

Follow-up to the August 21 & 22 Parent Zoom Meetings

Questions answered in no particular order by Sr. Margaret...

Can the children wear face shields? *We have not discussed this. A face shield could be worn, but not in place of the mask. Every child will need to wear a mask.*

Can you clarify any decisions on mask breaks? *Teachers and I are still discussing how this will happen...we want it done in the safest way possible. It may only be outside around the perimeter of the playground.*

What will the procedures be for eating breakfast in the classrooms? Masks? *Once children are seated for breakfast and lunch, they will take down their masks. If breakfast is in the classrooms, meals will be bagged and delivered by staff.*

Will there be any adjustments to the arrival time to allow for check-in procedures? *We expect the arrival time to take longer so will adjust for any tardiness – ex. if cars are still dropping off at 8:15 a.m., we will not mark those children tardy. Once the lines are gone, any child after that will be considered tardy. We will need to watch the process for several days to see how the traffic and screening go.*

Will students have Gym and access to the playground? *Yes.*

Will the kids wear their masks during Gym, and will half of the class attend Gym at a time? *The children will wear masks in Gym. However, the floor will be marked off with tape for personal space for each child to do their warm ups. We expect masks may come down at that time for they will be distant from each other. The scheduling is in draft form at this time – the number in each class will determine if the class is split or not for P.E.*

Can it be mandatory that kids wash their hands with soap and water before lunch? *We have talked about teaching children using hand sanitizer as their class enters the cafeteria/cafeeteria hall. There will not be enough time for the classes in a lunch shift to safely take turns in the bathrooms to wash hands.*

How will students be seated in the lunchroom? *Instead of four at a table, there will only be two with a shield between them. We added another lunch shift so there will be fewer students in the lunchroom at any one time. Will spaces be marked at the lunch tables?* *The children will be shown where they may sit when they enter the lunchroom.*

Have we found the second teacher for the second grade? If so, who is the teacher? *We have hired two second grade teachers – Mrs. Sadwick and Mrs. Simpson.*

If a child is doing remote learning and needs additional support, what is the plan for that? *Our AIS teachers will be connecting with the child/ren who are home and need Academic Intervention Services. The difference from the spring is that these teachers will be teaching all day in person, so will not be able to connect until later in the day and not every day. All lessons will be in their Google Classrooms. The children with IEPs will be connected with the Special Ed teacher assigned to Nazareth by RCSD. Those teachers will have to follow the IEP virtually as best they can while a child is at home.*

How many kids are enrolled for third grade? *At this time, there are 12. Numbers are changing in general every day though, so we will not know full enrollment until school opens.*

Will the remote learners be able to see their teacher via Zoom during instruction? *No, not in real time, but some lessons can be taped and posted. We are working on the details for that. Lessons and assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. Some lessons will be taped and put on Google Classroom, too. Chromebooks will stay at school unless we have to close or a child has to go home due to illness.*

Will Google Classroom program be easier to access this year? *Yes. We will be teaching the children some of the time on the Chromebooks, so they will know how to operate in Google. If we should have to close for a period of time, the children will take their Chromebooks home. These will be on loan for their schoolwork only. Each child will be assigned a Chromebook for the year, so they will never use one someone else has touched.*

So does that mean that in-person learning for the students will be on the Chromebooks as well? Or will they still be using paper? *The children in school will be using paper, notebooks, workbooks, and Chromebooks for their lessons.*

Will that apply to kids who are distance learning? *Yes.*

Who advised it's ok to proceed if you haven't received approval from NYS? *Schools were told by the NYSED and NYSDOH that if we did not hear back from them in a week or so, our Reopening Plan was accepted.*

How will ECP work this year? *We had to cancel morning ECP at this time. The afternoon ECP will be a first-come, first-serve basis for we have to limit the number in each room. We did move the big kids' ECP to a larger room.*

Will they have Gym the same number of days? *Yes, twice a week.*

Is hybrid an option? *No, hybrid is really for the large public schools that cannot accommodate the large enrollment at the same time. Those going hybrid will have many more students on a given day than we have in our whole school.*

Will temperature checks be done daily? *Yes. There will be staff assigned at each door. Those in cars may have their temps taken right at the cars. Bus students will come in the front door and those in cars will enter through a side door to cut down on any congestion at arrival time. We have purchased touchless digital thermometers.*

Will you continue with clubs? *Yes, in modified numbers. It will be up to the teachers if they want to run a club first semester. None would start before October. There cannot be choir this semester at least. We will have Dulcimer Club on hold until it is safe to bring in outsiders.*

What is the spacing during Music/Choir? *There cannot be Chorus or Choir for now. There is a different level of exposure when children are singing. The Music classes for the most part will be half classes. There will not be singing first semester. NYSED and NYSDOH do not recommend singing unless people are 12 feet apart. (Perhaps they could sing spaced out 12 feet around the playground now and then and serenade the neighbors!) Sr. Anita is being very creative with the lessons she will teach that do not include singing.*

Can you say more about the guidance if a child has any symptoms? What will be required of parents to do before the kiddo returns? Do you have to go to the pediatrician and get tested, etc., before returning? *Sr. Marlene and I will be sending home the specific steps to take for various symptoms, exposure, positive case, etc.*

If they miss school due to COVID, does that count against their attendance? *Children who miss school due to being ill with COVID will be marked sick. If they are home because someone in the family is ill, they will be considered 'in attendance' if they work on their lessons daily while home.*

Will the school lessons still be available on Google Classroom, in the event of having to miss school for any reason? *Yes.*

Will this presentation be available on the school's website? *Yes.*

Where do we get a Chromebook, if needed? *Every child K-6 will be loaned a Chromebook through the use of our Title I funding. We cannot place the order through RCSD until after Sept. 1, so the lower grades will not have their Chromebooks when school opens. We have funding to order at least 63 more. Students will be issued their Chromebooks in their classrooms. We will work out a pickup time for those who have to stay home for medical reasons.*

Will there be band? *We are not hiring an instrumental teacher at this time. We will look at this as the year progresses.*

Is the disinfectant spray fumes free? *The same electrostatic spray we have purchased is what is used at our SSJ Motherhouse where we have many elderly and very fragile Sisters and priests.*

Would I be able to pack a lunch for my child? *Children may bring a healthy lunch from home. We cannot microwave or cook the lunches brought in, but lunch in a lunch bag is fine. A child could get milk or juice free at school if you wish. We do offer free breakfast and lunch if parents wish to take advantage of it for their children.*

Will children really resist wearing a mask? *Our children are very good about wanting to please their teachers and following directions, so we do not anticipate too much of an issue. They will see everyone wearing one, too. We will work with any individual who struggles. Parents – keep encouraging the wearing of masks when out and even practice wearing them a bit at home.*

Will there be helpers in the lower grades to help remind the children to keep their masks on? *The preschoolers will have two FT aides working with them and their teacher, and the Kdg. teacher will also have a FT aide.*

Do we know if there will be any safety measures on the buses for those that ride the bus? *While we have no authority over the district buses, we will talk with the children about the importance of following the bus rules. We do this every year, but this year we will stress even more the importance of following rules – staying in their assigned seats, wearing masks at all times, and keeping hands to themselves.*

Will there be center time for play or learning and or carpet time? *Yes, but in spaced out, planned, and organized settings. Ex. Art Center may only have one or two children at the table with a shield between them. Centers will be wiped down between students.*