

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 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.

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.