

SKANEATELES ELEMENTARY 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 the students learning remotely, will the teachers be videotaped all day? If so, how can I keep my child out of the video if they are in the class?

No. Recorded lessons will only include the teacher delivering instruction.

Please explain how remote learning will look. Will they be taught through a dedicated teacher or a live stream of the in-person class?

This question depends on available staff. If we are forced to close entirely, remote learning will be provided with a dedicated teacher. While school is open, this may look different in each building and grade level. At this point we are still planning based on students returning to school and staff returning. Live streaming will not be available. Remote instruction will focus on the core subjects of the day, and there will be opportunities for grade-level exposure to content and learning experiences.

Could remote learning be outsourced?

No, we are not outsourcing remote learning. We have a specific curriculum that a 3rd party provider would not adhere to. We also want to ensure Skaneateles students are under the care of Skaneateles Central School District staff.

How do students in remote learning interact with others in their class?

Students in remote learning would not be participating in the typical in-person environment that is provided within the classroom.

What is the responsibility of the parent if their child is a remote learner?

To ensure the posted remote curriculum is being provided to your child. Parents would be expected to support their child through the learning.

Can a child start the year remotely and then switch to in person?

Our district is looking for a 10 week commitment to either remote or in-person learning. After the 10 week period, adjustments may be made.

Will children working remotely be graded the same way as those in person?

All students will be measured against the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards. However, students who are in-person will have more regular live student-to-teacher interactions for demonstrating their learning.

IN-PERSON LEARNING

Can you give an overview of what a typical daily schedule will be at Waterman and State Street?

The schedule we are planning to offer is similar in structure to what was used last school year. Your child will be in a cohort and will spend most of their day within their classroom. Special area classes, if available, will be provided in the classroom. Lunch will be served in the classroom as well. Any daily schedule will be contingent on the availability of staff.

How will allergies be handled? My child is a picky eater and only eats PB&J- will classes have to be peanut/tree nut free for in class lunch?

School nurses will discuss with families any allergy concerns with students eating in their classroom. Please let your principal know if you have any allergy concerns, as any concern will be handled on an individual basis.

Will the students need to pack up everything in their desk every night in case a positive case occurs so they can continue to learn from home?

Students will bring home each night their chromebook, ELA workbooks and materials, and math workbooks. We will ensure that upon a school closure, there will not be a lag in instruction.

How will cohorts be assigned and will I have an option to request certain students to be with my child?

We will prioritize the needs of all students to ensure cohorts are balanced. As per our standard practice, we do not accept placement requests.

Will one teacher be covering multiple smaller classrooms?

This will be determined by availability of staff.

How will specials be handled?

Our hope is that special area classes can occur within the classroom, but that will be determined by availability of staff.

How will recess be handled?

As often as necessary by each classroom teacher. We will follow the guidance of the CDC and NYS Department of Health whether recess occurs outside or within the building.

Will the start and end time of the school day remain the same?

We will keep those times as close to last school year as possible.

How often do the students get a break from sitting at their desks?

We are building breaks into each day as often as we can. Teachers are experts at reading the needs of students, and will have the flexibility within their schedule to allow for movement breaks. We will follow the guidance of the CDC and NYS Department of Health.



IN-PERSON LEARNING, CONT.

Will there still be “stations” in younger grades set up for kids around the classroom?

No, we will not be allowed to have learning centers as we have in the past. We will follow the guidance of the CDC and NYS Department of Health.

What will Kindergarten look like when so much of what they are needing to learn is social development?

Kindergarten teachers are trained in Responsive Classroom practices to teach social skills, expected behaviors for school, and social/emotional health. All of these common teaching and learning opportunities will be adjusted to reflect the students’ new situation of school during the Covid-19 pandemic.

How many students will be in each class?

Waterman - Depending on the classroom size, at this time based on square footage and guidelines, most classrooms will be between 12 to 14 students per room.

State Street - This depends on the number of students returning to school. We have the capacity for larger classroom rosters with appropriate physical distancing. Most classrooms will have a maximum of 16 students.

In the reopening plan there was mention of staggered arrival and departure times, does that mean school would start at different times for each grade level?

We will keep those times as close to last school year as possible.

In the past 5th graders have changed classes to prepare for 6th grade, will that still occur?

No.

What will locker assignments look like since kids most likely will not be able to share?

In Grades 4 and 5, we are still determining the feasibility of lockers. If lockers are used, there will only be one student per locker.

Will teachers be required to wear masks all day? If so, I worry that articulation won't be clear as they teach.

No, however, we will follow the guidance of the CDC and NYS Department of Health. For example, if physical distancing is in place, masks may be removed. In addition, during instruction, students will be physically distanced and allowed to remove their masks. The school district is also planning to have clear masks available for teachers.



HEALTH/SAFETY

How will temperature checks be conducted?

It is our expectation that families will conduct temperature checks prior to students coming to school. If the child has a temperature of greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, please keep your child at home and contact the school Health Office. Per CDC and NYS Department of Health guidance, we are developing a protocol to conduct mass screenings upon arrival.

What is the local testing positivity rate or amount of staff/kids with COVID that would necessitate moving to all-remote learning?

Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9%, using a seven day average, after August 1. For more details, [click here](#).

If a child has cold or allergies would they be required to stay home?

The determining factor is a temperature of greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit. The school nurse will assess any staff or student exhibiting any symptoms of Covid-19.

If COVID rates rise, will K-7 move to the Gold/Blue hybrid model? Or would they go straight to remote learning only?

We will continue the K-7 model unless the Governor determines schools are closed based on rising infection rates at which time we will go to remote learning only.

Will students be taught how to use masks and maintain social distance?

Yes.

Is there a plan if one or more students refuse to wear a mask/social distance?

Masks are required in school when social distancing is not possible. Please understand that we are expecting families who are sending students back to school will be preparing their children to wear a mask and to social distance as required. Refusals will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Governor suggests families who visit states with high rates of COVID quarantine for 2 weeks. Will this apply to students and families in the district as well?

Yes. The Governor requires two weeks quarantine for any New York State resident returning from travel to an identified state with a high Covid-19 infection rate.

Are there extra protections in place for faculty or staff who may be in a high-risk group?

Yes. Upon request.

If there is an exposure in one building will all the buildings close?

Contact tracing and a determination will be made at that time.



HEALTH/SAFETY, CONT.

If there is an exposure do we go back to remote learning for the rest of the year? Or do we quarantine for 2 weeks and go back to in person classes?

Per guidance, any individual that has a positive Covid-19 test and those people in proximate contact will be required to quarantine for 14 days OR if a negative test result is provided. Upon the completion of a 14 day quarantine OR negative test result, staff or students may return to school.

Have there been any air filtration systems placed in the schools/classrooms to help reduce the spread of COVID?

No. The CDC and the NYS Department of Health recommend that windows and doors should remain open to provide air circulation. Please know, exterior doors of the buildings will remain locked to provide security.

Have there been any additional staff members hired in order to address the overwhelming amount of mental health issues many of these kids are experiencing?

No. Our school district employs skilled counselors, social workers, and school psychologists to support all students. If you have specific questions about your child, please contact your school. There are also resources available on the school website.

Will staff members be tested regularly?

No. Required screenings will be conducted daily for all staff.

Will parents be required to have their kids tested regularly?

No. Required temperature checks will be conducted daily for all students.

How do you plan to address the issues surrounding kids/staff members who may be asymptomatic (without fever)- if this is part of the criteria for entering school?

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

How do you plan to differentiate between COVID vs.sick kids (since virtually every symptom could be indicative of COVID)?

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



TRANSPORTATION

I am open to providing transport for my child on some days, but not all days. Are we able to give specific days a week to the district that we can drop off/pick up and days that we would like the bus to transport?

Yes, please be specific with your transportation needs.

If I chose to drive my child to and from school everyday instead of taking the bus (like she always has) to free up space for transportation - what will the pick up procedure look like? I have two younger children that I don't want to wait outside with on the sidewalk in the winter so I didn't know if there would be a drive thru option since there will be a lot more parents.

We are developing a drive up procedure that allows parents to remain in their vehicle. Once plans are firm, we will share with families as soon as possible.

Can students take the bus in the afternoon even if they don't take it in the morning and vice versa?

Yes, but that information is required for us to provide for transportation. This is important information for us to maintain physical distancing on each bus.



MISCELLANEOUS

How will protocol violations be handled by the district?

On a case-by-case basis. We will focus on safety and learning.

Why is the hybrid option only available to 8-12th grade students only?

Due to the complexity of secondary schedules, teaching certifications, and available space, opening 5 days a week like the elementary buildings was not a possibility.

How strict is the 10 week commitment?

We need to ask for a commitment so we can develop class lists and schedules that follow the guidelines of the CDC and NYS Department of Health. For example, if a student shows up to school and was receiving remote instruction, there may not be a classroom or a teacher for that student.

(Question from a student): What will happen if I go to school and do not have any friends in my class since I won't get to spend time with them during lunch or recess?

Our students are incredible and each year make new friends.

Can parents have a scheduled time to come and see the classroom and what a typical day in their students' life will look like?

Not at this time. Our buildings are still under construction, but there is a sample classroom pictured in the reopening video on the school website and you can also find the video by clicking here.

Will there be a back to school day for kids to find their classroom before school starts?

We have not made any plans for this. However, we are looking to have virtual welcome back videos posted for both Waterman and State Street.

Will there be a Kindergarten introduction day?

At this point, plans are being developed to provide an online experience that reflects a traditional Kindergarten introduction.

Will SRO's still be in the buildings now that windows and doors will be open?

Exterior doors will remain locked. Our school security guards will still be present throughout all of the school buildings.

My kids have 3 sets of twins in their grade. Normally siblings are separated. Is there a plan this year to keep siblings together? Thinking of exposure and as well as remote learning with assignments they would be the same. Etc. last year was tricky with different teachers for remote learning and different expectations.

This will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your building principal if you have a similar situation.

Will afterschool activities still be available?

No, not at this time.



MISCELLANEOUS, CONT.

When will class assignments be released?

As soon as possible, and this is dependent on availability of staff.

**Has thought been given to in school activities that families are typically invited to?
(Halloween parades, dances, concerts, etc.?)**

These types of events will not be allowed under the guidance that we are required to follow.

If the Governor does not approve the plans that were submitted, what are next steps?

Governor Cuomo has not given us this information.

