

## GENERAL

Q: Will there be a back to school night, where students can meet their teachers in person?

A: As much as we would like to have a traditional back to school night, our ability to effectively maintain social distancing guidelines will prohibit us from doing so.

Q: Will there still be a pre-k program as the reopening plan only mentions K-12?

A: Yes, there will be a UPK class this year.

Q: Is the YMCA going to be at the school for after school childcare?

A: We are in conversation with the YMCA in regard to after school childcare. If we are able to provide ample space to adhere to social distancing guidelines we will continue to offer the program. We anticipate having a decision in the near future.

Q: What school supplies will be needed for students that will be learning remotely? Will there be materials (books, laptop, etc) that would need to be picked up from the school to aid in the remote learning?

A: We are revising our school supply lists for the school year. They will be posted on the school website and social media in the near future. Yes, there may be materials that will need to be picked up. Most students still have their Chromebook as they were not collected at the end of the school year.

Q: Will I know my child's teacher(s) before I sign the agreement, and can I speak with them on the phone before I agree to a plan?

A: Because we are finalizing the numbers of students attending hybrid and remote you will not be notified prior to agreeing to a plan. All teachers will follow the same safety protocols.

Q: Will high school students change classrooms for classes? Or will teachers change rooms to minimize contact with students with others in hallways and sitting at a desk after another student?

A: As much as possible, teachers will be changing rooms and students will be in cohorts.

Q: Is there a shortage of teachers or staff of any kind this year, or do you have the same amount of workers willing to work inside of the building this year?

A: We have no staffing shortages.

Q: Does the start date for back-to-school remain the same (Sept 5)?

A: Currently, the start date for students to return to school is Tuesday, September 8. If this date changes we will provide you with as much advance notice as possible.

Q: With the hybrid model, since we drop our kids off, are we to wait in our car while their temps are taken (two separate entrances)? And, if so, how will we know that they are all set?

A: Parents will be required to screen and submit their students' temperature at home. Students will be screened again when they enter the school building. If students register a temperature they will be escorted to a safe area and parents will be contacted.

Q: With the hybrid model, what does elementary school pick-up look like this year? (parents had to go into the gym last year for sign-out / pick-up)

A: We are in on-going discussions on how to manage arrival and departure safely. Once a plan is determined it will be communicated to parents/guardians.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Q: Is in-person school learning going to happen?

A: Yes, there will be in-person learning two days per week, if you select the hybrid option for your child.

Q: Will full-time remote learning from home be an option?

A: Yes, full-time remote learning from home is an option.

Q: If a student chooses remote learning, will they be able to participate in sports (if they have them)?

A: Yes, students participating in full-time remote learning are bona fide students and are eligible to participate in interscholastic sports as long as they meet the aforementioned criteria.

The New York State Education Department regulations (135.4 Physical Education) state: *A pupil shall be eligible for interschool competition or inclusive athletic activities in a sport during a semester, provided that he is a bona fide student, enrolled during the first 15 school days of such semester, is registered in the equivalent of three regular courses, is meeting the physical education requirement, and has been in regular attendance 80 percent of the school time, bona fide absence caused by personal illness excepted.*"

Q: If 50% of students select remote learning, will that allow the 50% that chose in person to be able to attend 4 days per week in person?

A: No, this is not possible.

Q: Will there be any options to support additional supervision during the hybrid school reopening (days students are at home)?

A: The only childcare possibly available in the district will be the YMCA afterschool program. This decision will be made in the near future.

Q: What will be the start and end time of in-person days?

A: Drop off for PK-12 students is 7:50 a.m. Pick-up for PK-12 students is 3:15 p.m.

Q: Will siblings attend on the same days?

A: Yes, siblings will attend on the same days.

Q: How will the groups be determined?

A: By household/siblings.

Q: Will homeroom teachers within each elementary grade synchronize their lessons together to facilitate quarantine pods between two families?

A: If you have a particular circumstance related to your family, please contact the corresponding principal to discuss.

Q: Why are the two days of in-person learning not consecutive with groups (Tues/Wed & Thurs/Fri)?

A: The intent of this structure is to allow for in-person instruction to take place one day, and a remote lesson that follows direct instruction the next day. This lowers the number of days in a row students will not have in-person instruction and increase interaction with their teachers. For example if they had class Tuesday and Wednesday there would be 5 days without in-person instruction.

Q: Is it possible for the two days of in-person learning to be two consecutive days?

A: No, this is not an option.

Q: Why will the elementary grades not return on a daily basis? Other schools in the area are. Is there any possibility of this being an option?

A: In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines we are unable to bring all students back at the same time. Other schools have varying enrollments that may allow a different model/plan.

Q: Can parents switch their choice of learning model at any time?

A: In order for us to adequately plan we are requesting your choice of learning model be determined each marking period. However, under certain circumstances students may request to switch from hybrid to remote upon the approval of district administration.

Q: What do we do if during the middle of the first quarter we find that we are unable to do the remote work? What are we allowed to do at this point and time?

A: The option to change models from remote to hybrid will only take place at the end of the quarter.

Q: If you choose remote learning, any plans to change your mind after 5 weeks versus the 10 week mark? This will give parents security that all is well after 5 weeks with a safe return.

A: No. The option to change models from remote to hybrid will only take place at the end of the quarter.

Q: Is NYS forcing AACCS to accomplish the same amount of work as would be required during a non-pandemic year?

A: NYS expects us to follow and maintain the same academic standards in place.

Q: Is there standardized testing this year?

A: As of now, yes, there is standardized testing planned for this year but it is subject to change. NYS Education Department governs this decision.

Q: Can elementary teachers limit websites that kids are expected to access to two websites only?

A: Students will be accessing auxiliary websites through their Google Classroom or Class Dojo site.

Q: What are the options for families that do not have internet access and parents work and are unable to take them somewhere to participate in the zoom meetings and remote learning that will be attendance based?

A: If students do not have internet access, Asynchronous (NOT on LINE) activities and learning will be provided.

Q: Mention of online interaction every day with your class was mentioned, what about working parents that aren't available to help younger children that may need assistance to get on zooms etc.?

A. We understand that circumstances may be different for each family. Asynchronous (NOT on LINE) learning activities, such as pre-recorded lessons, will be provided .

Q: How long are the ZOOM morning meetings?

A: This will be determined by each individual teacher and will be developmentally/age appropriate.

Q: What happens if a child can't do the ZOOM or online work during the day because they are at daycare?

A: We understand that circumstances may be different for each family. Asynchronous (NOT on LINE) learning activities, such as pre-recorded lessons, will be provided .

Q: Will students be participating in experiential learning on the days they are in the classroom or will they simply be doing worksheets and I-Ready Chromebook assignments? What will make the classroom experience different from the remote work completed at home?

A: Teachers will provide, to the extent possible, experiential learning for all children enrolled in the hybrid model. In-class work will be initial direct instruction and all assessments will take place in the classroom for hybrid students.

Q: At what age does AACCS expect a child to do the remote work without his or her parents physically present? Is AACCS assuming a guardian will be home physically assisting each and every piece of schooling at home?

A: This is a parent/guardian decision, specific to each of their children.

Q: At what age should I expect my child to do the work independently?

A: This is a parent/guardian decision, specific to each of their children.

Q: What kind of grading policy (grades or pass/fail) will be used?

A: The grading policy will be as if we were in a traditional setting. Grades will be assigned to all students versus a pass/fail.

Q: What do I do if the assigned work is taking my child 3 hours to complete each day instead of 2?

A: Parents should contact the student's teacher to discuss this concern..

Q: How will the 100% remote plan be done with the modular system?

A: Secondary students will meet with all of their classes daily in both hybrid and remote instruction. Class periods will be shortened.

Q: How much live instruction via ZOOM will there be? Will it be equivalent to the class time the hybrid students are exposed to?

A: This is grade level, content area, and teacher specific.

Q: How will labs be handled, especially for totally-remote learners? We are particularly interested in Chemistry and AP Biology.

A: Labs will be more simulation in nature for totally remote learners due to safety concerns (chemistry, in particular).

Q: More details on HS band and chorus would be greatly appreciated, for both remote and hybrid options.

A: Both remote and hybrid options will be utilizing technology for band and choir—for example, soundtrap and sight reading factory. In the hybrid model, band and chorus will be following the 12' physical distancing requirements during class. Remote students may be videoconferencing during those times.

Q: We'd also like more information on HS Physical Education classes — again, for both remote and hybrid options.

A: Physical Education for PK-12 will focus more on individual, lifetime sports and physical fitness. Students will be following physical distance guidelines and wear masks.

Q: Is PE mandatory?

A: Yes, the amount of time for physical education required by New York State has not changed and is still mandatory.

Q: Will tutors or extra one-on-one work be provided if needed? If the school does not provide this will information be given to assist parents in finding extra help?

A: We will be utilizing our teaching staff to provide additional support to students in need. AIS and study hall time will also be utilized on a needs basis.

Q: Will gym/PE be held outside all year to allow students to breath freely while running and performing other calisthenics?

A: PE can be held outside. Students will however, be wearing masks.

Q: If choosing a hybrid model, how will students be placed into Blue or Gold groups?

A: By household/siblings.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Q: Will students and parents participate in the process of how to effectively implement the accommodations on their IEP or 504 plan, especially during virtual learning?

A: For special education students in the hybrid model, the goal is to complete assessments that would require testing accommodations on the days when students are in person.

For special education students who are in a fully remote model, this may look different at different grade levels and for different students. Some programs that will be utilized have accommodations built in such as test read, use of calculator, etc. In other cases, students may complete assessments while in a 1:1 session with a staff member or special education teacher via a Zoom session or other method.

Once all declarations have been returned and the district knows how many students will be hybrid, and how many students will be remote, special education teachers will be assigned and will reach out to each family individually.

High school special education students (both remote and hybrid) will be assigned to guided study halls, as they would be during the in-person school year, to provide assigned times to provide remediation, reteaching, testing accommodations, etc.

Parents will not be able to decide how accommodations are provided. We will have a framework, and assigned times, and work within those parameters.

## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION @ GST Wildwood Campus**

**Q: Will junior and seniors enrolled in BOCES CTE programs attend the Wildwood Campus?**

A: Yes, if they are enrolled in the Hybrid model. If they are enrolled as a full-time remote learner, they will receive their CTE instruction remotely as determined by GST BOCES.

**Q: If students attend Wildwood, how are AACCS, GST BOCES, and other districts that send their students communicating to maintain student and staff safety?**

A: All public school students regardless of district are required to follow the DoH, CDC and NYS guidelines. We expect our students to follow those guidelines regardless of their learning environment.

**Q: Will students be bussed to BOCES on days that they are remote learning?**

A: CTE students that are enrolled in the hybrid model will be bussed to BOCES Tuesday through Friday.

**Q: If a student chooses to be remote, will they still be able to go to BOCES and be bussed there for the hands-on work?**

A: Only hybrid students will be able to attend on-site BOCES CTE courses.

**Q: Will New Vision students be able to attend everyday? If so, how will they be transported back and forth?**

A: At this time, New Visions students will be able to attend Tuesday through Friday, transported by the AACCS transportation department.

**Q: How will New Visions be taught? My child would like to do remote learning but how would it work for New Visions, is remote an option for this as well?**

A: We are still seeking clarification on this topic.

**Q: What protocols and expectations are being considered for CTE students, including but not limited to transportation, in-person, hybrid, virtual learning, and worked-based learning?**

A: All public school students regardless of district are required to follow the DoH, CDC and NYS guidelines. We expect our students to follow those guidelines regardless of their learning environment. A-A will provide transportation Tuesday-Friday for CTE students enrolled in the hybrid model. Work-based learning will be discussed and planned for each individual CTE class by the CTE instructor.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Q: Will you be adhering to a strict mask and 6-foot policy and temp checks or will it be relaxed? Any prior policies seem to get relaxed after a couple of weeks.

A: Yes, we will follow all requirements outlined by the DoH, CDC and NYS until further guidance is received.

Q: Does “face covering” mean mask or plastic shield?

A: Mask

Q: Will there be a choice between a mask or a plastic shield?

A: No, but students can wear a plastic shield along with a mask, a mask is mandatory, plastic shield is not at this time.

Q: Is there a certain type (paper, cloth) of mask that is required?

A: No, but it has to fit properly and have no holes in it. The nose and mouth need to be covered. The mask needs to meet the guidelines required by the CDC and DOH.

Q: If a student’s mask is not working or breaks, will the school be providing extra masks?

A: Yes

Q: Due to health reasons, my child has trouble wearing a mask for more than five minutes, what can we do for this?

A: If a child cannot wear a mask throughout the day, medical documentation needs to be provided to the district (reviewed by the district medical director). The remote plan is also an option in these cases.

Q: Why do kids have to wear masks all day? Even when they are socially distancing in the classroom?

A: We are requiring all faculty/staff/students to wear masks throughout the school day due to health and safety reasons. This is also the recommendation of our school district medical director.

Q: How long is each mask break and when are they going to occur?

A: Mask breaks will occur throughout the day as needed.

Q: Are kids allowed to drink from a water bottle in the classroom while class is in session?

A: Yes, if they are 6 feet apart, they may remove their masks to take a drink but need to reapply the mask immediately.

Q: What temperature and humidity level is considered too warm to wear a mask inside? Outside?

A: Masks will be worn at all times, unless they are eating, drinking or taking a “mask break.”

Q: Will school supplies brought in be shared with the class or used only by the child bringing them in?

A: School supplies will only be used by the student that brought them in. We will not share supplies.

Q: Will children be required to wear masks in PE while they are indoors? Outdoors?

A: Students will wear masks during all PE classes. Mask breaks will be allowed as needed.

Q: After PE, will there be a cool-down and rehydration period before kids are expected to put masks back on? Will they be asked to put masks back on while their heart rates are still elevated and they are still perspiring?

A: Students will wear masks during all PE classes. Mask breaks will be allowed as needed. Rehydration breaks are always given to students as needed.

Q: Will there ever be a time when a child is expected to do any amount of physical activity while wearing a mask, even a short period of mild exertion like walking up a flight of stairs?

A: Students will wear masks at all times. Mask breaks will be allowed as needed.

Q: Is it legal for NYS to require parents to be COVID-19 tested, especially related to the student being allowed to return to school?

A: Parents are not required to be COVID-19 tested for their child to attend school. Required tests are determined by the DoH.

Q: Does any student have access to testing at any time or do they have to exhibit symptoms in order to get a COVID test? My children would like to be able to visit grandparents once or twice during the school year but don't want to risk getting them sick. They would like to be tested prior to visiting, is this possible?

A: Students do not have access to testing at school. If a student presents symptoms at school, they will be referred for possible testing through the district medical director. Parents always have the right to contact their pediatrician to discuss outside testing.

Q: Are students who are bussed to school having their temp checked before they enter the bus? If not, and they are found to have a temp once they arrive at school, are all of the other students on the bus then notified of a fellow bus rider with a temp?

A: We will follow DoH protocol.

Q: What are quarantine protocols for classmates and teachers / staff if a student tests positive?

A: We will follow DoH protocol.

Q: My daughter has asthma. If she is a hybrid model student and has a flare-up mid-marking period, will I have the option of changing her to a remote model for the remainder of the marking period, while her flare-up is managed?

A: Yes, we handle these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Are children who participate in a hybrid model required to wear a new (clean) mask each day they are in-person during a given week?

A: Yes.

## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL**

Q: Is there any plan to hire any extra social workers or counselors that we have at school during normal times?

A: At this point, we do not have plans to hire additional staff members.

Q: What happens when more than a few kids need help calming down at one time in the school building?

A: If multiple students are in distress at once, we will use the resources of staff members including the school psychologist, counselors, the school nurse, and building principals. Depending on the students and circumstances, we may utilize the secondary counselors to support elementary students when necessary. Similarly, many of our staff and special education teachers have expertise with behavior management and calming techniques that may be beneficial in the classroom when larger groups of students need support.

Q: What if there are students coming back who are in emotional turmoil?

A: Students' emotional well-being will be monitored daily. Whole-group classroom social-emotional programs will be provided to all elementary students. Individual and group counseling will be available for students who are determined to have additional needs.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Q: Will children be able to be dropped off before 8 a.m. if we choose to transport them? Like 7:45?

A: Students may begin to arrive at 7:50 a.m. We are unable to allow students to arrive early as we do not have the means to supervise and ensure social distancing.

Q: Will there be multiple busses per bus route to accommodate the social distancing requirement?

A: This is an on-going discussion and is dependent on the number of students enrolled in the hybrid model and the number of students requiring transportation.

Q: Will children's temperatures be taken before boarding the buses?

A: Parents are required to take their child's temperature at home each morning and submit the reading to the district. All students will be screened again as they enter the building.

Q: If a student does not ride the bus, where and how will drop off and pick up occur?

A: Elementary students arriving at the school via personal transportation will enter and exit the elementary through the upper elementary school entrance.

Secondary students arriving at the school via personal transportation will enter and exit the secondary building through the main front entrance.

All students must maintain proper social distancing as they are screened upon entry. How this will be managed will be communicated prior to the start of school. No students are able to be dropped off prior to 7:50 a.m. to ensure the safety of all students.

Q: Can requests be made that our child be placed in the same classroom as other children in the neighborhood to help facilitate transportation and sharing of childcare on remote learning days?

A: Our transportation department is working on their bus route schedule. There will be only one pickup and drop off point for each student in order to maintain social distancing on buses.

## **FACILITIES**

Q: Will teachers have exhaust fans positioned at their open window? If so, will they be on all day?

A: No, the district will not have exhaust fans positioned in windows. In each classroom there is a fresh air return system.