

# Questions posed during community/parent meeting on August 18, 2020.

(Some questions were not added to this list as they were repetitive or were already answered in the other FAQ documents)

**Question** – Will clear water bottles still be required?

**Answer** – Our water fountains will be converted to water bottle filling stations. Clear refillable bottles are preferred in grades K-5, but will be required for grades 6-12.

**Question** – Regarding wipes - Parents have been asked to donate wipes. They are difficult to find.

**Answer** – It is not mandatory, but if you have a container that you are willing to share, that would be appreciated. We are doing well procuring disinfecting supplies.

**Question** – May a student wear a face shield instead of a mask?

**Answer** - No. Guidance is clear that face masks must be worn.

**Question** – Will there be a virtual walk-through of classrooms or open house?

**Answer** – That is not in the works as of right now, but we are hopeful that something like that may be done in the future.

**Question** – May students be exempt from wearing a mask for medical reasons?

**Answer** – Yes, please provide your student's principal with a doctor's note. Staff will work on creating social distancing for this student.

**Question** – How will food allergies be handled in the classroom?

**Answer** – The same as we always have – separate areas designated as nut free, or allergy free.

**Question** – Will bus windows be open?

**Answer** – Yes, weather permitting we will encourage fresh air.

**Question** – Will the school send a note home if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID?

**Answer** – No. The Department of Health will handle testing and contact tracing as is outlined on our web page. The district will notify the parents and staff if we need to close a school(s) based on DOH guidance.

**Question** – Regarding remote instruction, what is the platform plan?

**Answer** – All students in grades K-2 will use SeeSaw, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams as their online platforms (they are all accessed through SeeSaw

All students in grades 3-12 will use Google Classroom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams as their online platforms

**Question** – Will MS/HS Students change classes?

**Answer** – Yes, students will wear masks and move to classrooms. Desks in the classrooms will be alternated and disinfected between classes.

**Question** – When will the green/gold groups be announced?

**Answer** – Next week the K-12 cohorts and class lists should be completed.

**Question** – When will my student get a schedule?

**Answer** – Typically the schedules are not distributed until the first day of classes. If possible we will get them out sooner.

**Question** – How do I log in to answer screening questions for my child before school each day?

**Answer** – Please download our new app. It is very easy to answer five questions regarding your child and takes less than a minute. We will also do temperature scans upon arrival at school. We will put out more information and a demo on this process once it is finalized

**Question** – What about BOCES or CTE students?

**Answer** – Please refer to the FAQ sheet posted on our web page.

**Question** - When is the opening day of school?

**Answer** – September 10<sup>th</sup> is the first day of classes. Our academic calendar is listed on our web page at this time we are planning on follow that calendar.

Students in 7-12 will be in cohorts. The Greene Cohort will begin on school on 9/10 & 9/11. The Gold Cohort will begin in person on 9/14 & 9/15

We are looking at a soft opening for our primary students in UPK, K, and possible 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We will be sharing that schedule by next week. Parents will be notified.

**Question** – Will vent filters be brand new?

**Answer** – Yes, all filters are new for the start of the school year.

**Question** – How is the air quality in classrooms?

**Answer** – The 2020 International Mechanical Code requires a higher occupant density calculation for classrooms than malls, and higher outdoor airflow rates per occupant (cfm/person), and higher outdoor rates in breathing zones (cfm/sq ft) for schools. This provides school classrooms with more outdoor air per space than malls. The classroom air is then exhausted. Malls recirculate a lot of return air, so higher efficiency filters were recommended.

Greene Specific Information

All air filters in the district have been changed and the HVAC units have been serviced and cleaned. The filters in all our buildings are MERV 11. All buildings are above the State filtration criteria. The heating unit dictates the filter capability. The air quality is also monitored with CO2 detectors. This reading will allow us to optimize and adjust air flow, which currently is a turnover rate of approximately every seven to eight minutes. That means that air in each classroom is changed out with fresh outdoor air approximately every seven to eight minutes which is currently double the state requirements of three times per hour

---

**Question** – Should my child have an extra mask?

**Answer** – Masks are required. If your student gets his/her mask dirty during the day, a spare would be nice to have. We recommend that if your child has specific types of masks they are most comfortable with you provide them with extras. Otherwise a mask will be provided.

**Question** - Will students have lockers to change for PE?

**Answer** – We are not having students change at the beginning of the year.

**Question** – Will there be PE?

**Answer** - Yes, our instructors are prepared with a lengthy list of activities that may be done while social distancing or wearing masks that will not create breathing issues

**Question** – Will there be after school clubs and activities?

**Answer** – Not at this time. We strongly desire to return to being able to have our clubs and extra curriculars. However, it is not part of our reopening plan at this time. Once school reopening is more finalized we will begin working on a plan to implement these activities

**Question** – What about band and chorus?

**Answer** – We will do what we can within the social distancing (12 feet) guidance for students singing or playing an instrument. We will do what we can to support this program but it will look a little different.

**Question** – What about supplies? Will the list change?

**Answer** – The supply list is posted on the web page under each building. At this time, we are not aware of any changes.

**Question** – What about a schedule for CSE students?

**Answer** – Each student is different. If you have a student with a 504 Plan or IEP, please contact Mrs. Knapp directly.

**Question** – Will kids have lockers?

**Answer** – No. Students will not be able to have lockers at the opening of school. We will look at options to use lockers once we have settled in if possible.

**Question** – Can kids carry backpacks around with their belongings?

**Answer** – Yes, students will carry backpacks with them throughout the day.

**Question** – Can my child have a backpack on wheels?

**Answer** – It does not seem necessary as a lot of work will be electronic. Many texts will be electronic. That being said, wheels are not prohibited at this time, but in proper use will result in the loss of that privilege.

**Question** – Regarding remote learning – if I select remote learning for my child now, can we change that in a few weeks?

**Answer** – No. Remote learning is a per-marking period commitment. We are unable to accommodate students making changes mid-marking period. If you select remote learning for your child, that will be the format adhered to for the entire marking period.

**Question** – How will the cohorts be decided?

**Answer** – Cohorts will be selected by family first. Followed by building requirements in order to provide the best services to students.

**Question** – Will there be youth sports?

**Answer** – Youth sports such as JRC soccer do not fall under our umbrella. School sports have been postponed until September 21 and we anticipate more direction then.

**Question** – What will the drop off and pick up look like?

**Answer** – Parents will drop off before buses arrive in an effort to be helpful to parents who need to get to work. A clear schedule of times will be forthcoming. Each building will expect students to be dropped off in their front loop.

**Question** – What if I have to bring medication to school?

**Answer** – That procedure has not changed, we will still require a doctor's note for the medication. You may call the appropriate school nurse to make arrangements for your child.

**Question** – My five children have five different last names. How will you figure out the cohort?

**Answer** – We typically recognize families even with different names. If we don't get it right, please let us know immediately.

**Question** – How many positive COVID cases has GCS had so far?

**Answer** – Zero

**Question** – How strict will attendance be?

**Answer** – Just the same as when we are in full onsite learning, attendance is taken at the beginning of each day and the beginning of each class period for MS/HS. NYS is holding us to the required 180 days of school.

**Question** – Will there be morning program?

**Answer** – No – We do not plan for assemblies of any kind at this time. Also, we will limit people from entering our buildings. For example, if you are picking up your child for an appointment, you will call from your car when you are parked by the building and someone will escort your child to the door.

**Question** – When can we pickup Chromebooks?

**Answer** – We anticipate a distribution around the first of September.

**Question** – My child has his own Chromebook at home. Should he bring that to school to use?

**Answer** – No, it would not work with our network.

**Question** – How many students will be in each elementary classroom?

**Answer** – It depends on the size of the room. For the most part, approximately 12 with a few exception in the double classrooms.

**Question** – Desks will be 6 feet apart. Will there also be barriers?

**Answer** – NYS will only allow barriers made of poly carbonate, which is very expensive. We have a few in the primary building, but probably won't get more unless the State allows us to use a different material.

**Question** – Will students who drive have a place to park?

**Answer** – Yes, nothing has changed.

**Question** – What if COVID forces us to close school?

**Answer** – We will immediately switch to remote learning. Keep in mind that remote learning will look a lot different than the emergency instruction from last March.