

**Depew Union Free School District's
Frequently Asked Questions
As of **August 20, 2020**
For
The 2020-2021 Reopening Plan**

- 1) **Will opening fully be revisited during the school year if guidelines allow? And would it be quarterly? Or 1/2 year? Or at any given time?**
 - a. Yes. The district will make adjustments as new guidance becomes available.

- 2) **If families decide to send their children to school and then change their minds, can they easily switch to 'Remote Learning' Vice versa, if families decide to 'Remote Learn,' can they easily switch to in-person Hybrid Instruction?**
 - a. Parents may switch between the option of Hybrid Instruction to Remote Learning, but **NOT** from Remote Learning back to Hybrid. The commitment for Remote Learning is for the first 20-weeks. This is due to staffing and planning needs. 1 to 2 teachers (K-5) will need to be assigned to Remote Learning Classes and teachers (6-12) will need to be assigned Remote Learning Course Sections. If parents haven't already confirmed the Remote Learning option, they will need to directly contact the buildings principal(s) if they want to switch from Hybrid Learning to Remote Learning.

- 3) **If school is forced to close and resumes in full Remote Learning, will teachers be expected to provide consistent instruction just like in Hybrid Learning?**
 - a. Yes. Learning course content will continue at home, following a similar sequence and timeline as in school for most courses. At the elementary level, some instruction may be broken into small group work given the developmental level of students. Instruction will be monitored.

- 4) **Will teachers be taking attendance when students are remote learning?**
 - a. Yes. The NYSED guidance requires that attendance be taken daily.

- 5) **Why are students not attending two consecutive days in a row?**
 - a. If we were to have students attend two consecutive days, they would be away from face to face instruction for five full days. We will be deep cleaning the facilities each night, not just on Wednesdays.

- 6) **As an elementary parent, I'm curious about outdoor activities. Will the children have an opportunity to have that break and get those "wiggles out"?**
 - a. Yes, when feasible, teachers are encouraged to take the students outside as much as possible

- 7) **When will fall sports tryouts be held if New York State allows fall sports?**

- a. NYSPHSAA (the New York State Public High School Athletic Association) has announced that the start date for Fall sports has been pushed back to September 21st and the Fall Regional and State Championships have been canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic. The determination for sports will be made by NYSPHSAA.
- 8) **If students play a sport will they be able to participate if they choose to do the Remote Learning option?**
- a. Students who opt for Remote Learning would be eligible for athletics (when permitted) if they meet the Bona Fide student regulation (Credit for 3 courses and Physical Education)
- 9) **Will high school seniors still be allowed to drive to school?**
- a. Yes, parking passes will be provided to all seniors who want one. And with 50% of the class attending each day, we will also accommodate any juniors.
- 10) **If students play a sport will they be able to participate if they choose to do the Remote Learning option?**
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- 12) **Will cleaning supplies be available in classrooms?**
- a. Yes. Classrooms will be stocked with paper towels and disinfectants.
- 13) **Will there still be a Harkness program?**
- a. Yes, and they will follow the student's schedule, whether it is Remote or Hybrid. Any day a student is In-Person at school, they will be In-Person at Harkness. The Parent Forums for BOCES are being held on 08/20/2020. The details will be on their website at www.E1B.org.
- 14) **If we commit to the 20 weeks of remote instruction, after the 20 weeks can we choose another option if need be?**
- a. Yes, we will do another Family Intent Survey during the month of December.
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17) If we commit to the 20 weeks of remote instruction, after the 20 weeks can we choose another option if need be?

- a. Yes, we will do another Family Intent Survey during the month of December.

18) What if students refuse to wear masks or social distance?

- a. If the student does not have a verified medical reason for not wearing a mask, they will be sent home. The District will be vigilant about students wearing masks and maintaining social distance. If needed, the Code of Conduct will be employed.

19) Will you be working with local daycares/programs to create a list of childcare options for working parents who cannot work from home?

- a. Yes, the District is working with the YMCA, as well as with the Erie County Department of Children and Family Services to identify all of the available childcare facilities in the area.

20) Where does UPK fit in with any of the plans?

- a. UPK is an integral part of the Re-Opening Plan and will follow the same Hybrid Plan as the rest of the District. Due to a limited amount of funding for UPK, a Remote Learning option is not available. The YMCA is the Primary Agency administering the UPK Program within the Cayuga Heights Elementary Building.

21) When will Kindergarten Screening take place?

- a. Kindergarten Screening will take place when students return to school. If they are present in class it will be done in person. If not, it will be done remotely.

22) When will Kindergarten orientation take place?

- a. Unfortunately, we are unable to do an orientation for students at this time, but will be posting an informative video to the District Website for all of our incoming Kindergartners and their parents. A Blackboard Connect phone call will be made, once the video is posted. Also, tours will be offered in the coming weeks for interested parents.

23) Will all of the events posted within the District Calendar still take place?

- a. The District Calendar Events (supply drop off, open houses, concerts, etc.) may be postponed, cancelled or modified and notifications will be made.

24) Is the entire school going to be deep cleaned each night?

- a. Yes, the school buildings will be deep cleaned each night, as well as cleaning the high touch areas throughout the school day. Cleaning staff have been redeployed to our high need times and the 2nd shift staff have been modified to begin earlier. Furthermore, additional staff have been employed.

25) If my child has symptoms and cannot return to school, will he be able to learn remotely on those 2 days that he will not be in the classroom?

- a. Yes, students that are ill, will still be able to participate remotely, even though they are in the Hybrid Learning option.

26) When the students are on a Remote class day, what does that look like? Are the students viewing the classroom live during the day, or are they being sent instructional videos?

- a. Remote Learning days will vary depending on the age level, the course content and individual teacher/instructional delivery. The expectation however is that there will be a daily engagement with each student and their teacher and attendance will be taken.

27) Why are the first 2 weeks of school different than the other days that the kids will go to school?

- a. These first two weeks are critical to acclimate our students to school and to reconnect with their teachers. This time will be spent on Social Emotional Learning, Health and Safety Protocols and Technology Training. Remote Learning will not begin until September 21st.

28) For children starting kindergarten this fall will they be receiving a computer or tablet for their at home distance learning?

- a. Any student, who will be in full Remote Learning, in need of a device will receive a device Between September 9th and September 18th. Parents will be notified of those pick-up dates.

29) Will there be a separate location in the nurses office, separate from the sick bay, for children to receive daily medication?

- a. Yes, sick children will be separated from well children, who just need medication and/or a treatment.

30) What has been added to each building for health and safety?

- a. Each building has hand sanitizers mounted outside each bathroom, cafeterias, offices, security check-ins and other various common areas.
- b. Each building will have at least 4 portable hand sanitizer dispensers to deploy as needed.
- c. Every classroom will have a wall mounted hand sanitizer dispenser, as well.

- d. Drinking fountains will be disabled and additional bottle fillers have been order and are being installed.

31) Will dividers be in classrooms to encourage social distancing?

- a. Yes, in our classrooms that typically have tables (UPK, Kindergarten and 1st grade), learning centers and where there is a need for teachers to closely interact with students. In addition we will have 4 – 5 barriers available for all other classrooms. If more barriers are needed as we begin the school year, the District will purchase them. Furthermore, students will be seated in an every other row format where desks are in classrooms.

32) What about internet connectivity?

- a. If a family is having connectivity issues, they need to contact our Technology Department and we will work with you to mitigate any issues.

33) What is the plan for school supplies? If my child is not in school 100%, why would I get all of the requested supplies?

- a. At this point, parents should just purchase the basics and wait for further direction from the Remote classroom teacher once the school year begins.

34) I see times are staggered for pick up at Cayuga Heights, when will we get information?

- a. A letter is being sent on 08/18 and is posted on our website.
 - i. A-D and M-P will pick up at 3:05pm
 - ii. E-H and Q-T will pick up at 3:12pm
 - iii. I-L and U-Z will pick up at 3:20pm

35) I have 2 students attending Cayuga Heights for hybrid. Will each child receive a chromebook/ipad or only those that receive 100% remote instruction?

- a. Yes, all students will have a device. Kindergarten through grade 2 will have an iPad and students in grades 3 through 12 will have Chromebooks.

36) How will schools be sanitized between groups?

- a. Each night, each classroom will be cleaned with Oxivar spray disinfectant and Airx Spray and Go.

37) Is there still any chance for full time 5 days?

- a. No, not at this time, as we need to limit the number of students in the building. Only those identified Diverse Learners will be attending for five days.

38) Will we get to see what our child's classroom will look like before school begins?

- a. *We will be producing a video with a classroom tour and short interviews before the start of school and posting to our website.*

39) Will Parent/Teacher Conferences be face to face or virtual on the scheduled Conference days in November?

- a. We will have the option of both modes of conferencing and will schedule via the individual classroom teachers once the school year begins.

40) If child has known allergies (ex: stuffy/runny nose, continuously sneezing) but has no temperature should child stay home or could they attend school?

- a. The child will be able to attend school, the parent will need to communicate to the school nurse and let them know of the chronic issue that produces these symptoms and that they are not COVID related. A doctors note may be requested from the nurse.

41) When will we find out who our child's teacher will be and when will the schedules come in the mail for Middle and High school?

- a. Due to the process of assigning students to Hybrid and/or Remote Learning; teacher assignments and Middle and High School schedules will be sent out during the Week of August 31st.

42) What type of masks are acceptable, per the CDC?

- a. Cloth Face Coverings (2-ply or 3-ply) that covers the nose and mouth, Surgical/Paper Masks, face shields WITH the use of a mask.
- b. Per the CDC –N95 and KN95 masks are considered critical supplies and should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.
- c. *Please note that the use of a neck gaiter/bandana is no longer acceptable, as they have been proven to be ineffective.

43) Where do I find the daily mandatory health update that will be required for completion ?

- a. Appendix F, page 106 of the Re-Opening Plan on the District Website.

44) If you have a child that is in Kindergarten but have other children in same building, are the older children allowed to escort young sibling to class?

- a. No, not at this time, as that practice would inhibit the District from conducting accurate Contact Tracing, if there was a confirmed case of COVID-19. There will be ample staff available to escort any younger students that may need that support.

45) Meal Plans.....these will be made available for both in person and remote learners.... So on days that my children are home will I be able to pick their meals up from the school like we did in the spring?

- a. Yes, we will be notifying families of our distribution plans for our Remote Learners.

- 46) **If your child is doing 100% remote learning, are they required to attend the in-person hybrid classes the first 2 weeks of school?**
- No, they are not. The Remote Teachers will be reaching out and connecting with their students during this time period and Remote Learning will begin on Monday, September 21st.
- 47) **Will parents be allowed in the school, on the first day, when dropping off their kids?**
- No, We will not be allowed to have parents in the building, as this presents a Health and Safety issue and will inhibit the ability to complete Contact Tracing if there were to be a positive COVID-19 case.
- 48) **Will outside foods be allowed to be dropped off for a birthday, classroom party or holiday?**
- No, drop off items will only be reserved for emergency purposes. We need to limit as many drop offs and visitors as possible, in order to protect the Health and Safety of the school environment.
- 49) **What are the hours for Pre-K?**
- The two sessions are 8:15am to 10:45am and 12:00pm to 2:30pm.
- 50) **What about other specials? Like FCS, technology, etc. I've heard other middle schools are only doing the 4 core subjects this year.**
- All subjects are scheduled to be taught at this point in time.
- 51) **Are they going to have band? Doesn't seem like they can since for that they have to be 12 feet apart?**
- Yes, but only in a lesson, small ensemble format. Virtual lessons are also being investigated and more information will be forwarded in the near future.
- 52) **Will there be a presentation on how parents can navigate Schoology, Zoom and other platforms used to better help our children?**
- Yes, the District is planning to post instructional "How to" videos for parents on the District Website.
- 53) **What are the types of PPE that the district will provide to the students and staff? Specifically, filtration level and any thoughts on eye protection.**
- Masks, Face Shields and have certified our HVAC systems for maximum filtration levels. HVAC units will run 24/7 to maximize air filtration and exchange of outside air.