

ROCHELLE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Frequently Asked Questions regarding The Return to Midland School

Please be advised that information pertaining to Rochelle Park School District’s Reopening Schedule / Reopening Plan is subject to revision/modification upon requirements set forth by the State and the New Jersey Department of Education and as circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic evolve.

The information below is current as of August 5, 2020

Question: If a family opts for all remote learning, is it possible to only do that for Phase 1 and then opt to have our child(ren) attend on-site at a later Phase?

Answer: Yes. We welcome all students back to the classroom environment within the building at any time. The District would ask for as much advance notice as possible so that your child’s transition to on-site, classroom attendance in the building can be arranged. This may have an impact on class size and staffing, so we would ask for your patience and understanding while we work out the schedule as quickly as possible.

Question: Are children required to wear face masks all day in the classroom, including physical education, even with the distance between them?

Answer: Yes, per NJ Governor Murphy on August 3, 2020, all students will be required to wear a face covering at all times regardless of social distance within the school building, unless there is a medical reason with supporting documentation that would indicate otherwise.

Question: Is there a consequence of lower grades given if the family requests online learning only?

Answer: Absolutely not. Uniform grading procedures will apply to all students regardless of their learning platform.

Question: What will be the protocol if one or more children tests positive for Covid-19?

Answer: All school districts are awaiting formal protocols from the Department of Health that would give guidance on this. When that information is received it will be shared with students, parents, faculty and staff.

Question: If opt for remote learning will students be required to log in daily for each period?

Answer: Yes. Students will log in daily based on the school’s bell schedule and the student’s course/period schedule.

Question: What will happen if a student forgets or doesn't wear a mask.

Answer: One will be provided by the school for him/her to wear.

Question: What form is required to indicate my child will participate in full remote online learning? Where would I submit them?

Answer: The form for selecting full remote learning was sent via email to families. If you have not received one please contact Mr. Alberta, Principal, at malberta@rochellepark.org or by calling the school directly at 201-843-3120. Directions for submitting this form are detailed on the form.

Question: Who will be in the classroom, if the teacher is absent? I'm concerned about who would be in their place & how well they will know our children/protocols?

Answer: The procedures for securing a substitute to cover for an absent teacher will remain as previously practiced. All substitutes will be informed of proper procedures.

Question: My child receives special education services. What will this look like?

Answer: All students who receive special education services will have courses in accordance with their IEP. When in the building the students will receive their classroom instruction as noted in their IEP. When online learning is taking place their courses will also be in accordance with their IEP.

Question: My child has special education resource room classes, is this the same as self-contained?

Answer: Resource Room classes are not the same as Self-Contained Program. If you are unsure which service your child receives please contact your child's case manager.

Question: Depending on how many children register for kindergarten, could kindergarten students have more in person learning?

Answer: The students in kindergarten are scheduled to attend based on their placement in either Team Maroon or Team White. The total class size is a combination of both Teams. The class size limit will not be changing as the school must account for expanding the return to the classroom setting when online learning ceases.

Question: What happens during extended learning? Is extended learning A and B happening in the school or at home?

Answer: The Extended Learning A and Extended Learning B periods are in the afternoon, after lunch, during the Phase 1 Bell Schedule. These are online periods set to provide focused support for students

who may have a need for this, for example basic skills, gifted/talented, small group, individualized instruction or tutoring. More information will be provided as the details of such needs develop.

Question: The heat on the third floor will make wearing a face covering unbearable. How is this being addressed?

Answer: The Board of Education recognizes that rising temperatures in a classroom make for an uncomfortable learning environment, especially when there is a need to wear a face covering. The Board of Education has committed to provide air conditioning in the classrooms. Air conditioners have been ordered and efforts will be made to install them as quickly as possible. Installation will begin with the third floor and progress to the other floors.

Question: How will the district address indoor air quality?

Answer: The Board of Education recognizes the importance of indoor air quality. The District is purchasing air purification systems for every classroom and office space. The air purification system will aid in addressing allergens, viruses, bacteria or mold. General Information on this purification system is available at <https://www.iwaveair.com/#how> and information specific to coronavirus is available at <https://www.iwaveair.com/coronavirus-update>

Question: Will there be a before-care or after-care program during Phase 1?

Answer: No, the district will not have either a program at this time. When this service is anticipated to return a notice will be shared with families.

Question: If we choose the option for all remote learning will it be up to the parent to come up with the curriculum and assignments?

Answer: Students who participate through an all remote learning option will participate in their courses and schedule as if they were present in the school. The curriculum, instruction, and assignments will remain the responsibility of the school district.

Question: If there are empty seats due to the majority of students doing all remote learning can I opt my children in both Team Maroon and Team White days?

Answer: This would not be possible as the students' seats need to be maintained on either Team so as to allow for expansion of attending on-site as part of a Phase 2, as well as in the event that those who are on a full remote learning option want to return on-site attendance.

Question: Do the children participate during the remote learning schedule days and times?

Answer: Yes, all students will be expected to attend class according to the daily schedule. Students who are at home, learning remotely, will participate in real time through a web based platform such as Google Classroom, Google Meets, Zoom, or other platform deemed suitable for the class.

Question: When is the first day of school for students? When does Phase 1 begin?

Answer: School begins for students on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. This is the start of Phase 1.

Question: Is Phase 1 30 school days?

Answer: Phase 1 will be in effect until such time that the district is able to expand services and progress to Phase 2, or in the event the State provides a directive to make a shift to full online learning. At the end of September the district will provide a Phase 1 status update.

Question: When will Phase 2 begin?

Answer: At this time a specific date for Phase 2 is unknown. Entering Phase 2 will depend on how Phase 1 develops as well as a response to any mandated changes from the State.

Question: How will students that are remotely learning participate in art? Will parents be given notice to get supplies or will the school supply them?

Answer: When students participate through online learning, whether based on the Team Maroon/Team White hybrid schedule or through the option for a full remote learning platform, the students will receive the same supplies they would have as if they were in the building. Arrangements will be made for students to have access to supplies to take home in advance of the lesson for which they are needed.

Question: What is the maximum number of students in the classroom in person?

Answer: The maximum number of students in the classroom varies by the classroom size and number of personnel serving the class. Generally, classrooms range from seven to ten students.

Question: One of my children is in a self-contained program and the other is in general education. Will they be on the same schedule?

Answer: During Phase 1 students in the self-contained program will be able to attend class in the building on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All other students will follow the hybrid schedule for either Team Maroon or Team White. If it is not possible to send the child in the self-contained program into the building four times a week please contact your child's case manager.

Question: If a child is showing signs of COVID-19, where will they be waiting for a parent/guardian to pick them up?

Answer: The school nurse will determine the appropriate location at that time and the school nurse, or a designee, will communicate this information to the parent/guardian if and when needed.

Question: Will the children be supplied with devices for remote learning?

Answer: Yes. The district now has devices for all students at each grade level. A system for distributing the devices will be communicated to students and families prior to the start of the school year.

Question: Will breakfast and lunch still be provided for pick up as it was when school was closed from March through June?

Answer: A pre-order meal system is currently being developed. Meals will be available for pick-up on-site, similar to the process previously implemented. More information about this program will be shared with students and families prior to the start of the school year.

Question: How will it be decided which students are on Team Maroon and Team White?

Answer: Generally, going in alphabetical order for each class list the first half of the class may be Team Maroon and the second half may be Team White. This is not exact for each class as there are some exceptions as the administration tries to balance each Team as best as possible.

Question: If a teacher feels that a child is not benefitting from all remote learning can a decision be made that the child must participate in the hybrid schedule?

Answer: If any student is not achieving growth, regardless of which learning model he/she participates in, the teacher will follow the same procedures for addressing resources to access student support. For example, parent-teacher conferences, guidance counseling services, I&RS identification - just to name a few - may be implemented. The student may not be required to change from an all remote learning model to the hybrid model. However, planning for student services and supports within the family's selected model will be implemented.

Question: Will COVID-19 testing be required for students to attend?

Answer: COVID-19 testing will not be required for students to attend school.

Question: My child's chrome book is not working properly. Will we be able to get a replacement one?

Answer: Yes, please contact Mr. Alberta, Principal, to make arrangements for a replacement.

Question: When will we know if our child is Team Maroon or Team White?

Answer: Notices will be mailed home to families, and sent via email, by August 7, 2020.

Question: Will Back To School Night and Parent-Teacher Conferences be online?

Answer: At this time Back To School Night and Parent-Teacher Conferences will be scheduled for online meetings. Notification for the times, access, and format will be shared with families prior to each event. If there is any change to the format of these events a communication to families will be made.

Question: Will students be able to bring water to school?

Answer: Students will be able to bring water to school provided that it is clearly labeled with the student's name and is kept with the student. Students are not permitted to share their water.

Question: Will there be hand sanitizer in the classroom and soap in the restrooms?

Answer: Hand sanitizer and soap has been ordered. Hand sanitizer will be placed in each classroom. Restrooms will have soap in the soap dispenser.

Question: Will students be using lockers? If so, will they be sterilized?

Answer: In order to reduce contact with high touch surfaces, students will not be using lockers at this time. When access to lockers becomes available the lockers will be cleaned and disinfected.

Question: What guidelines will be followed regarding communication on positive COVID-19 for a faculty member, student, or a member of a student's household?

Answer: The District will follow the guidance of the appropriate State and /or County health officials and adhere to requirements for communication.

Question: Will the school nurse be able to respond to signs of COVID-19?

Answer: Yes, the school nurse has maintained professional skills and knowledge to support and respond to COVID-19 signs and symptoms, in addition to fulfilling contact tracing training.

Question: How will parents know what entrance to bring their child to?

Answer: Prior to the start of school Mr. Alberta, Principal, will send home information that will address arrival procedures, exit procedures, as well as other information deemed necessary for starting the school year.

Question: Are plexiglass dividers being used at each desk?

Answer: Plexiglass dividers are not being used at each desk.

Question: How long are the math and language arts periods?

Answer: Each period is scheduled to run for thirty minutes, however for math and language arts the students will receive two, thirty minute periods for a total of sixty minutes per day.

Question: How can we be sure that kids are properly washing hands when they go to the restroom?

Answer: This is a perfect example of how Midland School families can partner with us by practicing healthy routines with your child. As children learn to be consistent with these routines the likelihood of them doing the same when at school increases. In addition, once a student returns to the classroom after visiting a restroom, he/she will apply hand sanitizer within the classroom as an added measure.

Question: How will special services such as OT, PT, and speech work if all remote learning is chosen? How will they be provided in school?

Answer: Special services such as Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), and Speech/Language Therapy (ST) may be provided in an all remote learning platform in accordance with the NJ Department of Education's provision for teletherapy. If these services are provided in person they will be modified to ensure that guidelines such as those for social distancing, wearing of face coverings, and sanitizing any touched surfaces or resource materials are adhered to.

Question: Will 8th grade activity for the month of September go on as scheduled, i.e. car wash?

Answer: At this time this activity will not occur in September.

Question: Is there a fully virtual PreK option and if so, will more children be able to enroll unlike the normal lottery process?

Answer: All students' families have the option to attend school through full remote learning. The current class size limits will not be changed so as to ensure that when all students return to the on-site classroom environment there will be adequate staffing and resources.

Question: How will the teacher sanitize rooms between classes?

Answer: Students will remain in their classrooms with exception to physical education and some select classes. The teachers will switch classrooms instead of students switching classrooms. The teacher will have sanitizer and gloves available for use to address as he/she switches over their computer and makes use of the interactive whiteboard.

Question: How will students in band and music be able to practice?

Answer: We recognize the importance of band and music to students and we seek to sustain students' participation. We are exploring options for online music classes as well as opportunities for students to practice an instrument. Students may have the option to play a different instrument. For example, due to restrictions playing a wind instrument is not permitted but playing a percussion instrument may be allowed. This will allow students to participate and perhaps explore a new instrument. Overall, as this further develops plans for music and band will be made known to students and families.

Question: Will there be any small group work within class, or will this be straightforward seating for the entire learning experience?

Answer: Group activities such as centers where students have close contact and may share resources/materials will not be permitted at this time.

Question: How will lock down drills and other such drills be handled.

Answer: The State is issuing guidance and adjusting requirements for procedures for conducting safety and security drills. We will adjust practices based on their guidance and requirements. Information and training will be provided as needed.

Question: Who will be in the classrooms with the students when the teachers are changing to another classroom?

Answer: We are currently considering some options, such as incorporating student hallway breaks and having hallway monitors, during these periods of transition. Once plans are in place they will be shared. We welcome suggestions to help this process.
