

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Must I complete the daily questionnaire for my child or myself (employee)?

A: *YES! The questionnaire must be filled out daily for EACH child.*

Q: What happens if I forget to complete the questionnaire one day?

A: Every morning, a report indicating who is missing a questionnaire will be pulled and each student/parent/staff member will be contacted by the nurse to complete the questionnaire.

Q: What happens if I answer YES to one of the questions on the questionnaire?

A: If you or your child has answered yes to one of the questions, you must remain home and not attend school. This will show up on a report and the School Nurse will follow up with you. It's a good idea to call her as well.

Q: What happens if I answer NO to all of the questions on the questionnaire?

A: If you answer NO to all questions, you have the green light to come to school/work.

Q: Will the school take the temperature of my child as they get on the bus?

A: NO! The District will not be taking the temperature of students as they enter the bus. Please take the temperature of each child at home and determine whether or not your child should attend school. If you are unsure, please call the School Nurse.

Q: Will the school take the temperature of all students/adults entering the building?

A: YES! Through the use of thermal imaging equipment, we will take the temperature of all persons entering each school building.

Q: Must my child wear a mask on the bus?

A: *Yes! All students should put on their mask before walking out of the house and keep it on while riding on the bus.*

A: *The same is true on the way home from school. All students must wear a mask*

while riding on the bus and should not take it off until they enter the house.

Q: Must my child wear a mask while in the classroom (during instruction)?

A: *Yes! All students are required to wear their mask during the school day (except for lunchtime while eating and a “mask break” specified by the teacher.*

Q: What happens if my child refuses to wear a mask in school?

A: *Be prepared for a telephone call and to come pick up your child! Masks are required and this will be added to the Code of Conduct.*

A: *Refusal to follow the Code of Conduct could result in disciplinary action. Please discuss this with your child. We understand this is new and we will certainly work with all students and parents. However, it is the rule and must be followed.*

Q: How is Contact Tracing Handled?

A: *Contact Tracing – The County has their own epidemiology department at the OCDOH. They are the individuals who will contact the School Nurse with information about positive cases. They will stay in close contact on any communicable diseases. The Tuxedo Union Free School District will maintain lists of what classes students and teachers are in and who enters the school/room.*

Q: How is COVID-19 Testing Handled?

A: *Testing – The County has a list of available test sites. Orange County NY App., OCDOH website. In the event of an outbreak, the Tuxedo Union Free School District will work with the OCDOH to schedule testings’ or mass screenings through the NYSDOH.*

Q: Who is the point of contact that will communicate with the OCDOH?

A: *Marie Castricone, our School Nurse will communicate with OCDOH and keep the School/District Administration informed of any new developments.*

Q: Is a Doctor’s Note required for a positive student or staff member to return to school/work?

A: *YES. Any staff member or student who was positive and is now testing virus free, would need to provide a letter from a physician before returning to work or school. Clearance is imperative.*

Q: What is the requirement for bus transportation?

A: *ALL students and staff MUST wear masks at all times. The requirement for school bus transportation is still unclear. Waiting on this answer from the NYSDOH.*

Q: **What if someone is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19?**

A: *If someone exhibits symptoms. They are not allowed in buildings - send for testing. Classrooms/buildings will not close unless notified by the OCDOH that there is a positive case.*

A: *Action to close should not happen until a phone call is received from the OCDOH with a lab confirmed positive case.*

Q: **Will the Tuxedo Union Free School District conduct COVID-19 testing?**

A: *NO! School districts will not do COVID-19 testing. There is a list of sites across Orange County that will do testing. Ideally the individual should go to their primary care provider*

Q: **What do I do if I suspect my child (as a student) or I (as an employee) has been exposed to and/or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19?**

A: *Step 1 in the protocol is to refer to your primary care physician. If that is not available, you may go to a testing site.*

A: *Just because an individual was exposed, doesn't mean they were exposed to a lab confirmed individual. Exposure does not constitute a positive case.*

A: *An individual who is exposed to a contact that is asymptomatic will not trigger any action by the district.*

A: *Contact to a suspected case, not a confirmed case, should remain out of school/work until confirmation is received.*

Q: **What do I do if I visited a state that is a quarantined state?**

A: *Students/Staff coming back from quarantined states must stay out of work for 14 days, even after testing is negative.*

Q: **Will the children still have recess?**

A: *Yes. Recess will be handled by the classroom teacher at GGM. At GFB, students will be able to go outside after they eat their lunch. Students will report to the cafeteria, eat lunch, and then students will have the option to either stay in the cafeteria or go outside (weather permitting).*

Q: Could you please clarify why can't kids eat lunch in the classrooms?

A: We do not have the staff to cover all the classrooms for lunch. This is also when the teachers have their lunch as well.

Q: I thought I read something somewhere that said pre-k and kindergarten will be eating lunch in their classrooms?

A: PreK always does and part of their program is learning how to be social and have a family style lunch. Kindergarten that decision will be left up to the teacher. Those are two different situations. In PK you have 2 aides, K may not be possible if we don't have the staffing. If you take PK and K out of mix, grades 1-5 there are two lunch periods.

Q: What are the specific details of the remote learning option? Will the kids learn in real time with their classmates in school? How will this be accomplished?

A: Please see the 100% Distance Learning section of the Return to Learn Plan. Also, please see the Return to Learn PowerPoint posted on the website. The students will learn in real time with their classmates in school. The schedule at GGM will have specific starting points when the Distance Learning students will be real-time with the class. The schedule at GFB will mirror that of students in school and will be followed from 8:00am to 2:48pm.

A: At secondary level students will follow their same schedule. We are looking at how students can get the same experience when they are home as in school. We are building the ship and sailing at the same time which is the same across the country. Looking at different cameras and microphones, we will address privacy issues on a case by case basis we are going to make adjustments as we see fit. While plans look great on paper things happen and you have to roll with it. You don't know what will happen when students get here. We may get to the point where we need to do something different.

Q: When students are indoors will they be required to stay six feet apart and wear a mask?

A: All students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear masks at all times during the school day (except when eating, or if a staff member is in their room by themselves). Students will be required to wear masks during class, transitions, and when traveling to/from school. Desks will be placed 6' apart whenever

practicable and students should also remain 6' apart whenever possible. We understand it is nearly impossible to ensure that all students are always 6' apart, and this is why we are requiring masks to be worn at all times.

A: We will need everyone to be part of this. A student who is refusing to wear a mask, mom and dad you are going to get a phone call. It is an absolute mandate that students must wear masks. Teachers will determine how students will have mask breaks. Teachers will learn when it best for their students and will set up different places where teachers can go and decisions they will make when they get to school.

Q: **Why are the kids being allowed to eat in the cafeteria? Why can't they eat outdoors when the weather permits or in their classrooms.**

A: There is nothing wrong with the cafeteria. We are placing individual student desks in the cafeteria that will be spaced 6' apart. We will also utilize the art room as a cafeteria if need be. Students will be permitted to go outside after they eat lunch. We do not have the staff to support lunch in the classroom.

A: To bring food outside is a long travel of food from cafeteria to the outside which increase opportunities for spills. When outside we have a new problem: bees and bears and become a lovely smell and we do not want any unwanted guests. I have to be concerned about all the students all the time. They will have 10-15 minutes to eat and then go outside for recess. It is a management nightmare to start walking through the building with food and no supervision.

Q: **If student/parent/teacher/staff is found to test positive for COVID-19; what measure will the District take? (ie: close school for 14 days)**

A: This Orange County Department of Health will inform the District if we have someone that tests positive and will tell the District what (if any) closure and/or quarantine needs to happen. Please see the FAQ and PowerPoint for additional information.

A: If a student or staff is exhibiting symptoms, the nurse will see them and make the determination that the student go home and referred to PCP and make call or parent takes student to be tested. DOH has been clear that school is not role to test students, it is the role of a medical doctor. Likewise, if found positive, communication with DOH and then DOH will determine whether quarantine or

closing down is needed. We will work in conjunction with DOH and tell us.

Q: Has anyone looked into distance/remote 1:1 application?

A: There are many new applications being introduced this year to support in-classroom instruction as well as Distance Learning. Some examples are ClassLink and Apex Learning. Google Classroom/Meet will be the District platform across the board.

A: We've added a lot of different software and hardware. HS students have opportunity to take classes and recover classes for course credit (Apex), opens opportunities for all our staff to use those resources for their own classes. More and more we are becoming electronic. There is still a need for things to be done on paper. ClassLink is one stop shopping when you log on. One points of feedback we've heard is too many places, this is one point of log in. Kids can save work on the network and teachers have all their work on the network and access their district files through this app

Q: When and how will students and teachers be trained on the new software?

A: Teachers will be trained during the first week back. Students return September 8th. Teachers return September 1st. The first couple weeks will be rituals and routines for kids on how we use different software's et al, and time taken now will save us all year long. The kids need to have the opportunity to understand how to use it and the teachers need to learn how to use it. We want to offer a Parent University on how to use it. If parents don't understand it how can they help students at home? There is a lot that we have to push into the first four days, more and more we are starting to see districts in the county come to the conclusion that there is a lot to do. I am feeling that pressure and we may have to make that decision to pivot. As we are learning new information and everyone's intentions are the best but it is a nearly impossible task. We will do what is needed to make sure everyone is successful. We need to start the year right. Everyone needs to learn a new way of coming to school. Everything will be regimented. A lot of change.

Q: Will the Superintendent wear a mask?

A: The Superintendent is an employee of the Tuxedo Union Free School District and will follow the same protocols established for all faculty and staff.

Masks in general.

A: Some masks give you marks or make you sweat, the masks we have are comfortable and elastic and that's the most important thing. It has a spot for filter. One of the biggest decisions you can spend time on is as masks go. Especially with the little ones, they have to be comfortable wearing a mask. What a great opportunity for the little ones to paint masks. Whatever works for your child, do! During the school day I'll be wearing it. We all need to be working together to support our children.

Q: Will there be social distancing during gym?

A: Physical Education is a class just like every other class and will follow the same protocols.

Q: Can students do full time remote learning? What measure/capabilities has the school taken to successfully implement this?

A: Yes! Please refer to the portion of the plan related to Distance Learning as this is addressed.

A: A commitment has been revised to be for a quarter. It is up to the parent. We do want to support everybody and asking you to make that commitment.

Q: When will remote learners receive their equipment?

A: We will set up a stand similar to the way we had at the end of the year, before the beginning of the school year.

Q: Will kids be able to change their mind once a decision is initially made. Say they want to switch from 100% virtual to 100% in person or 100% in person to 100% virtual?

A: 10-week commitment will be made instead of a semester. Not effective to bounce back and forth.

Q: What daily cleaning measures have been put in place? Who will see this through?

A: Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols have been established in preparation for students to return. Building cleaning and disinfecting falls under the Director of Operations and he will ensure all protocols are being followed. He will also monitor and make modifications to protocols if deemed necessary.

A: We have disinfecting foggers. They are many different types of disinfectant and what we are allowed to use is regulated. The plan is that we'll be using those foggers throughout the day.

Q: Is the HVAC system current enough to use filters that recommended by CDC?

A: We had Honeywell come out to evaluate our systems specifically. The filter depends on the age of the system in the building. We are using a filter we will change every month. Honeywell was very impressed with our procedure.

A: Honeywell has evaluated all of our systems and we get a thumbs up in great shape. We change our filters monthly (reco is 3 months). Our filters are precise for air flow in the classrooms. HEPA filters can prohibit air that can be exchanged. The way our systems are set up not required.

Q: Why not also use free standing HEPA/UV machines in each room for extra precaution

A: We asked that same question and the response was that there is no added benefit. Like Plexiglas barriers, they create a false sense of security. For instance, some teachers have a fan and now the only way to have fan is right to an open window to bring fresh air into the room. Again, these are all things we've spent looking into. We are doing what is best for our students to keep them safe.

Q: Will families need to sign a waiver to attend school?

A: At this time, there is no change to requirements for students to attend school. If this changes, parents will be informed accordingly.

Q: Could you please clarify if anything will be done with the 9th grade? It is a very large class.

A: Although the 9th grade is a larger class, once students enter 7th grade, there are

some students that opt to take different classes in math and science. That generally reduces the number of students in those classes by nearly 50%. There are various solutions that will be considered when addressing specific class needs. It could result in an adjusted schedule, a different room that works better or a combination of the both.

Q: How many students are required to split a class?

A: That depends on the class. I know a lot of people are looking. It depends on the size of the class and grade/level and content, there are many factors. If HS class and we don't have any other teacher to teach it, we may need to move into a larger room like the cafeteria or auditorium. Case by case basis and also depends on how many students opt to participate in 100% distance learning. 7th grade those classes have already been split into multiple sections. At HS level we can break up students into different classes by subjects.

Q: Why is there no hybrid model for Return to Learn? I understand the school community is of a small size but I believe a hybrid model would help ease the transition and allow for more social distancing.

A: Each school district has to make decisions that best fit their specific needs. Many surrounding school districts are forced into dividing their student population into cohorts in order to bring the students into school. This is because they have 1000-12000 students and simply have no other choice. As of this moment, our district has 231 students and we do not have a need to break our students up and have them come to school on different days. Through schedule modification and adjusted room utilization, we can accommodate all students every day. While everyone is entitled to their personal opinion, we have to do what is best for our District.

According to parent feedback, 65% plan on sending their children back to school in-person, 15% will opt for 100% Distance Learning and 20% are undecided. Through conversation with the other school districts in Orange County, they are seeing the same trend of approximately 2/3 returning and 1/3 opting for Distance Learning.

We are working on a revised hybrid model

Q: Please explain in detail the cleaning protocol during the day by maintenance and after

school hours in classrooms, bathrooms and lunchrooms.

A: Prior to COVID-19, the District already had an establish cleaning protocol. This protocol has been enhanced with additional disinfecting and deeper cleaning. Once students return in September, we will add the following protocols: continual (during the school day) wiping down of handrails, door knobs, and frequent touch areas. We have purchased room disinfecting foggers that will be used during the course of the day when students are at lunch or out of the classroom and they will be used again in the evening after the room has been cleaned. Additional staff will be brought on during the day to support daily cleaning/disinfecting.

Q: If a child is classified but opts to stay virtual, how will he/she receive their accommodations.

A: Every student has different needs and this should be discussed with the AP for Student Services as this may or may not require a modification to the IEP.

Q: What is the exact number of desks that will fit in a classroom six feet apart?

A: All of our classrooms are a little different and have different attributes, so that number would vary.

Q: According to the Protocol for Face Coverings/Masks provided in the Plan, “Face coverings should not be placed on students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction”. There appears to be much discretion and judgment as to what constitutes a “challenge, distraction or obstruction” particularly when we are met with the fact that many kids have not been wearing face coverings in social settings. How is this determination made to ensure the safety of all students?

A: All students are required to wear a mask during school and while riding on buses. If there is a specific health related need, that should be addressed with the nurse and school administration on a case by case basis. We cannot control what happens outside of the school day, but our expectation is that all students will adhere to all protocols set forth.

Q: Suffern & New Rochelle in Westchester County have chosen to start the school year remotely. They want to see what happens in other districts before returning to in person learning. I would like to see this happen in Tuxedo. We should not be the

guinea pigs for other districts. Our kids, teachers and families matter too much!

A: Every District is different and has to make decisions that best fit their needs. The needs of Suffern and New Rochelle are very different than Tuxedo and cannot be compared. There is already a school in Orange County that has been providing summer school over the past 6 weeks. They have been following the same protocol we have established for Return to Learn and have had no problems. The biggest challenge was adjusting to wearing masks all day and that took a few days to work through. Along the same lines, Greenwood Lake, Florida, Chester, Warwick, Marlboro, and other nearby districts are all opening on day 1 with students in person.

A: We all know what other districts are doing. Based on today's conversation I feel other districts that will follow all remote pivot. The governor made some comments the guidelines make it nearly impossible to open. We are very lucky we are small but doesn't make us exempt. Teeter every day, conflicting guidance that you have to sift through is most frustrating we are going to have decisions and put out a survey. What you thought today may be different and changing rapidly. We are watching districts in Southern states.

Q: Other districts have decided to start all remote. Is that an option to do this in Tuxedo until it is 100% safe?

A: Yes

Q: Are all teachers on board with the return to learn plan?

A: I cannot speak for the teachers. I have a meeting set up with them Friday and next week. I've had meetings with different people to gauge thoughts on what needs to happen.

Q: NY teachers' union are announcing that they want all staff and students to be tested before coming back to school. Is that the case in our district?

A: The DOH has made it clear that school districts should NOT be doing COVID-19 testing as we are not health care professionals. The protocol is that if testing may be warranted, the student or staff member is referred to their primary care physician or a local testing site.

Q: With families with multiple children, if one can't come to school shouldn't the others be required to do distance learning until all are well to prevent any spread of any illness?

A: Yes, absolutely. It's been such a gray area and area of debate. Every day you have to answer 4 questions; you have to answer YES to the question about displaying symptoms.

Q: What will remote learning for a child/parent that chooses to stay home look like? What kind of support is given?

A: If a parent opts for 100% Distance Learning, students will be doing the same work as the regular class and will be logging on every day. The PreK-3 schedule will be modified and the 4-12 schedule will be the same as if they were physically in school. Teacher support will be the same as if the students were here in school. Technology support will also be available and that information will be distributed when school starts. It will not be like it was last spring. There will be specific log on times given by the teacher.

Q: I'm hearing a lot about the high school and K-2, for a child 3-5 doing virtual, what can I expect?

A: Teachers will set the schedule and a consistent schedule. Depending on lesson and grade, students may be on given amount of time for lesson, log off to do work and then log on to meet again. We are running a regular school schedule.

Q: How will distance learners get instruction for their specials. i.e, gym, art, and music. will it be live, or a recorded lesson like before?

A: As mentioned earlier, the students will be logging in to their special class what they are scheduled for on that letter day and will be in class with the teacher.

Q: Several parents want a hybrid option. Why isn't this being taken more seriously?

A: This is taken seriously. Our hybrid is the option of 100% online at home. We do not have the need to do what all districts doing and need to consider the input from all the parents. $\frac{2}{3}$ want children back in school. However, we are putting

together a revised HYBRID model that will support reducing the daily population and students coming in on different days/weeks. Another survey will be sent out to parents to see where they stand at this point.

Q: Will the same learning material when students do either distance learning or onsite?

A: Yes, it will be the same because when distance learning they will be logged in to the same lesson as if it is live. The students that will be at home will be on Google Meets as the teacher is giving the lesson those students will be part of it. Same lesson. Option for teacher to record the lesson and distribute that to online students if they need to recapture something.

Q: Will the same teacher that has students in a physical classroom be the same one teaching and supporting our kids and parents that choose to stay home? Or will there be a separate teacher for Distance Learning

A: As the students will be attending class every day, the assigned teacher is the teacher of record. The only difference is that the student is at home and not in school. The student will be expected to attend every class, every day, and be punctual.

A: It will be the same teacher because it will be live while the kids are in class. Students that are online will be able to participate in that conversation and hear the other students in the class. We know there will be technically difficulties. We want to have go-to tech support team.

Q: We need to start the school year remotely! We also need to have a hybrid plan in place!

A: Thank you for your opinion. We also have to consider the opinions of everyone. These opinions/surveys have informed our decisions every step of the way and we will continue to send out surveys as we move forward and will adjust as needed. For Tuxedo, our hybrid is having the option to be 100% remote or 100% in-person. At this time, we do not have a need to split our classes and have students attend two days per week. If that changes, we will certainly adjust accordingly.

Q: I am extremely disappointed with our Superintendent's lack of care for our kids and teachers. All he kept saying last night was that he is following DOH guidelines as an excuse to what he is or isn't doing to ensure a safe return for our children! Zero responsibility for what actually matters! How about listening to the parents' concerns, even those on the Board! Kids can't go back like things are NORMAL! This is not NORMAL and people need to start accepting this reality.

A: Thank you for your opinion. There are many other parents with opinions that differ from yours and they are entitled to the same consideration. Please do not assume the Superintendent has a lack of care for our students. The Superintendent took an oath to uphold the law and do what is best for our students. The District does not have the option to disregard guidance from the New York State Department of Health. Whether we agree or not, we have to follow the laws and the executive orders of the Governor. This is not an option for us. The Superintendent has 100% responsibility for everything that happens and that's why decisions are made to ensure the safety of all. Board members are also entitled to their own opinion and have to make decisions as parents for their children. Board Members are also charged with making decisions that are in the best interest of our learning community while setting their own personal beliefs aside. The nasty rhetoric doesn't help anyone and is not necessary. You are entitled to disagree, but you don't need to be rude and make assumptions.

Q: Can we have the option to pick our child up for lunch? This gives the kids a break from being seated ALONE on a desk for an entire day!

A: This is something that can be considered. However, the students will not be alone for the entire day. Their peers will be with them and we encourage students to engage in conversation while at lunch (even with desks separated).

Q: If we are returning to school as if nothing is going on, a pandemic, I would like to see a hybrid option. Tuxedo has fewer kids than most districts, we would be at an advantage.

A: We are not returning to school as if nothing is going on. We have been preparing to return to a safe and healthy environment that best supports our students. Tuxedo has the lowest number of students in the area and that is exactly the reason we have the advantage and ability to return. You may not agree, but 2/3 of our parents do agree.

A: Our small number is an advantage but it does not resolve all our issues, we still

have to address what classes and number of students can be in a given room. There are different models of how many desks and the 6ft rule is 6ft without a mask and we are sticking as close we can to that rule. We are making those changes as needed, adjusting where we can to pivot on both ends.

Q: I would like to see a half day option since we are returning to 5 days a week. Kids go to school at 8am and leave 12noon. This helps minimize traffic/moving around the school. Less time for kids to keep their masks on. More effective instructional time. More time for cleaning each day.

A: While we understand your thought process, the reality is that once the kids arrive, there is no difference with regards to cleaning or moving around. The difference would be in that instruction is cut in half and that would be irresponsible when we are capable of teaching all day. We are all adjusting to masks.

A: The half day options presents the same amount of clearing and work. If we were to do that it would be certain kids in on certain days. We also have to be responsive to the parent survey feedback that $\frac{2}{3}$ want their children back in school.

Q: Could you please clarify busing situation? Any changes? Thank you!

A: There seems to be a disagreement between guidance from the Orange County Department of Health and the New York State Department of Health. We are anxiously awaiting a final decision and will communicate that as soon as we have it.

If the question is about the bus proposition, our bus proposition was voted down in June. However, the funds for transportation is included in our overall budget and that was approved. The bus proposition does not require additional funds, yet it does require voter approval. Therefore, on September 22nd the residents will vote again on the same proposition.

Q: For those of us who are set on a decision for keeping our kids home for remote learning, will chrome books be given to our kids? Will there be live zoom chats with teachers throughout the week to make sure student are on track to where they need to be?

A: Yes! Chromebooks will be given out. Students will follow the same daily

schedule as if they were in class and be a part of the class but on Google instead of sitting in the room.

Q: If you are going to be releasing a possible new plan, will you be extending the deadline for people to choose between remote and in-person instruction?

A: We would have to extend the deadline.

Q: Will there be assemblies?

A: Assemblies are not going to be happening. There will be multiple opportunities to meet with different grade levels, but on a whole-school basis.

Q: How will the teachers review the independent work being done by those students not in the room (i.e. remotely)?

A: Our goal is to have students at home have the same experience and participate in conversations with students in the classroom. It's up to the teacher as to what works best for them and we are looking at equipment to support teachers with online instruction. Again, once teachers are here, they will establish their own protocols and we will support the teachers every way we can.

Q: Is the district amenable to tweaking the plan based on concerns?

A: Yes. We are already doing it. On July 17th we got the expectations of what needs to be in the plan that was due July 31st. The state was creating this as we are, creating and putting out at the same time. Are there areas that need to be fixed? Of course! There are directives and guidance that have changed. It is a living document, it is changing constantly as we are addressing new needs and concerns. Everyday there are new changes and we are updating accordingly.

Q: Can outdoor tents (either temporary or semi-permanent) be placed on Circle Field to encourage outdoor learning sessions, weather permitting? COVID transmission is greatly reduced outdoors, but our field has no shade.

A: Yes it is a consideration and yes we are looking into it. At the graduation in July, we saw the benefit of having a tent. We have learned that in order to have a tent or any structure we have to go through the same process of hiring an architect. State ed is slow, so it would be something for the spring, not the fall.

Q: **As of right now, is the state planning on administering state tests?**

A: If this continues I don't know if that will be possible. I am confident that whatever decision made will be the right decision, it's been very quiet.

Q: **Will there be leniency for parents who work from home but still opt for full time distance learning? For example, if my child's teacher remote schedule conflicts with my work schedule and I am not able to support my child at that specific time, will my child be penalized for not attending the session?**

A: Yes. If you opt for 100% distance learning, your child will be expected to log on for their regular schedule. The lower grades will be expected to log-on at specific times defined by the teacher. If a student on distance learning does not log on, that is just like not showing up to class. Distance learning at the secondary level will be the same as if they were attending school. Last Spring, not having a set schedule was not so nice for a lot of people. Students need a set schedule. I would start working on those routines now.

Q: **Is there a supply list for students on Distance Learning?**

A: There is no advance supply list for distance learning students, teachers will need to determine this for each class. These things will happen when teachers return September 1st. Teachers have the flexibility to operate and run the class the way they want. I'm giving them the tools they need. There is a lot the teachers need to do. Am I leaning toward remote and it makes sense to take that time in the beginning of the year to prepare everybody. Let's say for month of September we are remote and we go in-person in October. It makes sense for us to look at these first two weeks to make sure that everybody is set and that's our plan. While many questions are the same they are valid questions. We do have to do what's right and make sure everyone is prepared and have the tools they need. I've been doing this since last Spring, I made the decision to order laptops back in April, knowing there would be a lag time on items. The rules from Albany change every week but we've still been planning.

Q: If students prefers hybrid on certain days, will they be accommodated?

A: No. If the student is out sick for a day, then the student is out sick and has to make up the work. It is not fair for the teacher to have a student sitting in the classroom one day and then remote at home the next. Attendance policy will be followed as regular.

Q: What if a student is home due to a sibling having symptoms. Would they be able to work remotely?

A: I want to hear what teachers have to say and they should be part of that decision. While I have an opinion, yes I feel that the child should be allowed to. There is a difference between being forced to stay home and choosing to stay home.

Q: I wasn't here at the beginning. Did you answer the question about how you are monitoring people's travels to hot spots?

A: This is a question part of the questionnaire. If your email address has changed contact Matt Takeuchi and/or Mary Dixon. At 5:00 AM (as of right now), you will receive an email and you have to answer all questions for all students and take their temperatures. If you answered no to all four questions and your child doesn't have a fever you're good to go. If you answer yes to one of the questions, the answer is child/adult stays home. If you don't answer the questionnaire we can pull a report of all students every day, up to nurse to seek out those students. We have to seek out the yellows. PLEASE make sure you answer the questionnaire every day.

Q: What's the protocol for folks who are identified as red?

A: Stay home.

Q: If a teacher has to quarantine due to illness or contact of Covid, will substitutes be given more substantial curriculum to teach than in the past?? Two weeks minimum is a long time.

A: Yes. That is something we are going to have to talk about with the teachers and determine what sub plans are going to look like.

Q: Or...if they are quarantined due to contact with covid (but not covid positive) can they teach remotely?

A: Absolutely. The problem presents you still need a sub we need an adult with the students in the class. We have to consider what if the teacher can't come in but students can.

Q: **When can we expect a decision will be made? Can you give us a date? Many of us have to arrange for childcare if the plan is changed.**

A: Monday is probably the earliest. So much changes every day, sooner rather than later. Questionnaire is going out by the end of the week to ask parents where they stand today. Monday may be premature so maybe Tuesday. Everyone's minds are in a different place. The more parents that fill it out the better, I need to see where everybody stands. Everyone's minds may have changed and we need to take the pulse of the community again. I know not everyone is going to be happy.

Q: **For those of us who are set on a decision for keeping our kids home for remote learning, will chrome books be given to our kids? Will there be live zoom chats with teachers throughout the week to make sure student are on track to where they need to be?**

A: Yes! Chromebooks will be given out. Students will follow the same daily schedule as if they were in class and be a part of the class but on Google instead of sitting in the room.

Q **Will classroom instruction be viewable via video from home?**

A: The classroom instruction will be live and will be required to attend class as if they are in school and logged in at home. If the teacher opts to send a recorded version afterwards.

Q: So basically, there is a camera in every classroom now to film live the class for the online children? How will their questions be answered?

A: Yes. We are looking at Bluetooth microphones and speakers. The students that are online with wireless microphones and speaker can talk back and forth. All students will be engaged with the class. Can call teacher so teacher can hear them. As we start school teachers will settle into what works best. With that, let's use last week for an example. With Hurricane and no internet out, distance learning presents a problem if you can't log in to school. As teachers return in September. Those sessions will be reported. Treated similar to sick day.

Q: How are teachers expected to simultaneously support students in-person and students at home?

A: The way it is set up, students who are set up online are expected to have an active role in the class. They will be called on just like they call on other students. The supports should be relatively the same. The other supports are up to the individual teacher.

Q: Is the live camera in the classroom going to be just on the teacher? In my district in NJ special education students with IEPs cannot be on camera and need a waiver. Do we need to address this in our school?

A: That is up to the teacher to determine where they want that camera to be. Same thing here, if parent opts not to have their child on video, then that would present a concern. If you are making decision to be 100% remote, if child sitting in classroom, then that child would not be on camera. Case by case basis.

Q: Do to the difficulty in communication with all day mask wearing, will grading be adjusted for participation in class?

A: No, the grading will not be part of mask wearing. Wearing a mask has nothing to do with grades.

Q: Will the 7 & 8th graders still be allowed to take advanced classes with the new middle school set up.

A: Nothing has changed. The only difference is 6th grade is here. Teachers will come to the room

Q: Is there orientation or plans for incoming students into the HS?

A: Something we are working on right now. Was working on a reorientation day for everybody. Our goal is to have one that Thursday or Friday.

Q: How do you know that parents don't want a hybrid plan if they weren't given the option to choose one? We had two choices on that survey. In person or fully remote.

A: There were multiple surveys sent out with different questions in each to determine what options are available. There will also be another survey going out by the end of the week.

Q: Will there be an orientation for remote students in elementary class so that they can meet their teacher. Even if they will not be doing in person school.

A: Something we'll discuss when teachers get here, it will depend on how many kids are option.

Q: Using the fog machines in evening is great - just FYI my husband's office has also used foggers. He said the chemical smell afterwards lingers longer than the recommended minimum wait before returning to area. If we are also considering fogging during the day, can we keep the Kids out of the classrooms longer than recommended before returning, to give more time to air out the disinfectant smell/fumes? Ie lunch, recess+ a period outside/elsewhere? Pls appreciated if clarified.

A: Yes, thank you. We investigated this before we decided which machines to buy. We opted for the one that disinfects that doesn't have much of a smell and room can be used 5 minutes after fogged. There are many different versions and some have strong chemicals. We were cautious with our decision. Only when kids are out for the period for more than enough time to do this.

Q: Will screens be put on the windows so that they can remain open?

A: Yes, we are working on screens across the district right now.

Q: Will there be two nurse rooms? One for students with a scrape or rash type concern while another with covid symptoms.

A: Yes, we do have to have separate areas that we have to work on. Right now we have 1 nurses room and we have different rooms that can be considered. We are going to look into the potential rooms, this gets into bathroom, isolation rooms, there is a lot of criteria

Q: Being a teacher myself (another district), I've seen many students come to school over the years with a temperature as their parent just gave them meds and send them as they "need to go to work." You CANNOT rely on parents to take temperatures as the only form of evidence. How is this going to be addressed?

A: Thank you. I agree 1000%. Parents, please don't load them up with Tylenol and send them in. As kids enter the school we are taking every student's temperature. If there is a concern or student exhibiting other symptoms we will address it.

Q: Will NY state test be scheduled this year or coming year?

A: Good question, we don't know yet and that is hard to say.

Q: If all students return will we have enough staff to accommodate social distancing in all classrooms?

A: This is more a space issue than a staffing issue and this is one of our biggest areas of concern.

Q: Will the participation portion of grading be adjusted, due to the "all day" mask wearing?

A: No.

Q: I understand the DOH says if a sibling has a fever any healthy siblings can still attend in person; however, can we address if a sibling has a fever, that all siblings should not go to school, and if this is the case how will their in person learning be adjusted to remote. And how will it affect attendance.

A: Again, this will be a case by case issue. I understand this concern and do not have a problem with it. If student is going to be home for an extended amount of time we need to adjust the learning. If child is home...will be up to you and the individual teacher and there may be additional guidance coming out.

Q: When will pre-K have their room sanitized if they don't leave for lunch? Last evening you suggested this would take place during the lunch periods.

A: There will be time, every day PK will need recess time and those times will be coordinated to make sure disinfecting happens as well.

Q: Will you be fogging in between in lunch period, or at the end of both? How will that work since especially in the elementary school it takes long enough time for students to get their lunch and eat. Will they have longer lunch periods so that they will be allowed to eat and the room be disinfected.

A: We now have two lunch periods instead of one, so that cuts the number of students in half. This will continue to be looked at with Mr. Brown before a final determination is made.

Q: For students that are remote 100%, will they have to attend lunch? Will there be cameras in the cafeteria? How will socialization at lunch be given to remote students if possible.

A: No they don't have to attend lunch. Lunch is on your own at home. Students would log off that that time.

Q: How will students in 8th grade taking 9th grade math and science be accommodated? Same question for other grades as well.

A: They will be in different sections. Those students will be wherever their class is.

Q: Will the current policy on amount of sick days each student is allowed be adjusted in regards to the current situation?

A: No. Sick days are sick days but if there is a student that (like the Hurricane) have reason that you cannot connect I'm not sure how to report it but we would not mark it as a missed day, I expect new categories will be coming out for sick day reporting. That is not a sick day and not held against child as a sick day. Once we have that information we will let everyone know. Non-connect days? Our attendance goes to a regional area and then the state, that's why it's important each day that attendance is verified and they can make changes up to the next day before it is finalized. I just learned we are cited for attendance.

Q: Follow up the question, if one kid is showing a symptom, then how school determine the symptom is due to COVID-19? or just a regular flu.

A: That is a great question. We do not know that. The recommendation is to go to your primary care physician to determine whether it is just the flu. We know this is going to happen. The flu is not COVID-19. I would rely on the nurse for that.

Q: How often will students be given mask breaks?

A: That is up to the individual teacher, there is no rule that is set. It will obviously look different at the elementary than the high school level.

Q: Will students be sharing books and materials? How is that going to be disinfected?

A: No sharing, looking into students having their own. That will be a challenge and we are looking into having students have their own as much as possible.

Q: I still don't understand why the kids won't be encouraged to eat outdoors during the nice weather. Keeping them in the cafeteria to eat makes me very nervous because they will have their masks off in an enclosed space. There is plenty of room on the lawn to socially distance and eat.

A: The kids will be socially distanced and I understand your concern. The kids typically eat and I've done cafeteria duty more than I care to know, across the board it's best to have kids remain in the cafeteria, eat and then go outside. Kids

going outside with their food, there is a line of trash, spills and make mess. Last June when we did the book return and distribution we had bears and had to move everyone inside. I do not want to invite any guests (Bears/Bees) to Circle Field. I know many people may disagree, I am responsible for the wellbeing for everybody. For safety reasons a lot of reasons, kids will remain in the cafeteria while eating. We can't remain in classrooms to eat because we don't have the staff for that and there are other additional concerns with that. Breaking students up may be possible.

Q: Is it possible to use a box lunch (hot lunch in a Styrofoam closed box) situation, or a grab and go, for kids to sit at their desks, rather than open trays of food.

A: Styrofoam is no longer allowed in schools, I'm sure we'll be getting box lunches, as a rule, it goes back to staffing. Big school districts have lots of staff; we don't have that. Our cafeteria workers are also our bus drivers and we don't have the staffing for that. No matter how good your cleaning is, somehow you end up with unwanted visitors.

Q: Looking out for the safety of the Tuxedo Teachers and their families, are they allowed to work remotely only as well. What if their own personal districts are remote with their own children at home. What option do teachers have?

A: It is unfortunate but we cannot control what happens in the different districts where teachers live. Many of the teachers are in situation where their children are going to school only a few times a week. Teachers will be here every day, even if Gov says 100% remote teachers would still be here every day.

Q: If a child does contract Covid, will the classes/families be notified to quarantine for two weeks?

A: We will be notified by OC DOH and tell us who, which rooms, wings, would need to be closed. That decision will be made by DOH and told directly to the school district. And if that happens, it could be a few students to the whole district.

Q: How is the administration going to communicate with parents if a child in a class does go home with a fever. How long will it take to know if they have been exposed to covid, and if that happens what is the plan that we have for quarantining our students

and teachers. We are unique because we are not just one school, all our students and staff pass through both schools so there is a high risk of exposure.

A: If a student is exhibiting symptoms the nurse would make that decision and parents would have to come to pick up their child. While waiting the child will be placed in an isolation room and parents will take the student to their primary care physician. The DOH will determine if a quarantine of any sort is warranted and notify the school district.

Q: Can students on distance learning use personal chrome books instead of the school computers?

A: Yes.

Q: If a parent come January decides to have their child return back to the classroom as this pandemic is still going on, will parents have the option to see the classroom/school setting as to see if everything is socially distant up to their comfort level? (A tour of the classroom/school).

A: Absolutely, at any time. We are giving tours. Everything is being cleaned right now, not as if clean every day, I mean cleaned as waxing and stripping the floors. In the plan the commitment is a semester I've revised that to be a quarter which is 10 weeks. If you are not comfortable it is your decision.

Q: Since school supply boxes were purchased by many parents and they will be sent to the school, will their be an option come day one to put up their supple box that they purchases so that it is not just sitting in the classroom for months.

A: Absolutely, that is not a problem.

Q: Follow up regarding lunch. I'm more concerned with elementary where they have dedicated lunch staff only the high school uses the bus staff. I just want to make a more streamlined approach for students to get lunch. as I have worked in the cafeteria and it will be a challenge to have the kids efficiently, and quickly get food, and stay socially distanced as it is now.

A: Absolutely. Our goal is to have additional support in the cafeteria. We also have 2 lunch periods this year and that will make a big difference. That is what we are still working out with Mr. Brown and will have that info out as soon as possible.

Q: **Not a question...I am a teacher in another district. I appreciate that question about teachers. My decision is to send my son to Tuxedo virtually. I will need to stay home with him to do this. I am going to need to take a leave from my job without pay. I may need to leave teaching after more than 20 years permanently because of COVID. However, I am not even thinking twice about doing all virtual for my child...doesn't matter what it looks like.**

A: I appreciate that, that is a hard decision to make. Thank you.

Q: **I apologize if you answered. Will all the questions being asked today on chat be put up online so that parents who were unable to attend can see, and not have repetitive questions.**

A: Yes. The FAQ is a word document and I've been adding the questions. We will update and repost.

Q: **As masks are required, will students have to bring multiple masks to school as they could drop them in the bathroom, strap break, etc. How do we know if the masks children are wearing are up to safety standards while in class with others?**

A: We are going to be giving students two of these Tuxedo masks. We also have on hand the disposable and we have additional white masks in the event that is needed. We are looking to get badges for all students that will come with a lanyard and looking at hooks or clips on the lanyards so they stay with the student. SO when they do take that mask break they do not lose it or mix it up with another student's. Put student's name on the inside. Kids should not be sharing masks, at least we will now if it's left behind. Everybody is going to get a mask. When kid gets Chromebook they will also get a mask.

Q: **Will remote students receive masks, in case they return in January?**

A: Yes

Q: Are students and teachers going to be required to wash their hands when they enter the building? Are teachers going to make sure students wash hands before lunch?

A: I want to say yes to that. When teachers get here we will talk about the protocol for entering the building. The goal is that everyone wash hands as much as possible. We do have jars of sanitizer and we will have canisters of the disinfectant hand wipes as students enter the classroom. At GFB when kids enter room, they will grab hand wipe and wipe down desk and chair. We are instituting a 2-minute bell to alert that it's time to get another hand wipe to wipe down desk and chair before leaving the room. This is so every desk is wiped down twice.

Q: Can HS students on distance learning use personal chrome books instead of the school computers?

A: Absolutely your personal choice. Not a problem.

Q: Can students be remote for the entire year as a parent option as we do not know where this is all headed.

A: Yes of course. Parents will have the option, at end of first quarter you stay.

Q: How will the district deal with teacher absences? Will we have enough substitute teachers?

A: That is a good question, it's hard to tell, hopefully we won't have so many absences but you can't control what happens with the virus. Time will tell.

Q: Are the toilets auto flush? Are the sinks auto stream? Are there lids on toilets when they flush?

A: We are looking into this and looking into getting everything touch free. I was shocked to learn cost to change toilet flush to auto toilet, we'd have to look to put that into future plans. We can't go with the hand dryers because of blowing toxins around. As we update bathroom we will move towards that. One water fountain that has a bottle filler. I'd like to replace all of our water fountains with the bottle filler option. Would like ids to bring water fountain to school and use

it to fill their water bottle. Many are very good about drinking water. I'll talk to PTO and see if we can get some water bottles and place to put names on them.

Q: How often are restrooms being cleaned? Toilets and door knobs?

A: I can't tell you. We are realigning the staff to have people during the day to have people cleaning, disinfecting and wiping down door knobs and door rails. Like a hotel porter somebody walking around the schools, 2 people per building. We will need to increase our cleaning staff because there is a lot more that needs to be done. We are going to have specific times for when that needs to happen.

Q: How will students from home participate in gym class as they cannot participate by throwing a ball or tagging a friend through the computers. How are students allowed to "touch" the same equipment?

A: Again, this is something where there are a lot of rules coming down and PE may need to look very different. Mr. Landro has been attending meetings and guidance as it comes out we will adhere to it. That scenario teacher giving an alternative at home something similar to what we are doing in class.

Q: I appreciate the time that you are taking to answer questions, but it seems that there are many "what if's" and questions that still need to be answered. I truly hope that you can still consider starting September ALL REMOTE as these are children, teachers, faculty as staff that we taking a chance with. Please think of these lives and your own as a chance that may not be worth it at this time in 2020.

A: I do agree. Believe me, I can make an argument for one way or the other and I struggle with that all day long. You never know it may change. Right now it may change. Yes, there are a lot of what if's and when I speak to the other superintendents it becomes a very sour conversation, what are we going to do about certain things and we have to do what we are told. There is certain guidance that we wish they could leave up to us. We can have this worked out, when we have different factions competing, we have to do what we are told. If we feel it's not the right thing to open in person, we won't. If I am not worried, we will open. It is something we will have to do. We will be watching what is happening in other states. We will be seeing what happens, I'm sure Governor and all the unions are watching it. We are in constant contact with the attorneys

who are deciding all the rules. FAQs are helping to answer more questions and start to see and get reorganized.

Q: Will we be having any of the parent meetings in person?

A: I would like for them to be but may not, I have to talk to the staff. If the staff tells me no, the answer is no. My plan is to have them in person but I cannot make that decision yet.

Q: no ...these parent meetings.

A: This is the easiest way to get all the questions and have everyone heard.

Q: Can students use their own device from home?

A: Yes, absolutely. We will issue student devices and the plan moving forward is the goal is to give the students the same device. If you have a different device instead you are welcome to use that, of course.

Q: How will teachers deal with parent interruptions with virtual students being that they are teaching in classrooms?

A: Parents, please don't interrupt the teachers! This is class, so it would be like walking into your student's classroom. My goal is to have a similar tech support to help with those issues.

Q: Thank you for considering September being remote.

A: If we have to we will. As hard as it is for you it's equally difficult for staff. We have a lot to go over, in a way this is also propelled us so far so fast.

Q: How soon will we find out?

A: As soon as we can

Q: Are we considering remote Sept?

A: It's possible. If anything happens that alters our decision to open remotely instead we will make the decision at that time.

Q: **Are classrooms getting air purifiers?**

A: No, we had Honeywell in and go a thumbs up that everything is in great shape. We have some units that will be replaced but the systems themselves are in great shape to exchange air. I have to look at the basement floor of GFB. There is a moisture concern there we are hoping to deal with dehumidifiers.