many students will each teacher be assigned to instruct?

A: The exact number of students assigned to each instructor can't be identified until we know how many families have selected online instruction. We will do our best to follow the ranges for class size established by our district.

Q: How much time will be required for parents to help their children's daily instruction and education in the remote learning option?

A: Students vary in their ability to work independently so the amount of support required by parents will vary per student.

Q: Will remote learning students have a school supply list?

A: Once students have been assigned to classes, the teacher will communicate a list of needed supplies.

Q: Can you give an example of what a remote learning elementary day might look like?

A: Grade level lessons and activities will be provided each day through Seesaw and/or Google Classroom. Lessons and activities will be planned by teachers for students to view and complete. Teachers should connect virtually with students at least 2x per week. Synchronous and asynchronous instruction should take place. Classroom teachers will have daily office hours to answer questions. Daily attendance will be taken and this process will vary per teacher.

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Q: Will the assigned teacher have one-on-one time with the students via some other video communication platform?

A: Elementary teachers will be connect virtually with their students. This may be through Google Meets or other virtual videos. The teachers will support students who have questions. Teachers will communicate with students and their parents/guardians about the best way and times to communicate with them.

Q: If a student chooses remote learning, will they need to print documents and/or be able to scan and upload items.

A: Yes, there may be items that will need to be printed, scanned or uploaded. Families who need materials printed or who will have difficulty scanning or uploading documents should work with their teacher to make accommodations.

Q: Will the assigned teacher at elementary do assessments of the students who are remote learning to determine if the curriculum is either just right, too challenging, or not challenging enough and make adjustments as necessary?

A: No, grade level content will be designed and delivered for students to access. Assessments and the way they are administered will vary by school and teacher. Teachers will continue to answer questions about lessons and activities and will continue to monitor student progress.

Q: What curriculum has been chosen for remote learning for K-4 students?

A: We will use the district designed and approved grade level curriculum and resources.

Q. Will the elementary students who choose remote learning have some online interaction with classmates and the teacher?

A: This may be possible and will vary by classroom. Some classrooms may offer more opportunities for students to interact with classmates.

Middle School and High School 5-12

Q: Can students who choose full remote learning participate in extracurricular activities?

A: Yes, students choosing online learning can participate in extracurricular activities.

Q: Will the assigned teacher have one-on-one time with the students via some other video communication platform?

A: Middle and High School teachers will be responsible for checking in on students' progress and social emotional well-being throughout the week by holding virtual meetings.

Q: Will remote learning students have a school supply list?

A: Materials for students in grades 5-12 who choose to do remote learning will depend on which course(s) they are taking. Students will be provided this information by their individual teachers after being enrolled into a grade/course.

Q: What happens with Dual Credit, Honors, and AP courses if you are attending via remote learning?

A: Dual Credit, Honors, and AP courses will be offered to students who choose to learn remotely on a limited basis.

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Q: Can students in Band/Orchestra/Choir stay enrolled in those courses participate via remote learning?

A: Not at this time.

Q: What about homecoming?

A: Further discussion is needed for homecoming events. More details will be shared once available.

Q: Can students who are opting to do remote learning participate in sports? Will they have to provide their own transportation?

A: Remote learning students can participate in sports. They should attempt to carpool or get rides to the school when possible. If this is an issue for the athlete they can work with their coach for options for transportation.