



Returning to Full Day Instruction Parent FAQs

Updated March 18, 2021

Q: Will we continue to provide the present safety protocols re: safe distancing, cleaning protocols, face coverings, etc?

A: Yes. All present cleaning and disinfection protocols that are in place will continue.

Q: Will the plexiglass dividers remain between the desks?

A: Yes. The district is in the process of ordering more dividers so that they are available in all classrooms.

Q: Will the present cleaning and disinfecting protocols continue in the buildings?

A: Yes. All present cleaning and disinfection protocols that are in place will continue.

Q: How will social distancing be maintained with all the students back in school?

A: The CDC guidance calls for 6' of social distancing **or** the use of face coverings and barriers. We will be changing our face coverings policy to mandate they be worn at all times unless eating, in a room where 6' of distancing is still possible, or outside.

Q: Will the school provide masks to students that need them?

A: Yes, we will continue to provide masks to students who need them.

Q: Will students be given some sort of mask breaks throughout the day and can they take their mask off when they are seated at their own desks? Can they take their masks off if they are outside?

A: Students will be able to take their masks off if they are eating, are in a class that can continue to maintain 6' social distancing, or are outside where they are able to appropriately distance (i.e. PE class, recess). If they are in a room that has students seated 3' apart, they will be required to have their masks on the entire time.

Q: Will younger students get a recess to give them time outside and away from screens?

A: Yes. Grades UPK - 2 will establish recess times at the teacher discretion. Grades 3-5 will have PE everyday. In the first week we will be monitoring student response to this shift and making adjustments if it is not working well for students. Grade 6 will have recess daily immediately following lunch.

Q: Will the school provide a break for the younger students mid-way through the day, in addition to the scheduled lunch break, before "pressing on" with academics for the afternoon to help them as they transition back into a full day of school?

A: There will be built in breaks from core academics daily as students transition to, and participate in, their specials classes. In addition, students will get breaks during lunch and recess time. Teachers will be monitoring their students and implementing breaks as they see fit based on how students are building their stamina over the 10 week period. Teachers regularly do this, but will be prioritizing this monitoring as providing breaks students have not had a full day for about 14 months.

Q: Will students be able to stay with their cohort of classmates under the new schedule?

A: Students in grades UPK-2 and grade 6 will be combined with the opposite cohort (i.e. AM/PM shifts will now be together). Students in grades 3-5 will remain with their present cohorts for the core academic day. There is possibility that students are together in larger cohorts for recess and/or some of the specials classes. Students in grades 7-12 will remain with their cohort for their core content areas as much as is possible while still scheduling them for their encore classes.

Q: How will the district handle breakfast and lunch time? Will students continue to eat in classrooms or in the cafeteria?

A: Breakfast will be eaten in the classrooms. Most students will eat lunch in their classrooms. Grades UPk - 2 will eat lunch at staggered times in the cafeteria. Grade 11 will also be eating in the cafeteria, using appropriate social distancing. (Ex. In Jr-Sr High there will only be three students per table.) The rest of the students will be using a grab-and-go model and eat in their classrooms. All students will have the same options for meals, regardless of the location where they are eating.

Q: Is remote learning going to continue to be an option for the remainder of the school year?

A: Yes. Any family that is presently remote can opt to stay remote for the duration of the school year.

Q: Will our students be given the option of continuing with just a half-day of in-person instruction?

A: Due to the human resources available, we will only be able to offer two choices to our families: Full day in-person or full-day remote.

Q: Will the district have a contingency plan should there be an outbreak in either building? Will that include going back to the original, half-day schedule, or just mean everyone goes all-remote?

A: The district will follow the Tompkins County Department of Health (TCDOH) guidelines for contact tracing should there be a positive case in either building. Should there be an outbreak, the district will follow the advice of the TCDOH regarding the viability of keeping students in the building for in-person learning or needing to go remote for a period of time.

Q: Can the earlier start time (8:00am) continue for both schools? This is a more convenient start time for working parents of students in both buildings.

A: The district does not plan on changing the start or end time for either building for the remainder of the school year. As such, both buildings' instructional day will continue to start at 8:00am. GES will be finished at 2:08pm and the Jr-Sr High will be finished at 2:15pm.

Q: Can the single bus runs and same starting/end time for both buildings continue?

A: Yes. See the above question.

Q: Will the full day allow for additional help for students who are struggling academically?

A: At GES, there will be more time for intervention and there is also additional math and ELA instructional blocks. At the Jr-Sr High School, Wednesdays have been set aside for students that need additional academic support.

Q: Will there be any after school programming to offer additional help to students who are struggling?

A: No, additional help will be provided within the normal school day.

Q: Can all course work and resources continue to be put in Google Classroom? This has helped us as parents know what our child needs to complete.

A: Yes, teachers will continue to utilize Google Classroom.

Q: Will students who drive be able to leave school rather than sit in a study hall?

A: Presently, the school district does not offer an open campus model. Seniors who have half-day schedules do have the option for late entry or early dismissal with building leader approval.

Q: Why is Wednesday the day off and not Friday for grades 7-12?

A: This will allow for mid-week interventions to take place.

Q: Will the buses be cleaned between the morning and afternoon runs?

A: Yes, buses will continue to be cleaned between bus runs.

Q: Will the communications and student videos continue through Classdojo?

A: Yes.

Q: What will happen to the remote schedules if my child stays remote? Will they stay the same?

A: At GES, the remote schedules will remain the same. At the Jr-Sr High, remote students schedules will change based on updates to the master schedule. New schedules will be mailed out on April 2, 2021.

Q: Will my student continue to be able to bring his Chromebook home daily?

A: Yes, students can take their Chromebooks and chargers home daily. This will allow students to access Google Classroom. Please help us remind students to charge their Chromebooks at night so they are charged for the following day.

Q: Will the district be able to reinstate a late bus run for after school extracurriculars?

A: Yes. We anticipate starting late bus runs the week of April 19th.

Q: For grades 7-12, for students who do not need to go to school on Wednesdays, will they have any Zoom classes at home that day? Or should they just use the day to get homework done?

A: Students in grades 7-12 who do not have labs or intervention classes scheduled for Wednesday will be able to use that time for completing assignments at home.