

Nazareth Elementary
Reopening Q & A
August 17, 2020

This is a summary of answers to the questions submitted by parents. There were duplicate or very similar questions, so answers are combined to address the questions we received.

Transportation

- Each home district is responsible for providing busing for all children. The districts determine the daily schedules and directly notify parents.
- Even though RCSD announced it will continue distance learning for the first quarter, this should not have an impact on transportation to the private schools. It is mandated that districts must bus to religious and independent schools regardless of their district plans.
- Each district has to develop its own protocols for safety on the buses, especially this year - social distancing, temperature checks or not, disinfecting between runs, and so on. The private schools are not involved in transportation scheduling.

From the NYSED Guidance July 2020 – “The school bus is an extension of the classroom and services should be provided to all students with consistency and equity. Each district will be required to: perform regular school bus disinfection measures; train students and school bus staff regarding social distancing on the bus, at stops, and at unloading times; and train students and staff regarding the wearing of masks. Both students and drivers will wear masks and social distance on the bus. Districts will continue to provide transportation to homeless students, students in foster care, those who attend religious, independent or charter schools – and those with disabilities – just as they always have.”

Arrival / Screening

- All staff and students will have temperatures taken with a touchless thermometer upon arrival each day. This will also be required of anyone who enters during the school day.
- There will be a daily screening questionnaire for faculty and staff reporting to school. Any visitor will review these questions as well.
- Faculty and staff will be working on the details for the arrival process during our meetings over the next two weeks. At this time, we are planning on one door for buses and another for cars.
- Every child and adult must be wearing a mask to enter the school.

Attendance and Daily Participation

- It is NYS law that daily attendance be taken by the homeroom teachers each morning. Specials teachers also take attendance in their classes throughout the day.
- *All children need to arrive at school on time* so they can have breakfast and be ready for the first lessons of the day. After being out of school since March, it is critical that children get back into the routine and structure of a school day. It is hard to stay on top of their lessons when children frequently walk in late.
- If a child has to remain at home for the first quarter or longer because of medical reasons, this child will follow a daily schedule for learning. S/he will have to check in each morning for attendance purposes. It will be the responsibility of the parent to see that the child not only

checks in, but works daily on classroom lessons posted on Google Classroom by the teachers and submits assignments to the teachers for feedback and assessment.

Masks

- The safety of students and staff is always our primary concern.
- Adults will wear masks all day, wherever they are in the building or on the property.
- The majority of the day, including in the classroom, students will be required to wear masks.
- We recognize that it will be more difficult for children to keep masks on all day long. When the faculty meets, we will determine specific, common protocols for masks and brief mask breaks.
- If any student has a medical condition and cannot wear a mask, there would be a confidential conversation among parent, nurse, and principal. Remote learning may be best for students in this compromised position.

Hygiene and Health Practices

- There will be signs spaced six feet apart in every hallway to guide social distancing while walking through the halls.
- The stairwells will have signs reminding everyone to keep three steps apart.
- Additional hand sanitizers have been purchased for hallways. Each room will have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.
- Everyone will use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
- There will be hand washing reminder signs in every bathroom and by every sink.
- Children will be re-trained on proper hand washing after using the bathroom; as a second precaution each will use hand sanitizer when re-entering a classroom.
- Aides and/or teachers will walk the PK and Kdg children to the bathroom making sure only two enter at a time and handwashing takes place. They will also keep them apart while waiting in the hallways.
- A personal pass system has been developed by the faculty to make sure only two children are in a bathroom at one time. Children will be trained on this system.
- Maintenance staff will be cleaning and disinfecting bathrooms throughout the day as they always have.
- Railings and doorknobs will continue to be wiped down more than once a day.
- The entire building will be disinfected with an electrostatic disinfectant spray at the end of each day. An additional PT staff person has been added to the maintenance department just for this daily procedure. Training will be given in the use of the equipment to our regular maintenance staff as well.

Ventilation

- We do not have forced air in our classrooms.
- Windows and interior doors will remain open to keep fresh air circulating.
- There are ceiling fans in every room.

Nurses/Health Dept.

- Nazareth has purchased PPE for our nurses: protective face masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves.
- The nurses will follow every protocol in wiping down common surfaces after each child.
- Children will be kept more than six feet apart.

- A child with a fever or other symptoms will wait in the isolation room off the nurse’s office until a parent arrives for pickup. Instructions will be given for the next steps before a child can return to school.
- Any adult with a fever will be asked to leave at once and to connect with his/her health care provider.
- The Monroe County Health Dept. will be contacted for guidance and next steps should there be a case of COVID exposure or a confirmed COVID case among staff or students.

We will follow the *Monroe County Health Department* guidelines on:

- Reopening plans for if/when COVID-19 cases are discovered, including closing areas/classes where individuals were infected, or closing the entire school for 24 hours or longer.
- Requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment. This returning to learning protocol will include documentation from a health care provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive release from isolation.
- Contact tracing

Uniforms and Supplies

- Yes, it is ok to go ahead and order uniforms.
- We will take outgrown uniforms that are washed and in *good* condition. They may be brought in any time in August between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- The Uniform Exchange Room is open between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day. Someone in the main office will let you in and direct you to the room.
- Yes, it is ok to purchase school supplies. We do have many very nice backpacks available from donations last year. If your child needs one, call our main office.

Meals

Evaluation of all procedures will take place regularly and adjustments made as needed.

Lunch

- Our cafeteria is large so children will be able to eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- Children will use hand sanitizer before entering the cafeteria. They will use hand sanitizer when they leave.
- We have added an additional lunch shift for greater spacing of students.
- Separate space for those with peanut allergies will continue.
- The food service workers will wear masks, face shields, plastic aprons, and gloves. They will fill each lunch tray – including milk or juice – with each child’s choices.
- There will be a shield on the serving station between the food and the children.
- Those supervising in the cafeteria will wear masks and gloves and will use hand sanitizer between shifts. They will place utensils and napkins at each place rather than the children taking these on the way in.
- Cafeteria tables and benches will be carefully wiped down between each lunch session.

Breakfast

- Breakfast procedures will be different due to the large number that arrive for school at the same time.
- Breakfast food will be in bags prepared by the food service workers; helpers will deliver them to classrooms. This is to avoid a crowd arriving in the cafeteria at the same time for breakfast.

Instructional Plans

- Hybrid learning was never a main option for Nazareth due to our size. All schools were told to add it to their plans, but it is not a good model for elementary. Districts are going hybrid because they have very large enrollments and could not safely social distance 400 or 500 students at a time. Hybrid would also be more confusing for elementary students – example, remembering what days they come to school, staying on a bedtime/school day schedule all five days, keeping Specials schedules straight, what they need to take home for distance learning, and more.
- Nazareth has been a partner with *St. John Fisher College* for many years through their Service Scholars Program. The students who have come to Nazareth were a tremendous help in our classrooms and ECP. Wanting to ensure the safety of all – Fisher students and our school community – these students will not be on campus first semester. Fisher and Nazareth administration will evaluate the policy for second semester.
- We have determined, however, that the St. John Fisher College students can still complete their required community service hours in order to keep their scholarships and still help Nazareth. Fisher students who have been with us the last two years will be working with our students through distance learning. They will meet remotely with teachers. Teachers will assign them a student/students who are learning from home due to medical reasons. These Fisher students will set up a remote connection with our students as it fits his/her own class schedules. That might be a half hour a couple of times a week. Our teachers will guide the Fisher students on the lessons of the week to help them as they guide our students with their assignments found on Google Classroom. They will help keep our students on track with their learning. The Fisher students will report to the teachers on a regular basis. This will be a win-win for both schools.
- For those with medical conditions or for other very serious reasons, we will provide distance learning similar to the spring program. The difference is teachers will be teaching all day in school, so will not be available to those at home during the day. However, all of their lessons will be posted on Goggle Classroom. The child will check into those lessons daily. We are seeking a way to tape core subject instruction in the classrooms so the child at home can watch the actual teaching of new material. High cost is a factor here. Teachers will Zoom at least once a week with the child/ren at home, but it will most likely be after school hours.
- The option to remain home for serious reasons will be for one quarter at a time. Discussion will take place as the end of the quarter nears.
- After the Zoom parent meetings take place and parents have a better understanding of our extensive planning to reopen, we will give the deadline date and guidelines to opt out of in-person learning for serious reasons. All registered students are considered returning to in-person instruction unless we hear from you.
- For a child who needs to stay home for health reasons, that child is registered and counted in the class capacity. The child's spot remains in the class.
- Children can return to school at the end of each quarter, but not at any time during that period, unless there are special circumstances. We want to maintain continuity of both learning and classroom procedures. A great deal of training will take place at the start of the school year to help children transition back to this new learning environment. It would be too difficult to do

that each time a parent wants a child to return during the quarter. Sr. Margaret will discuss any special circumstances/reasons with parents who wish to have their child/ren return sooner than November and determine if it is best for the child and the class.

- If a family chooses to withdraw from Nazareth, contact Sr. Margaret or Cathy Cerame in our business office. We do hope all will stay with us and have their children return to our warm, caring environment where teachers and staff know them and where they have a circle of friends.
- If a family withdraws, the parent must notify their home district and register the child in the district.
- If a family chooses home schooling, the parent has to withdraw the child from Nazareth and register with the home district. By NYS law, the district is responsible for overseeing all home schooling.

Instruction and Specials

- The children will wear masks in Specials.
- Most classes will be split for Specials.
- The librarian will go to the classroom for her lessons.
- Tech classes will have students spaced out and machines and keyboards will be disinfected between classes.
- Mrs. Andolina has plans to tape off sections of the gym floor for each child. All taped spaces and equipment will be disinfected between every class.
- Sr. Anita will be very creative in her music classes for singing cannot happen unless singers are 12 or more feet apart. (Outside with children spaced around the perimeter of the playground could be a good space for singing. This is still TBD.) There is so much more to the music standards than singing, so music will still be interesting and engaging. We will not be able to have a Christmas concert this year.
- To open up the art room more, many materials and drying racks are in a nearby room.

Assessments

- The children will be assessed by teacher observations, informal testing, and iReady testing once they have transitioned back into the routine of school again. We want to be sure we know each one's reading and math levels, strengths, and any gaps from being out of school for so long.

SEL Support/Social Workers

- We will have Mrs. Conrow three days/week and Mrs. DeLario one day a week. They will be a great support to students as they adjust to school again. They are always available to answer any parent questions and offer outside resources to parents.

Questions on Specific Classes and Capacity

- The **Preschool** children will be in a combined class for the numbers are lower. Capacity total is 18. We have opened up the wall between two rooms to allow for great spacing. There will be two aides with Mrs. Hierlwimmer – Mrs. Cosentino and Mrs. Muratore - so lessons and activities will be individualized for each age level. There may be parts of the day that PK3 and PK4 children do activities together, but lessons will be at their own development levels.

- **Second Grade** – Since that class is large and cannot fit safely in one room with the new social distancing requirements, we will have two classrooms. There is room for more students now, so spread the word. We can take 14-16 in each room. Mrs. Kaitlyn Sadwick is one new Second Grade teacher and interviews for the second teacher are in process.
- No class, **PK-6**, will be larger than 18 due to social distancing. We have just a few openings left in some rooms.

We will hold Parent/Guardian Zoom meetings for those who have additional questions or would like clarification on procedures, etc. ****Please read this document before attending a meeting.***

Here are the meeting times. Please contact the main office if you need the link that was provided via email:

- Friday 8/21, 1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. – PK and K
- Friday 8/21, 4 p.m.–5 p.m. – Grades 1-3
- Saturday 8/22, 10 a.m.–11 a.m. – Grades 4-6
- Saturday 8/22, 1 p.m.–2 p.m. – For those unable to make the time for their children's grades