

## **CMS FREQUENTLY ASKED RESTART QUESTIONS**

Q. How will the remote option affect my student's class selection? He/she has been promoted to some advanced classes, will he/she still be able to participate in those specific classes as well as continue with Miss Hatch for gifted guidance?

A. If you select remote, he/she would still have the same courses that are currently on his/her schedule. If he/she is in an advanced/accelerated course, that would remain the same. Miss Hatch has moved into our 6th grade science position. Miss Hatch and Mrs. Baylor are both certified gifted intervention specialist and will have release time in their schedule to support gifted students and special projects. All teachers in gifted serviced areas have received the required gifted professional development hours required to service gifted students.

Q. Will classrooms have distance between desks at all?

A. We will provide social distancing (3-6 feet) where possible. With a number of students selecting remote learning, our class sizes will come down. Other strategies being deployed to assist with safety include, Plexiglas dividers, moving courses to outside areas (where possible), moving courses to larger instructional areas, teachers moving from class to class rather than students, etc. If the county/district/building changes to a risk level of red, we will move to a modified/hybrid schedule (half of traditional learners come on opposite days) in order to further reduce class sizes and increase social distance ranges. We have also installed hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, a handwashing station in the cafeteria, etc. Students will be required to wear face masks throughout the day, etc. to name a few of our strategies to mitigate health risks.

Q. Will lunch be eaten in classrooms or the cafeteria? If in cafeteria, will the entire grade eat at the same time?

A. Our students can pack or purchase a grab and go lunch. We will install Plexiglas within the cafeteria in order to keep students safe while they eat, as students will be permitted to remove face coverings for lunch. In the past, I have used half the cafeteria tables at a time. The custodian would clean the opposite tables while students would eat at the other tables. This year, we will make use of all of the tables within the cafeteria for each grade level. Our plan is to have the entire grade level eat in the cafeteria, but they would be spread out further using all of the space available (including the stage). Rather than sending an entire grade level at one time to the cafeteria, we will use a staggered schedule to bring fewer students into the cafeteria/line at one time. I will closely monitor the cafeteria schedule and reserve the right to change this arrangement to have students eat within classrooms or other larger common areas.

Q. How will the remote option affect my child's ability to participate in band and marching band?

A. This would be a high school decision. I have talked with Mr. Buzzard regarding this. The high school is looking at band closely. There are some courses at the high school level which may require student attendance. It is also possible that marching band and other extracurricular activities become suspended due to state/local orders or a decision by our board of education. We are currently hopeful that marching band activities may continue, but understand that may change. Students interested in marching band, but selecting remote learning, may be offered a theory-based course. You may reach out to Mr. Buzzard for further clarification on this high school course ([david.buzzard@columbianaschools.org](mailto:david.buzzard@columbianaschools.org)).

Q. Do you know yet if extracurricular activities outside of sports will still be available at all this fall? Student council, radio club, etc.?

A. It is our hope to continue to offer extracurricular activities for our students. We firmly believe these experiences are extremely beneficial for our students. Provided we can continue with extracurricular activities, advisors will utilize best-practices regarding social distancing, face coverings, etc. during these events.

Q. Is the posted district calendar up to date? Any changes to start/end dates?

A. The current board approved district calendar that is posted has not changed [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/612322/2020-2021\\_Columbiana\\_Schools\\_Calendar.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/612322/2020-2021_Columbiana_Schools_Calendar.pdf)

Q. Is the daily start/end time the same? Class periods the same length as posted in the bell schedule?

A. The currently posted bell schedule for the upcoming year may be modified to provide teachers with additional time to appropriately plan for both remote and traditional students. The master schedule had been finalized, but currently being revisited in order to possibly accommodate this time for teachers to plan and actively engage all students. There is a possibility that a schedule which includes a late arrival or early release may be necessary.

Q. With more parents choosing to transport their own child meaning more cars, is the pickup situation the same as listed in the documents? Will they be released by grade level to avoid gathering and hanging around at the end of the day?

A. Our survey will be helpful in planning for the am/pm procedures. In the morning, students will have the opportunity to purchase a grab and go breakfast. Not all students

will be housed in the cafeteria in the morning in order to reduce number and increase social distancing ranges. The end of the day will be monitored and adjusted with the possibility of staggered release (by grade level, bus/walkers/car riders, etc.) or possibly early release for some students. More information will follow on this as decisions are made. Survey results are coming in, but we do not have enough results to adequately plan/decide many of these protocols yet.

Q. Will temperature checks and symptom assessments be done by school staff when arriving at school or by families before school?

A. The district has purchased two thermal scanners for each building. Staff will scan for fevers in the morning as students arrive. Students with higher than normal temperatures will be referred to the nurse for further diagnosis.

Q. I know some local districts are reducing class sizes to 9-12 students to allow for social distancing. Will the classes at the middle school be reduced sizes or only reduced in the number of students that choose the online options? 6' distancing or 3' in the classrooms as well?

A. With a number of students selecting remote learning, our class sizes will come down. Other strategies being deployed to assist with safety include, Plexiglas dividers, moving courses to outside areas (where possible), moving courses to larger instructional areas, teachers moving from class to class rather than students, etc. If the county/district/building changes to a risk level of red, we will move to a modified/hybrid schedule (half of traditional learners come on opposite days) in order to further reduce class sizes and increase social distance ranges. We have also installed hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, a handwashing station in the cafeteria, etc. Students will be required to wear face masks throughout the day, etc. to name a few of our strategies to mitigate health risks.

Q. If the county color changes to red, how soon do students switch to a more blended or remote class? How long after changing back to orange/yellow do they go back to the classroom? Will this flip flop potentially go on all year?

A. The county, district, or building can change colors throughout the year. Our discussions with local health officials have indicated that we would likely receive some time to notify parents, staff, and students of a change. The example provided was a color designation changing on a Thursday and our hybrid model being deployed that following Monday. We are hopeful that districts would be provided some time to notify parents of changes. At the moment, I am thinking this lead time would be 3-5 days. That may change. Less time for parent notification would be required if we were to move down colors rather than moving up colors. These colors could potentially change throughout the year.

Q. Will students be switching classes or teachers moving to them in the same room? Masks for students when changing classes? Do they still have special classes? Lockers or will they keep

their backpacks with them all day? Do students still have the options of band or choir and when/how do they choose this before the first day?

A. In the middle school, we will have teachers change rooms rather than students, where possible. Students will still be provided stretch breaks and carefully planned out hallway walks, etc. just to get students up and moving and provide an instructional break. Students will change classes for specials. Students in grades 6-8 are provided a locker. They will still be issued a locker, but will take items needed to their homeroom for AM and again for PM courses to minimize student time in hallways. Students in the middle school will still not be required to carry a backpack throughout the day. We are currently hopeful that students will have the option of band and choir. However, playing instruments in large settings has posed some health/safety concerns that are being evaluated. Typically, students select band or choir at the end of 4th grade. That wasn't possible this past year. As a result, all students will be assigned music on their schedule and students will meet with the band and choir teacher to learn more about the options available, instrument options, etc. Students will not need to choose band or choir prior to the first day of school.

Q. Will the remote option be taught by Columbiana teachers or using Columbiana curriculum? After a grading period or semester returning to the traditional classroom, students could potentially be behind (or ahead) of students that were in person at school with Columbiana teachers and curriculum? How will they be caught up?

A. We are hopeful that students selecting a remote option will be taught by Columbiana teachers. This is currently being discussed, but that is our plan. Students moving from a remote option to a traditional classroom would be monitored by our teachers and potential learning gaps would be addressed during our scheduled enrichment period. Again, we are hopeful that our teachers will be servicing our remote learners.

Q. Will I need to provide the same school supplies as previous years.

A. A new school supply list for the 2020-2021 academic year has been posted. Remote learners may not need the same supplies at home, but may need some of them. Students and/or parents are encouraged to reach out to their remote learning teachers for more information regarding supplies. For traditional students, supply lists are posted, but I welcome parents to send a supply/pencil box/bag with their child for just the supplies they need at the time (i.e. One glue stick instead of a large quantity etc.). We will not have large quantities of shared supplies this year.

Q. Any type of 5th grade/new student orientation this year?

A. Yes. 5th grade orientation is currently scheduled for Monday, August 24th. Last names (A-L) at 4:30 pm and (M-Z) at 5:30. I am asking that for this year's orientation, students be accompanied by one parent/guardian to reduce numbers in our cafeteria.

In fact, we will have orientation for all grade levels for those who would like to join us. Please limit 1 parent/guardian per student.

Friday August 21<sup>st</sup>:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade (A-K) @ 4:30 – Open House

7<sup>th</sup> Grade (L-Z) @ 5:30 – Open House

8<sup>th</sup> Grade (A-K) @ 6:30 – Open House

8<sup>th</sup> Grade (L-Z) @ 7:30 – Open House

Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade (A-L) @ 4:30 – Orientation

5<sup>th</sup> Grade (M-Z) @ 5:30 – Orientation

6<sup>th</sup> Grade (A-H) @ 6:30 – Open House

6<sup>th</sup> Grade (I-Z) @ 7:30 – Open House

If you have any questions or concerns, please never hesitate to reach out

Phone: 330-482-5354 ext. 34408 or Email: [jason.martin@columbianaschools.org](mailto:jason.martin@columbianaschools.org)

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