

Oneida City School District

Frequently Asked Questions

Reopening Information Sheet

August 10, 2020

If you choose the remote learning option, can students return to in-person instruction at some point?

Yes. By enrolling, you are agreeing that your children will remain in the 100% remote learning model for the first five weeks, at which point you will be able to choose whether you wish to continue. We will continue to revisit remote learning every five weeks with parents who chose remote learning.

Why can't parents choose to have their children attend school all five days of the week?

An in-person everyday option was considered but ruled out because it is not feasible given social distancing requirements in classrooms and on school buses. We could not have accommodated those requests and remained within the reopening perimeters outlined by New York State.

Will parents be able to change the days students attend school?

We recognize that any student grouping will be imperfect and some families will need to change their days. Our goal is to keep families together and accommodate childcare needs. As such, all families living in one household can request to change their children's days. Additionally, we will be providing a day change request for families to complete. All requests will be considered on a space available basis. You can only request to move from Group 1 to Group 2 or vice versa.

Which special education students will be assigned to Group 3 and return to school five days a week?

Special education students enrolled in self-contained (separate) classrooms will be assigned to Group 3 and all families of identified students will be notified by the CSE office. All remaining special education students (those enrolled in general education classrooms) will be placed in either Group 1 or Group 2. Regardless of your child's group placement, special education supports and services will be delivered to all students with an IEP and all students with Section 504. If you have questions regarding your child's IEP needs, please contact the CSE office at 315-363-2550- press"6"

What happens if a staff member or student is suspected of having COVID-19?

School nurses will have systems in place to screen students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. Those individuals will be kept in a room separate from the nurse's office that is designated for isolation. If their symptoms require further evaluation they will need to leave the building. If the school district is notified that a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19, the District will work with the Madison County Health Department to ensure all protocols relative to contact tracing and notification are followed. A flow chart of responses for various situations will be added to our plan documents.

Will schools only be cleaned on Wednesdays?

No. Schools will be cleaned every day and high-use surfaces like desks, door handles and bus seats will be cleaned multiple times per day. Deep cleanings performed on Wednesdays and over the weekend will be more extensive and include areas that students and staff don't routinely touch.

Can my child still bring lunch?

Students will still have lunch options including bringing their own lunch or purchasing a meal. Additionally, the process for free and reduced lunches has not changed.

How will social distancing impact lunches?

Students do not need to wear face coverings when seated and eating but must practice social distancing. To allow for required social distancing, students will eat meals in a combination of spaces (e.g., cafeteria, classrooms) as designated by the building principal.

How many students will be riding each bus?

Members of the same household and children who attend the same in-home childcare center will be permitted to share a seat on the school bus. Student riders will be socially distanced to sit one student per seat.

Do students have to wear masks all day?

For in-person instruction, students are required to wear face coverings at all times. Buildings will provide face covering breaks throughout the day. Students and staff must be prepared to don a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot social distance. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. It should be noted that some individuals, however, have authorized accommodations for documented medical necessity to not wear a face covering.

What is the policy if students are in class and not social distancing and/or not wearing a mask?

Staff members will remind students about the expectations for the health guidelines. As a school, it is our primary responsibility to teach children the facts about wearing face coverings, the reason for the requirement, and the proper wear of face coverings. A student refusal is considered insubordination which is addressed in the Code of Conduct.

August 21, 2020 update:

If there is a COVID case in a school/s will we as parents be notified or no?

If the district is notified by the Department of Health of a positive case, we will work with the Department to notify our school community. We will not be providing any names of students or staff but will share as much information as possible.

Many children will experience illnesses that are not COVID. How will that be handled as to not cause panic and unnecessary quarantine?

We are asking that the health screeners are completed prior to arriving at school. If students are exhibiting symptoms, they should not come to school. Please call your schools nurse to discuss specifics.

Is there a # of positive COVID tests that will force the school to close?

No, the district will be working with the Madison County Department of Health to review metrics regularly. Each decision will be specific to the incident and metrics.

I'm concerned about parents doing the health screening as many often send sick children to school already.

We are asking that families assist each other in keeping our student healthy and safe. Additionally, we are planning on helping families that are having difficulty with the health screeners.

How many mask breaks will students receive and is it dependent on age of child?

There will be mask breaks throughout the day. Building principals will be working with staff to determine the best times for the breaks.

If we choose 100% virtual learning, will we have to stay with that choice throughout the whole school year? I would like to let my child know what his options are.

If you choose virtual, we are asking for a 5-week commitment. We will review the situation every 5 weeks. If you would like to discuss the possibility of returning to in-person instruction sooner, please contact your building principal.

If we decide in a week or so that it is not safe for our kids to attend in school can we pull them for all virtual?

Yes, we will be flexible. If you would like to discuss the possibility of virtual instruction, please contact your building principal.

Are you still going to have the 5-week review periods to evaluate and change from remote to hybrid and back again? As situations evolve, it may be necessary for people to change their groups and education options.

Yes, we plan to evaluate the virtual and in-person options every 5 weeks.

How often are you cleaning shared bathrooms? They should be cleaned more frequently during the day (deep clean).

Each building will have their night and day custodians working during the day. This will provide additional staffing while students are in the building. Each building is working with their custodial staff to arrange a cleaning schedule of frequently used areas. The custodians will be keeping logs of areas that they clean with times, dates, and specifics on the type of cleaning.

Can students use swings or other equipment during elementary recess?

The elementary playgrounds will be used by students. Each building is working with their custodial staff to arrange a cleaning schedule of frequently used areas

Can I decide to keep my child home to learn 100% virtually after school starts?

If you would like to discuss the possibility of changing to virtual instruction, please contact your building principal. We would like to remain flexible during this time.

Will snow days now be virtual learning days?

We are hoping. We have asked our local BOCES to get guidance from NYSED on this.

Did you mention a COVID symptom room separate from the nurse's office? To limit exposure to students needing to visit the nurse for medications etc.

Yes. In each building there will be a separate room for students who have COVID symptoms so that students are isolated from the other students.

Will Chromebooks be available to pick up prior to the first day of school for those students who will be fully remote?

The building principals will be providing information about pick up.

Will we have to sign up for the Google guardian reports?

One teacher will send you an email invitation to sign up For Google Guardian. Once you accept that invitation, you will receive one update, either daily or weekly, (your choice) for all of the Google Classrooms your child is enrolled in.

With asynchronous learning, how are teachers ensuring that our students aren't falling behind in instruction for the school year?

Teachers will be connecting with students on a regular basis, asking students to turn in pieces of assignments and assignments to ensure that students are working. If students are not connecting or keeping up, the teacher will be in contact with student and parent. If student continues to need more support, teacher will initiate a Student Assistance Team meeting (SAT) with the teachers, administrators and counselors to ensure students are set up for success.

On the asynchronous days, will there be any video meetings with the teachers like there were in the spring?

Asynchronous means students are working on their own time. Teachers will be producing and recording instructional videos to distribute to students for students to watch on their own time.

If my child is feeling unwell & we decide to keep them home from school, can they still do virtual work & not have it count as an absence?

Yes, and your child will need to complete the online attendance form in Google Classroom.

What will asynchronous learning look like at the high school.? Will it be similar to last year?

Last spring, all of our students were virtual, so there was a mixture of synchronous or live Google Meets and asynchronous work. Your child will receive a weekly agenda on Sunday evening or early Monday morning outlining assignments for the week. Asynchronous learning means that your child is learning away from their teacher on their own time. If your child is asynchronous, the work will be largely independent- watching teacher-created instructional videos, working on projects and collaborating with peers virtually. Teachers will be in the buildings on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday teaching in-person. There will be time for Google Meet Office Hours on days throughout the week.

Will worksheets be handed out? Textbooks? Or will materials be all on Google Classroom?

The weekly agenda will be posted in Google Classroom. Some assignments will be online, including textbooks and some may consist of worksheets or paper materials.

If a child has resource room, will they have daily contact with their teacher for assistance on their work? Students with resource support tend to learn differently and need more support, but only go to school 2 days.

The requirements of a student's IEP will be met, including number of meetings and time.

If the lessons that are taught for the Monday/Tuesday are repeated for the Thursday/Friday group, where does that leave the fully remote learners?

Teachers will distribute a weekly agenda on Sunday evenings or early Monday morning. The fully remote learners will watch those videos and work on independent work.

For the synchronous days, will students be required to remain in front of the computer for the entire time?

On the synchronous days, students will be in person in the classroom. When students are home, learning virtually, they will, for the most part, be asynchronous.

Are elementary students going to have the same amount of curriculum as an average year?

Teachers have prioritized the standards and instruction will focus on ELA (reading and writing) and math. Social studies and science will be integrated into these areas.

Is there gym, art and music classes as well?

Yes, special areas will occur. Each special area teacher is also working to adhere to the social distancing guidelines of 12 feet for PE and music.

Will my student be able to have "live help" on days that he/she is remote? Will teachers be assigned remote only to assist with help?

Teachers will be offering office hours on these days. We are still determining staffing for the remote-only students.

How will remote only students be assessed?

There are many different kinds of assessments that teachers can administer remotely. Our universal screeners can be given remotely, and teachers can offer quizzes, projects with rubrics and other assessments to ensure students are working toward mastery of standards.

What will all virtual look like? I know teacher is teaching 4 days / week- will any remote learning be live? Or will it be recorded from teacher?

Remote learners will receive a weekly agenda on Sunday evening or early Monday morning. Remote learners will have a list of assignments/assessments for the week. Teachers will distribute instructional material that remote learners will watch and then assignments for practice. Also, teachers will connect with remote learners during office hours and on Wednesdays.

Do we complete daily screener online?

The student health screeners will be done on paper. They will be sent home to you by the buildings.

Does OCSD have child care/educational support options on remote days?

We don't have childcare but Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Child Care Resource Center at 315-223-7850 extension 222 or email earlycareandlearning@cornell.edu has information on local childcare options.

Virtual Open House

This information will be sent to parents by the individual buildings. Each building is working on an orientation for new students.

What about picking up students in person? And dropping off? What are the procedures for that? People need to know how much time it's going to take.

Building principals will be sending this information home to each parent. Drop off and pick up is different for each building.

Are students allowed to stay after school if needed?

No, at this point there is no options to stay after school.

Can our children bring their own personal sanitizer to school with them?

Yes. On Friday, August 21, 2020, NYSED changed their guidance to allow hand sanitizer on the bus.

How will the hallways and classroom changes look? As in will the release of classes be staggered or all at once with a bell like usual?

Acceptable face coverings are to be worn by all individuals at all times but face coverings are required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. Hallways are a time that someone cannot maintain appropriate social distancing.

Why can't teachers clean desk between periods?

Teachers will not be forced to clean desks, but they will be provided with materials to clean the desks if they choose to clean the desks. Building principals will be creating a cleaning schedule for their buildings that will include desk cleaning.

Will students carry their supplies with them in a back pack all day? Will students follow a schedule to different classrooms or stay in one room?

At the secondary students will follow a schedule and move from room to room. Additionally, they will carry their supplies with them.

When will transportation assignments be sent out?

Assignments will be going out during the week of August 24th.

**The district will continue to update this document as we receive questions. Please visit our website for updates: