

SKANEATELES MS/HS PTC

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Disclaimer: Our plan is based on current available data and is subject to change as our circumstances shift throughout the year. Regional infection rates, shifts in attendance, NYS guidance and executive orders from the Governor could force us to adapt our plan throughout the year.

REMOTE LEARNING

For distance learning, will the kids be doing the same thing as we did in the spring? Or will there be live teaching? Or recorded lessons? Will the teachers be more connected with the students at home? Will all teachers be using the same platform and not have these kids jumping on 3 different learning sites to complete lessons and assignments?

- **No. Unlike in the spring, teachers will be instructing in a hybrid model. They'll be planning instruction for both in-person and remote learning.**
- **No. Bandwidth will not allow for live streaming.**
- **Yes. Materials, activities and/or recorded lessons will be available.**
- **Teachers will be available to connect virtually with their students during Activity Period daily (2:30-3:00) and by appointment on Wednesdays.**
- **Teachers will use either PowerSchool or Google Classroom as their platform. There may be links to resources from the platform (PowerSchool or Google Classroom) that the instructor is utilizing as well.**

Can you describe what will happen should the school close and remote learning be initiated? What will the remote learning be like for our children? What will the expectations be and how often will they connect, live, with their various teachers?

- **If we close and are remote only, our goal is to have an abbreviated schedule which allows for students to connect with their teachers daily. Materials, activities and/or recorded, as well as live lessons, may be available.**
- **The status of our school district, our community and executive orders in place, at the time of closing, are all factors in determining our expectations for remote only learning. Our goal will be to follow an abbreviated schedule with multiple opportunities to connect virtually.**

How will the remote lessons be linked to the in-class lessons?

- **In-class lesson materials and activities will be posted for students who are in the hybrid model remotely and those who are remote only. There may be recorded lessons posted as well.**

Will they have more "structure" to their online learning than they did last spring?

- **Yes. Daily attendance will be expected. Attendance will be addressed through student correspondence with their respective teachers. Materials, activities and/or recorded lessons will be posted. Students will be expected to complete work at their respective teacher's directive and completed assignments will be graded.**



REMOTE LEARNING, CONT.

How much time this summer & in these last weeks of August is the district investing in the quality of the distance learning piece?

- *Although professional learning during the summer is challenging given the availability of our teaching staff, who are 10-month employees reporting from September through June, professional learning opportunities took place around reimagining our return to school.*
- *Much of our planning has been consumed by the logistics of the requirement of providing a hybrid model and a safe return to in-person learning.*
- *Various committees were formed involving students, parents, teachers, administration and/or Board of Education representation.*
 - o *Platform Discussion Committee*
 - o *K-12 Return to School Task Force*
 - o *K-5 Return to School Planning Committee*
 - o *6-12 Return to School Planning Committee*
 - o *Google Classroom Platform Training*
 - o *PowerSchool Learning Platform Training*
 - o *K-8 Literacy Training*



For the 2 days in person and 3 remote option (Hybrid), what do the 3 remote days look like?

- *Students learning remotely those 3-days will receive materials, activities and/or recorded lessons via posting from their respective teachers. They will be able to connect virtually with their respective teachers to ask questions and receive feedback during Activity Period and/or by appointment on Wednesdays.*

What would a completely remote HS option look like?

- *Students learning completely remotely will receive materials, activities and/or recorded lessons via posting from their respective teachers. They will be able to connect virtually with their respective teachers to ask questions and receive feedback during Activity Period and/or by appointment on Wednesdays.*

What will the remote portion of instruction look like and how will that complement in-school instruction?

- *In-school lesson materials and activities will be posted for students who are in the hybrid model remotely and those who are remote only. There may be recorded lessons posted as well.*

Will all teachers be using Google Classroom and communicating directly with students?

- *No. Teachers will utilize either Google Classroom or PowerSchool Learning.*
- *Yes. Teacher to student communications may occur via Google Classroom, PowerSchool and/or student's personal email addresses.*

Will there be a schedule to the remote day where kids are required to participate at specific times or will it be on their own schedule like last year? Or will it differ depending on the teacher?

- *No, on remote learning days students will have access to posted materials, activities and/or recorded lessons. Students will manage their own schedule and daily attendance will be expected. Attendance will be addressed through daily student correspondence with their respective teachers.*

REMOTE LEARNING, CONT.

Will there be collaboration or coordination between kids in class at home and kids in class at school? For example, my kid's physics class would normally have a range of students with different last names. Are they splitting those students into 2 separate classes now based on their names?

- *There will not be live streaming. There may be collaboration between kids outside of school.*

What day does school start? If my child's first day of school falls on a remote learning day, what should we be prepared for (e.g. Log on to what class by 7:52am? Other online arrival expectations?)

- *Blue students will report to school on Tuesday, September 8. We ask that our remote only students attend school on Wednesday, September 9th. On this day, the remote only students can meet their teachers, pick up textbooks, Chromebooks, etc. On Thursday, September 10th, the Gold students will report to school. This will be the first day of school of the Gold students, as they will not be required to begin their remote learning until the week of September 14th. Friday, September 11th will be a Professional Learning Day and students will not be in school.*

What will be normal hours? Will it follow Traditional Bell Schedule?

- *Students learning remotely will manage their own schedule.*

Will there be class attendance and interactive instruction or just homework for remote days?

- *Yes. Daily attendance will be expected. Attendance will be addressed through student correspondence with their respective teachers. Materials, activities and/or recorded lessons will be posted. Students will be expected to complete work at their respective teacher's directive and completed assignments will be graded. Students may connect virtually during Activity Period and/or on Wednesdays.*

How will assignments be communicated (eg. email, verbal, other) to my child?

- *Assignments will be communicated either via Google Classroom, PowerSchool Learning and/or email.*

How will assigned homework be submitted/collected from my child?

- *Assigned homework will be submitted/collected either via Google Classroom, PowerSchool Learning and/or email.*

How will students reach teachers informally if they have a question? Will they be required to wait for "AP" time?

- *Students may email teachers informally with questions at any time. Teachers will work to respond within one business day. Students will also be able to connect virtually with their teacher during Activity Period and/or on Wednesdays.*

Will you have 1 platform (ex. Google classroom) for all classes to avoid confusion? Will there be upfront "training" for kids for using the platform to avoid start up frustration?

- *We have 2-platforms for teachers to choose from for posting materials, activities and/or recorded lessons. Teachers will acclimate their respective students to the platform of their choosing.*

How will you avoid / minimize screen-grabs of students who then misuse on social media (eg. memes)?

- *Reported incidents will be addressed in accordance with our school code of conduct.*



REMOTE LEARNING, CONT.

If I keep my 2 high school kids learning on-line at home, can you foresee any classes or situations in which they might be academically disadvantaged or even penalized because they are not physically in school, but others are? (Science labs, etc.)

- Our goal is to provide an equitable academic experience in either in-person, hybrid or fully remote learning.

Will the kids who are 100% remote be learning the same things at the same time from the same teachers and be given the same assignments as the kids attending school in hybrid format? (Same or different teachers / expectations / grading, etc.)

- Students will receive the same curriculum but not at the same time given we are not live streaming.

Do you anticipate that remote classes will be taught live in “real interactive time” concurrent with the actual school periods, or will things remain somewhat flexible for students and families in a given day?

- Classes will not be live streamed due to bandwidth.

- Students will manage their own schedules and access materials, activities and/or recorded lessons posted by their teachers.



IN-PERSON LEARNING

What will a day for the new 6th graders look like? Are they changing classes? When will the cohort groups be identified? What criteria will be utilized to put these cohorts together? Will they change after the first quarter? It appears these cohort groups will stay in a single classroom all day – including lunchtime – is that correct? How will 'breaks' be managed throughout the day?

- 6th and 7th graders will be grouped into cohorts of approximately 17 students. They'll be assigned a classroom and that will be their location for the day. Teachers will rotate through each room providing in-person instruction. Cohorts were created at random utilizing our scheduling module within SchoolTool. Currently there's no plan to change the groupings following 10-weeks. At this time, given available space, our plan is for students to remain in their assigned classroom for lunch. Students are scheduled for two special area periods and lunch will allow for some movement between classes.

We'd also like more detail, as it's available, on what the in-school day will be like for our kids – what's a typical "day in the life" going to be? Wearing masks in the hallways but not while sitting at desks? Staggered dismissal times between classes? What will lunchtime be like? Will kids be able to buy a lunch? Will kids have gym class? Will any after school activities be available?

- Your child will be required to wear a mask when they are not able to maintain 6-feet of social distance. If social distance is maintained within the classroom setting students may remove their mask for instruction. Currently students in the grades 8-12 will change classes following a bell schedule and students will be required to wear a mask during transitions. Desks will be spaced 6-feet apart for students to eat their lunch. Lunch will be available for purchase. Students will have Physical Education. We are weighing options and awaiting additional guidance prior to making a final decision regarding after-school activities.

Will the district stagger arrival & dismissals?

- Not at this time.

Will students be required to change clothes for Physical Education?

- Students will not be changing for PE.

In the high school will students have more time to get to classes if they are doing a staggered release and one direction hallways?

- Students will have 4-minutes between periods. They will be released from classes at the same time. There will be arrows encouraging students to stay to the right as they transition between classes and maintain social distance, in so far as possible. Masks will be required during transitions.

What are the expectations for time the students will spend actively learning with teachers and other students vs. independent work time?

- This will be determined in conjunction with the instructors learning intentions and success criteria for each specific lesson.



IN-PERSON LEARNING, CONT.

How often will they meet with their teachers?

- In-person learning will occur 2-days a week. During this time students will see their teachers according to their set schedule.

What about classes that must be done in person? Science labs, music tech class, technology classes, art class - especially for seniors who may need these "hands on" classes for college admission portfolios?

- Teachers will adapt their curriculum to the standards each respective course is required to address. Courses may have fewer or no hands on opportunities, however, activities will be provided to meet the standards.

Why can't 8-12 go every day? Blue 8-10:30 and Gold 12-2:30 with cleaning in between? A regular daily routine is critical for keeping our older students engaged.

- Our building does not have the space required for all students in grades 8-12 to attend while also maintaining the recommended social distance. A half-day schedule would limit the number of available sections for each course and therefore we would need additional staff and space. It would also involve an additional bus run further complicating our transportation challenges as well.

Can teachers dictate their own classroom COVID rules - or will every student be treated the same in every class?

- All teachers and staff will follow the guidance provided by the CDC and the NYS DOH.

Hysteria among teachers will frighten students. How will you ensure that the personal opinions of teachers won't be shared with students - especially negative ones?

- We are confident that our teachers will conduct themselves professionally. Should you have any concerns please notify your respective building principal.

How will music/orchestra classes be conducted? Will band and chorus be eliminated or postponed? If so, what will kids be doing during those periods on their in-school days?

- Given the complications of the 12-feet of recommended social distance for these courses, we are still exploring creative ways to include these valuable opportunities. They may unfortunately not be able to run. In that instance, students will have additional academic time.

Will students take PE in school or will they be given plans to do at home?

- Both. While in-person they will attend PE and while at home they will be given plans.



IN-PERSON LEARNING, CONT.

Will students take Art and FACS? If not, what will those teachers be doing?
Can they support academic classes/teachers?

- *Yes. These courses will be modified given the circumstances.*

Are you going to try and keep the same kids grouped together as much as possible?

- *Yes. Students are divided by alpha into two teams, Blue and Gold. Once at school, students will follow their individual schedules.*

Mr. Santoro's last email said they'd be using the traditional bell schedule. Will kids be changing classrooms all at once?

- *Yes. Students will follow a bell schedule and will be required to wear a mask during transitions.*

How are they going to do lunch?

- *Desks will be spaced 6-feet apart in the Cafeteria for students to eat their lunch. Lunch will be available for purchase.*

What will a normal school day look like for HS students, such as;

- a. Switching between classes – *see above.*
- b. Will lockers be available – *no.*
- c. What will lunch look like – *see above.*
- d. Bathroom breaks – *as needed.*
- e. Library – *this space may be utilized for larger group instruction.*
- f. Breaks from masks – *When seated and maintaining 6-feet of social distance, masks may be removed, if needed.*

Will there be a difference in grading between attending school, and total virtual?

- *No.*

Will in person days be exhaustive educational (full course schedule) days or will there be study hall or similar breaks – eg. Mid-day stretch and breathe breaks? Same question for remote learning.

- *For in-person school days students will follow a traditional course schedule including study halls. For remote learning students will access posted academic course materials.*

Will my child have opportunities to interact with anyone outside their cohort room (eg. hallways, class rotation)?

- *Students will be able to interact with other students during transitions and are required to wear a mask.*

Will you strictly enforce any illness (colds, flu, fever, etc.) stay home / go home?

- *The school nurse will assess any staff or student exhibiting any symptoms. Their assessment will determine next steps.*

Will children move classrooms or will teachers move class to class. Or split like Marcellus plans?

- *Students in grades 8-12 will move from class to class following their individual schedule. Students in grades 6 & 7 will remain in a specified classroom and teachers will move to them.*



IN-PERSON LEARNING, CONT.

Will my child's options for electives be limited based on the cohort he/she are a part of?

- *No.*

If my child's class in person becomes so small in attendance, will I have the option of reverting to remote learning?

- *We are asking for a 10-week commitment, however, going to remote from in-person will be easier to accommodate than switching from remote to in-person.*

Will lockers be assigned, used?

- *No. This limits additional touch points needed to be sanitized, limits movement throughout the building and limits student gathering. Students should make their way with their belongings in a bag, backpack, etc. from one class directly to their next class.*



HEALTH/SAFETY

How will the MS/HS or the district monitor student mental health and struggles? Are students who struggle going to be left behind or forced to retake classes because they couldn't get the needed support from the district?

- Our school district employs skilled Counselors, Social Workers and School Psychologists to support all students. If you have specific questions related to your child please contact your respective school.

Will the desks/surfaces be cleaned before the next group of kids comes in and by whom?

- No. Due to the number of classrooms we are unable to commit to cleaning every single desk/surface between periods. When a particular room is not in use they will be scheduled to be cleaned. There are hand sanitizer stations available in hallways, classrooms and offices.

I see what the "mask" protocol will be, it can't be mandated but will it be a requirement for certain activities like moving around the school? Will the SCS be strict on mandating masks at ALL times other than: sitting at your desk and sitting while eating your lunch?

- We are requiring students and staff who are not able to maintain 6-feet of social distance to wear a mask.

Will teachers have the right to request a student go check in at the nurse's office if that teacher notices any signs of a sick student?

- Yes.

I see that acceptable masks include a bandana. This is not sufficient in the spread of viruses. Disposable masks and store or handmade masks are better. Will there be an inspection of what the students are wearing?

- Students will be required to wear a mask. If they do not have a mask a non-medical disposable mask will be provided.

What will happen if a case of COVID-19 is found at any of our schools?

- We will follow the guidance issued by the CDC and the NYS Department of Health.

Does the district expect the parent/honor system temp check to be sufficient? Will there be any alternative check methods?

- The NYS Department of Health recommendations do allow for parents to conduct remote health screening. The district is currently looking at additional methods to check student temperatures upon arrival.

Taking the temperature of everyone at school is not a legal mandate. Many districts are leaving that up to parents at home. 1 - What is your rationale for adding this process as an at-school activity? 2 - How will you ensure that students are not humiliated? 3 - If you are taking temperatures in the morning, how are you planning to take temperatures during the day because fevers don't only occur just in the morning? Will there be a separate nurse office/room for those with non-CoVid issues? (Ex: my daughter has Type 1 and goes to nurse frequently.)

- Should an at-school process be deployed for temperature screenings, it will be in place as an additional measure for the safety of our school community and will be handled in a sensitive manner. If a student does not feel well during the school day they will report to the nurse. Per NYS Department of Health guidance there will be an alternate room for students whose temperature is greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.



MISCELLANEOUS

If there is an exposure at a different building will all the buildings be shut down? Would it be for just the 14 days or would the district not reopen after an exposure?

- *Each instance will have to be investigated and a determination will be made depending upon the circumstances. Our middle and high school are considered one building. Per guidance, any individual who tests positive for CoVid-19 as well as those who were in proximate contact with that person, will be required to quarantine for 14-days. Upon the completion of a 14-day quarantine or a negative test result, those persons may return to school.*

What can we do to help make this a positive transition for students and staff?

- *We value our partnerships with our families. Your continued support and positivity are appreciated. If you notice your child is struggling please reach out to your respective school for assistance.*

Are there any updates on the school day start time/end times, pick-up or drop-off procedures, etc.?

- *There are no changes to the start and end times of our school day. All students (drivers, walkers, drop-offs or take the bus) will be permitted to enter the building no earlier than 7:35 a.m. If students enter the building prior to 7:45 a.m. they will be directed to our Cafeteria or Gymnasium where they will have to wear a mask. At 7:45 a.m. all students will be allowed to make their way to their first period classroom.*

What can we do as a school and community to help our seniors have a good year?

- *During this pandemic, students and families at every level may be experiencing some type of loss or disappointment. Our ongoing goal is to provide the best academic experience we are able to regardless of the circumstances for all students. Additionally, we will continue to be thinking of creative ways to involve students in activities we are able to have in-person or virtually. Working together with our students, parents, staff, faculty, class advisors and PTC's we will do everything we can to make the year a positive one.*

Is the expectation that teachers go to work in the buildings every day if we end up going completely remote leaning?

- *If we end up going completely remote for learning and staff are still permitted to be on campus, in accordance with executive orders, they will be utilizing their classrooms within our buildings.*

If attending total virtual, will students be able to participate in sports versus students attending two days a week?

- *Yes, in either case, if sports are in session.*

Interactions with support teachers strengthen / enhance my child's confidence and experience. How will you find a way to connect?

- *All students will be receiving assistance from their respective support teachers whether in-person or remotely.*

How can we support making winter sports happen?

- *This determination may be made for us by the NYS Education Department, NYS DOH and/or an executive order from our Governor. We are awaiting additional guidance.*



MISCELLANEOUS, CONT.

Based on the alpha cohort split, it will result in my child only socializing with half his graduating class - any thoughts to Semester rotation / other opportunities to mix?

- We understand that the hybrid model does split our students which for some may be disappointing. In order to accommodate in-person learning and manage social distancing a split was necessary. An alpha split allowed for a fair and consistent approach for the year.

Proms and homecoming likely to be very different if at all. Any discussion on fulfilling these rites of passage another way?

- We value and appreciate the importance of these events. We will be reviewing the most current guidance available as we progress throughout the year and will make decisions accordingly.

We as parents want to support learning. What dashboard is available to ensure we are supporting the teachers' message?

- Parent support is a critical component to student success. We recommend monitoring SchoolTool at least once per week. Questions or concerns should be directed toward the respective teacher.

What are students going to need for school supplies?

- Our school supply lists are posted on our school websites.

Will the incoming 6th/9th graders receive some form of orientation?

- Yes, a virtual orientation for our 6th and 9th graders will be coming soon and families will be notified.

When can I expect work to be made available for my child when he/she is on remote learning?

- Materials will be posted and available by 7:45 a.m. for each day of learning.

Can students get the work for the entire week on Monday so they can work at their own pace?

- Daily attendance is required and will be recorded. In an effort to maintain a structure for the week and regular daily attendance, topics for each day of the week will be posted on Monday. Materials, activities and/or recorded lessons will be posted each day by 7:45 a.m.

What is expected of students on Wednesdays?

- Students will be expected to complete any assigned activities for that day and communicate with their respective teachers via email or a scheduled virtual meeting.

Can you provide clarification on the minimum and maximum time requirements for each course?

- A minimum of 20 to a maximum of 60 minutes with up to an extra 15 minutes for college-credit bearing courses. This time allotment includes; lesson, student activities and/or homework.

If there is a space in a class, may I transport my child to and from school on a remote learning day so that he/she may attend the class in person?

- Managing these types of requests would be very challenging to accommodate in an equitable fashion. To maintain equity and fairness we would have to offer this option to all students it may be applicable to.

