

Dear Parents of the Floral Park-Bellerose School District,

Thank you for your prompt attention and participation in our re-entry survey posted on our website on Tuesday, July 21st. As of this writing, we have 788 responses. This survey will remain live until this Friday, July 31st for those of you who have not had the chance to complete it. We are urging all parents to complete this survey.

Question 20 on the survey is an open-ended question asking for parents to provide any additional feedback. Thus far, we have received 369 written responses to this question. We have read each of these responses and are providing you with further information which incorporates your questions and concerns.

I will continue to update this FAQ document accordingly.

Thank you as always for your support of our district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Sottile

Answers to questions from our parents, based on direct feedback from **Question 20** on the re-entry survey (369 responses so far)

Depending on the Governor's order and regional data regarding Covid-19, our re-entry plan will remain fluid and flexible. Parents will be notified immediately should there be any changes to our plan.

Notification of this survey

To alert parents of this survey, two ConnectED calls were made to all parents as well as a letter posted by the Superintendent to this website. Our PTAs sent out a TextCaster message as well.

Based on the results of this survey thus far, email seems to be the preferred mode of communication moving forward therefore we will be adding the email feature to our ConnectED system for the fall.

Models

The State is requiring three different plans from all school districts based on the current guidelines. These plans would include an in person, hybrid and fully remote program.

The in-person model would bring all of our students back five days per week following New York State and Department of Health Guidelines.

The 50% hybrid model would bring our students into the building where our teachers will provide in person instruction 2 days per week. Of the remaining three days, one day per week teachers will zoom live for a portion of the day and the other two days per week will consist of assignments via district platforms. Our priority will be to keep all siblings of the same family on the same schedule. This will also be re-evaluated based on State guidelines and regional data. (first week of August)

The fully remote model will include regularly scheduled daily live instruction as well as small groups and assignments via district platforms.

Socialization/Recess

Each school is investigating large spaces including the **outdoors/gyms/tents** to provide opportunities for movement and socialization.

Schedule

If all remote, will there be live instruction?

If ALL remote, all teachers will be providing schedules for live instruction in ELA, Math, social emotional learning and small group instruction. If ALL remote, ELA, Math, small group, social emotional learning and specials will be live instruction at the same time daily.

How will physical education be conducted in a remote or hybrid setting?

If ALL remote and/or hybrid model, PE will be a combination of live and recorded instruction. **In the hybrid model, PE will be held on the remote days.**

Special Education

The District will follow New York State guidelines as pertaining to special education whether in person or remote.

Consideration is being made for a 12:1:1 special class where this cohort will be able to attend in person school more frequently than what the hybrid model may specify.

Underlying Health Conditions

There will be a fully remote program available for all children with underlying health conditions.

Instruction

Teachers on the Teaching and Learning Committee made recommendations to create a benchmark assessment for Grades 1-6 to identify student skills and lagging areas that may have resulted from the loss of in-person instruction in the 19-20 SY.

The District explored bringing primary grades back full time, while other grades were remote or hybrid, but due to staffing issues, this option was not feasible.

The Teaching and Learning Committee will be addressing grading practices for remote or hybrid at a future meeting.

Social Emotional Support

As a result of the combined work from the Teaching and Learning and the Social Emotional sub-committees, Social Emotional Learning will be offered to all students. In addition, students' social emotional needs will be addressed using a multi-tiered approach.

If we are fully remote to start the school year, we will be under the guidance of the Governor or Department of Health and therefore cannot ask staff to interact with students "in person". Students will meet their teachers for the first time via Zoom or Google Classroom.

Options/Survey

The initial survey was important to understand basic information about attendance, transportation and various concerns of our parents. Also, this FAQ document was generated by direct feedback and comments of our parents.

One of the hybrid options that we explored was an AM/PM session. Due to transportation restrictions, this would be impossible to execute in our district.

Temperature Checks

We are investigating options for the most efficient way of having parents check their child's temperature and report when above 100 degrees prior to getting on the bus or entering school. Parents taking their child's temperature before entering the building is preferred by both NYSED

and NYSDOH. Teachers will also have thermometers in the classroom. We are currently working on this plan.

Air Quality

We are exploring ways to improve air quality flow and ventilation in classrooms and open areas such as the gyms, cafeterias and auditoriums.

Consistency with High School Schedules

There is regular communication with the high school but due to the complexity of the classes, number of students and varied models, and difference in space, it will be very challenging to match schedules.

Positive Covid-19 cases

We will follow the DOH's recommendation regarding the procedure for confirmed positive Covid cases and **All** parents will be notified immediately.

Face coverings

Yes. The district will be following the guidelines regarding face coverings. Should a child have respiratory issues or otherwise compromised - further assessment will be conducted. Here is the Department of Education guidance.

All individuals in school facilities and on school grounds must be prepared to put on a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot socially distance. All students and staff members must wear cloth face coverings:

- *Whenever they are within 6 feet of someone;*
- *In hallways;*
- *In restrooms; and*
- *In other congregate settings, including buses.*

*We will have plenty of masks on hand at all times.

Bus

Buses will be sanitized daily and after each bus run in accordance with the state guidance. We will be following the social distancing guidelines on all busses.

Teachers/Training/Live Instruction

The District has implemented training sessions (small group, 1:1, videos and tutorials) to all staff in the use of online platforms and strategies on supporting students' remotely. Vanguard teachers and professional development days will be utilized to provide more training to our teachers. A virtual library has been set up that provides a wide range of supports that covers multiple levels of need.

Specialty area teachers will be providing live instruction in our remote or hybrid model programs on a regular schedule.

Parent Support

There is information on our website which includes tutorials on our district platforms, SeeSaw, Google Classroom as well as Zoom. We will continue to develop our parent support website as you provide us with feedback on what you need support on.

Lunch

We are working with our Food Service Director to explore the delivery and location of lunch services. The cafeteria may also be utilized at a smaller capacity. We will provide more information during our session on Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00pm. To live stream into this meeting please visit our website for connection information.

Supplies

Students will not be sharing supplies with each other. Purchases are being made so that each child will have their own set of materials.

Technology Difficulties

A helpline, which is located on the District's website, has been established for trouble-shooting purposes. There is a quick turnaround time for a response. As necessary, we will contact families on an individual basis.

School Life Plus

At this time, there have been no decisions regarding School Life Plus or other before/after school extra-curricular activities

More Support for Health Care Workers/First Responders

Please contact the Superintendent directly

Timeliness of Presenting the Plan

We are doing our best to provide you with all of the current information that we have. The safety of our students and staff, as well as the education of our children is our primary concern. Each day we narrow down the options based on availability of materials, spacing and staffing. We are anxious to provide our staff and community with our exact plan and hope to do it in the very near future.

Pre-School

To date, this program is currently under review. Enrollment/Social Distancing requirements will determine the best model moving forward.

Sanitizing Air Conditioners

Classroom air conditioners have their filters and coils vacuum cleaned regularly. Classrooms have uni-ventilators that control the heat in the room and allow for outside air to enter. The filters in these units are changed and the unit is vacuum cleaned as per NYS guidelines.

Lunch Program

Because we have children who qualify for free and reduced lunch, the school district must provide a lunch program.

Can parents opt their child out of school if uncomfortable for any reason?

Each case must be on an individual basis. There are many factors to consider such as class size due to social

distancing and busing. The district will be looking for trimester commitments from each family.

Questions from the live chat

Can parents request a full remote program?

Yes. Commitment letters will be sent out in the near future.

Can we switch the time to 80 minutes earlier at the end of the school day instead of 40 minutes at the beginning and 40 minutes at the end of the day?

We are currently discussing all models.

Have we thought about using community facilities?

Yes, we have reached out to our Village to discuss. All outside facilities (including tents) must be approved by NYSED.

Will students be able to email and attach files to teachers?

We will have a system in place for September.

Are we hiring additional staff?

We will hire additional staff as needed once we solidify the numbers.

Will the staff receive PD?

Along with the two Superintendents Conference Days at the beginning of the year, we are also thinking about adding a third. We are going to zoom with all of our teachers on Wednesday, August 5th. Teachers also provide feedback to the building administrators on their needs for professional development and it is provided accordingly.

When will parents have to decide if they are sending their child to school?

Commitment letters will be sent out within the next two weeks. Other decisions, including rosters and transportation cannot be determined until we know the number of students attending in person.

Updates from our Teaching and Learning Committee

Departmentalization of 5th and 6th grade

Based on additional feedback and articulation with our 5th and 6th grade teachers from our most recent meeting of The Teaching and Learning Committee which was held on Thursday, July 30th, 2020, it was determined that in the “All In” or “Hybrid Models that Floral Park-Bellerose teachers will teach all subject areas (there will be no changing of classes) and the John Lewis Child teachers will each teach two subjects (teachers will rotate to rooms – students will remain static as per NYS Education Department guidance).

Difference between the schools are based on number of sections.

Arrival and Departure Times (Schedule changes)

Will be determined in the very near future and parents will be notified at the beginning of the week of August 10th or sooner if possible. This will include the determination of whether there is a delayed start or early dismissal. This decision has many factors including parent survey results, teacher's schedules and coverages, etc.

Difference Between the “All Students Being Remote Model (determined by NYSED and BOH) As Opposed to “Remote by Choice” If the School is Open for “All In” or “Hybrid” and parents choose to keep their children at home

Our ALL student remote model has live daily instruction for ELA and Math, small groups, specialty areas and social emotional learning activities.

A Remote by Choice model will be dependent on the number of students and number of sections. It will include live teaching.

AN UPDATED SURVEY/COMMITMENT LETTER WILL BE SENT TO ALL FAMILIES AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK AND MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED

TO THE SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PRECISE CLASS COUNTS AND PROPER PLANNING. WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND SUPPORT AND WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE THIS FAQ DOCUMENT AS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.

Updated Information 8/10/2020

Masks:

Guidance from the DOH and NYSED state that masks must be worn when the 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained. Although our district will maintain 6 feet in some scenarios, to start the school year, all students and staff will be required to wear masks, with the exception of mask breaks and lunch.

Switching from Hybrid to Remote Learning:

A parent may request through their building administrator to move from Hybrid to Remote learning. Requests will be reviewed based on staffing, class sizes and the appropriate time in the trimester.

Remote to Hybrid model can be made at the end of each trimester. Class size, transportation and all factors will be reviewed in order to grant this request.

K-2 Hybrid Models:

Two models were shared in the survey. Based on survey results and district feasibility, we will determine by August

17th which model will be utilized in September for our K-2 program.

Cleaning Products:

We follow all guidelines of the DOH and NYSED. Our buildings are cleaned regularly each day; high touch areas will be cleaned on a rotation throughout the day.

Extensive cleaning will take place on Wednesdays and after school on Fridays.

Special Education:

All special classes (12:1:1) will be in 5 days a week. Integrated Co-Teaching Class (ICT) rosters are being reviewed to see if the possibility exists to bring them into the classroom 4 days a week. (Monday/Tuesday-Thursday/Friday) If K-2 is full time 5 days a week, so are the K-2 ICT students. Related services may be a combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning. (dependent on in-person and remote student enrollment).

Follow up Parent Meetings:

The Superintendent will hold a district meeting on Monday, August 17th at 6:00pm. Connectivity information will be posted in the near future on our website. Each principal will host individual building meetings during the week of August 17th as well. More information to follow.

Updated Information 8/26/2020

The utilization of Wednesdays:

Depending on how long we will be following this model, Wednesdays may be utilized to provide more in-person instruction.

District will be investigating alternating Wednesdays for our Hybrid Program.

Classroom Space:

In order to provide more space in every classroom, non-essential classroom items have been removed and placed in storage.

Remote Class Size:

In our all remote program, some grades have 2 sections (split at 40+) in order to keep manageable class sizes. These numbers are still changing daily.

Courtyard use at FPBS:

The Principal and the Assistant Principal are currently working on schedules for this space.

State Tests:

There have been no official decisions on State Assessments.

Specials:

In the hybrid model, all specials will be delivered on the remote days.

District Calendar:

The District will be providing an electronic calendar on our website. This calendar will be published month by month.

Tents:

Tents are approved and on order for each school.

Re-Entry Committees:

A Committee (Staff and Administrators) will continue to meet to evaluate our plan and make any necessary adjustments.

Services (for example AIS, ENL, Speech...):

Delivery of services will be dependent on student program (Hybrid, all remote or all in). Service providers are working on schedules and will contact you directly.

Mask Breaks in the Classroom:

Children will be permitted to take mask breaks in their classroom when they are seated behind the polycarbonate barrier (K-2) and when at their desk and appropriately social distanced (3-6).

Extra Help:

Extra help will be provided to those students who require assistance during school through differentiation as well as before and after school (in accordance with updated guidance and safety protocols).

Breakfast Program:

As per NYS we were required to survey parents to see if a breakfast program was mandatory at this time. Due to the most recent survey results, it was determined that we must offer the program.

Updated Information 8/27/2020

Science/Social Studies:

In the Hybrid Model, Science and Social Studies will be covered by the classroom teacher on the “in class” days. Assignments and projects will be assigned accordingly on the remote days.

Wednesday Cleaning:

All classrooms are cleaned each day. The Wednesday cleaning will allow the custodial staff additional time for a more thorough cleaning in the classrooms.

Air Flow:

The district’s contractor has performed a thorough assessment of the classroom univents. All exterior dampers are open allowing fresh air to enter the space.

Return to School from Remote by Choice:

The return to school from the “all remote” program will depend on class size and staffing. This will be determined by the building principal and Dr. Mulcahy.

Wednesday Afternoon for Hybrid Model:

This will be determined by each individual classroom teacher, their curriculum, projects and assignments.

End of Day Expectations for Teachers:

The teachers lunch and prep periods are treated just as they are during a regular school year. Prep periods may also be used for grade level meetings, collaboration among the teachers, planning, etc.

Technical Issues:

Tech issues will be handled via our tech department, through the teacher and by use of a Helpdesk system being deployed by the District.

Remote Day Communication with Classroom Teacher:

If your child is struggling and needs help on the remote days from their classroom teacher, please communicate directly with your classroom teacher about their availability and preference for contact (email, phone, app or platform).

Criteria to Add More “In School” Days:

Some of the criteria will be determined by Regional COVID-19 data, how well the students are doing managing their masks, space and movement in classrooms, and many other factors. If all goes well, our goal is to add more days.

The District will decide who and when to add more “in school” days.

Teacher assignments were sent out through the mail TODAY and you should receive them in a few days. As we are now closing in on our first day of school, tomorrow, August 28, will be the last day to make any changes to the program you indicated in the survey. Rosters for classes need to be finalized as staffing and sections are directly impacted by changes prior to the opening of school. As previously mentioned, the changing of program from “in person” to “all remote” will be on a case by case basis. We appreciate your cooperation and cannot wait to get our 2020-2021 school year up and running.

Updated Information 8/31/2020

What is the procedure for breakfast and lunch?

Teachers will take breakfast and lunch orders first thing in the AM. A food service worker will collect the order forms and distribute breakfast at the same time). They will have pre-made carts with the grab and go breakfast items with them.

For lunch, food service workers will visit each classroom with insulated bags labeled with each classroom’s lunch. They will knock on the door and hand the teacher the bag. The lunch order form will be in the bag so that the teacher will know what each student has ordered. We will charge the lunch account after the food has been delivered. About 15-20 minutes after delivering the meals, lunch

monitors will come back around to pick up the insulated bags and lunch forms. The insulated bags will be specific to each classroom and sanitized after each meal. There will be a separate bag for allergy deliveries. There will also be paper placemats for all students to put on their desk.

We are strongly urging parents to prepay for their meals via www.myschoolbucks.com or sending in a check/cash to the main office to put on their account.

Updated Information 9/1/2020.

Staffing:

Due to the growing need to create remote classes, we have temporarily suspended the following programs for the school year; technology and PROBE. The district has reviewed all class sizes and sections and determined that no other classes could be collapsed at this time. Our intention moving forward is that when our students return to school without restrictions to open up both programs again.

PROBE – Testing:

Typically, at the end of the school year, students identified by their classroom teachers are tested to determine if they will meet the criteria to join the PROBE classes the following year. Due to the

pandemic – COVID-19, we were unable to assess the 3rd grade students and any other students highlighted by their classroom teachers. At this time, we will review our process in the Spring, to decide if we are able to assess students going backwards (our current 4th graders) and moving forward (our current 3rd graders) and any other students identified by their classroom teachers.

PROBE – Club:

We are currently having conversations with our PROBE teacher on offering a club to our current PROBE students. During this club our PROBE students would be provided with enrichment activities, extensions from their classroom programs and meet with her on a weekly basis after school.

Update on Masks:

Students must wear a mask while on school grounds and in school. We are prepared to provide masks for all students and staff. Students are welcome to wear their own masks; however, neck gaiters, bandanas, and masks with vents or valves are not allowed to be used in school.