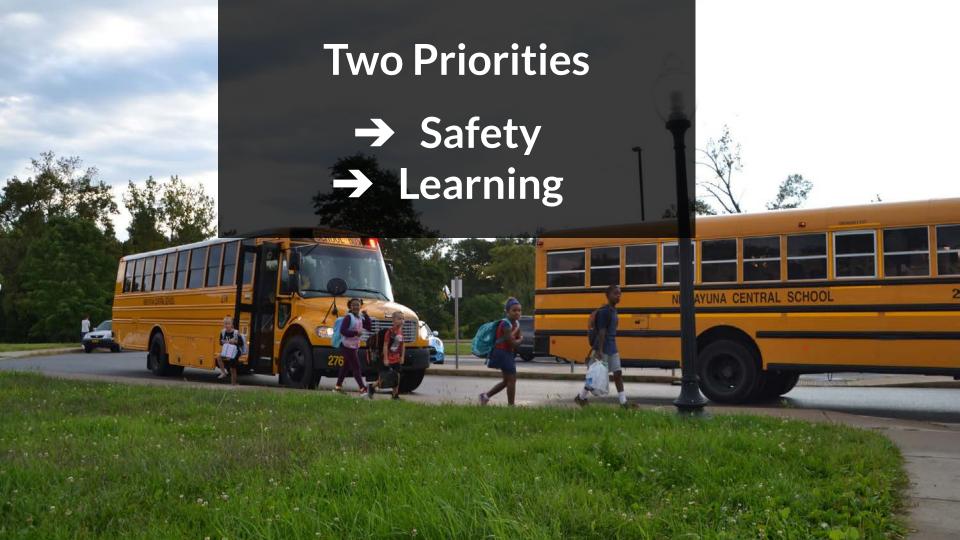
## **Reopening Our Schools**



Virtual Town Hall July 29, 2020

## **Tonight**

- → An overview of our plan at this time for the start of 2020-21. As we all know, this is a fluid process and plans can change as conditions and state guidance change.
- → Questions & comments can be added to the Q&A and Chat feature. We will address some of the common questions as we can throughout and at the end as time allows.
- → The Q&A and chat will be captured. We will review the feedback and also will be publishing an FAQ document in the near future and updating it as needed.
- → Tonight's virtual town hall is being recorded and will be posted on the district website.



## Thank You to our Reopening Task Force



### Reopening Timeline

- Tonight, July 29: Provide an overview of our tentative reopening plan
- Friday, July 31: The plan will be posted on the website and submitted to New York State. An e-mail with highlights will be sent out via School Messenger.
- First week of August: Governor Andrew Cuomo has said he will decide the first week in August if school can open on-site in September.
- Throughout August and Early September: Regular updates and details communicated to faculty, staff and families.

## Important: The Plan is a Work in Progress

The information that you will see tonight and on the website this week represents our plans based on the information we have. Additional details will be developed and some aspects of the plans could change.

- → Will we be able to have school on-site at all?
- → Transportation: In a typical year, routing takes several months. The Transportation Department has just received the information it needs to establish routes.
- → What will COVID-19 conditions be like through August and into September?
- → What better ideas or new thinking will come along as we continue to work on this as a community?

## **Safety First**

#### **Our Plan Includes Provisions for:**

- Cleaning and disinfecting
- → Health screening for students and staff
- → Social distancing at school and on buses
- → Masks, face coverings and other personal protective equipment
- → Reduced class/cohort sizes and limited movement between groups and in the building
- → Training for all staff and students
- → Protocols for when COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed

## **Your Feedback is Vital**

What we heard on the June Virtual Learning Survey	What We are Doing for 2020-21
There are too many places that families and students need to look for information.	Standardizing around a common platform Grades 3-12: Google Classroom Grades K-2: Seesaw
About 20% of families did not have an adequate device for their child or insufficient number for their children.	A 1:1 Chromebook Program Districtwide
Students, families and teachers are looking for a more structured schedule with more teacher-student contact time.	In any scenario, our plan includes a structured schedule with more contact time.
Students, families and teachers need more training in the areas of technology and remote learning.	Professional development and family outreach plans will provide for this.

## Our Plan Contains Two Scenarios: In-Person/Hybrid & All Remote

In-Person/Hybrid Model: A combination of in-person and remote learning, with the time that students spend learning at school and at home varying by grade-level and student needs.

This is the plan that we will use if the Governor <u>allows</u> on-site learning for September.

All Remote: A structured daily remote learning schedule.

This is the plan that we will use if the Governor does not allow on-site learning for September.

## In-Person/Hybrid Model

- If on-site learning is allowed, we do not have the space in our buildings to house all of our students all of the time and comply with social distancing and occupancy requirements.
- So, we have developed a model that allows all students to spend some time learning at school and prioritizes on-site instruction for:
  - K-6 Students
  - Students with Disabilities in Self-Contained Programs
  - English Language Learners

## In-Person/Hybrid Model Reducing Cohort Sizes & Limiting Movement

- To reduce the number of students who are together at one time and ensure social distancing, class sizes will be smaller. K-6 classes will be split in half.
- Spaces such as gyms, cafeterias and libraries will be used for instruction.
- Our schools will minimize the movement of students to the extent possible. This potentially means:
  - Students eat lunch in their classroom instead of the cafeteria and eliminating assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities.
  - K-8 students remain in one classroom when possible.
- Special-area subjects (e.g., art, music, physical education) will generally be pushed into the classroom in grades K-8.
- Grades 9-12 will change classrooms based on student schedules.

## In-Person/Hybrid Model: K-6

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Full Day On-Site	Full Day On-Site	Full Day On-Site	Full Day On-Site	Full Day On-Site
Tentative Student Hours K-4: 7:55 to 2:10 Grades 5 & 6: 8:50 to 3:15	Tentative Student Hours K-4: 7:55 to 2:10 Grades 5 & 6: 8:50 to 3:15	Tentative Student Hours K-4: 7:55 to 2:10 Grades 5 & 6: 8:50 to 3:15	Tentative Student Hours K-4: 7:55 to 2:10 Grades 5 & 6: 8:50 to 3:15	Tentative Student Hours K-4: 7:55 to 2:10 Grades 5 & 6: 8:50 to 3:15

#### Times Subject to change based on transportation

Direct instruction will be provided to students everyday by their classroom teacher. The <u>method</u> of direct instructional delivery will rotate every other day because students are spaced out over two classrooms. Example:

Monday - Direct instruction will be provided by the classroom teacher to half of a class in-person and livestreamed to the other half of the class in another location in school supervised by another faculty or staff member.

Tuesday- Direct instruction will be provided by the classroom teacher in-person to the half of the class that was not with the teacher in person on Monday and livestreamed to the other half of the class in another location in school supervised by another faculty or staff member.

## In-Person/Hybrid Model: Grades 7-12 (Sample Week)

A1-A2-B1-B2	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Next Monday
Rotation	A-Day 1	A-Day 2	B-Day 1	B-Day 2	A-Day 1	A-Day 2
"Group 1" Last Name A-K* 50% of Students Based on Last Name	Full-Day On-Site Tentative Student Hours 7:40 to 2:45 (HS) 8:50 to 3:15 (MS)	Learn at Home	Full-Day On-Site Tentative Student Hours 7:40 to 2:45 (HS) 8:50 to 3:15 (MS)	Learn at Home	Full-Day On-Site  Tentative Student Hours 7:40 to 2:45 (HS) 8:50 to 3:15 (MS)	Learn at Home
"Group 2" Last Name L-Z* 50% of Students Based on Last Name	Learn at Home	Full-Day On-Site Tentative Student Hours 7:40 to 2:45 (HS) 8:50 to 3:15 (MS)	Learn at Home	Full-Day On-Site Tentative Student Hours 7:40 to 2:45 (HS) 8:50 to 3:15 (MS)	Learn at Home	Full-Day On-Site Tentative Student Hours 7:40 to 2:45 (HS) 8:50 to 3:15 (MS)

Times Subject to change based on transportation

### In-Person/Hybrid Model: Where Will Students Go to School?

K-4	Their Neighborhood Elementary School
Grade 5	Iroquois Middle School Van Antwerp Middle School With Elementary Teachers  Students will generally attend the neighborhood middle school that serves their elementary school.
Grades 6-8	Iroquois Middle School Van Antwerp Middle School
Grades 9-12	Niskayuna High School

## All Remote Learning (Based on COVID-19 Conditions)

If the Governor says that schools must be "all remote" to start the year or if at any point COVID-19 conditions require a short- or long-term on-site closure:

- In a remote instruction model, daily direct instruction will be provided in core content areas as well as specials and electives.
- → In grades K-5, schedules will be adjusted to balance live, direct instruction from classroom teachers with independent work and time for extra help and office hours. K-5 time allotments for virtual direct instruction are shorter than we would use for in-person direct instruction.
- → Student schedules in grades 6-12 will follow full-day, modified master schedules so that students do not encounter conflicts wherein synchronous lessons for different subjects are offered simultaneously.

# All Remote Learning Tentative K-5 Remote Learning Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 to 11:15	Online Screen Time with Teachers				
12:45 to 2 p.m.	Off-Line Independent Work, Office Hours & Extra Help with Teachers	Off-Line Independent Work, Office Hours & Extra Help with Teachers	Off-Line Independent Work, Office Hours & Extra Help with Teachers	Off-Line Independent Work, Office Hours & Extra Help with Teachers	Off-Line Independent Work, Office Hours & Extra Help with Teachers

## All Remote Learning Tentative 6-8 Remote Learning Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 to 3:15  Modified Version of Regular Master Schedule	Online Direct Instruction from Teachers				

## Tentative 9-12 Remote Learning Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 to 2:45  Modified Version of Regular Master Schedule	Online Direct Instruction from Teachers	Online Direct Instruction from Teachers	Online Direct Instruction from Teachers	Online Direct Instruction from Teachers	Online Direct Instruction from Teachers

#### Families May Choose All Remote for their Child

- If the district is operating on an in-person/hybrid schedule, families may choose an all remote program for their child.
  - Important Note: This is not the same model that will be used if the district is required to go all remote for students due to COVID-19. It's not possible to duplicate the all remote/all students schedule while also running a live, on-site model.
- There are three instructional models under consideration for families opting for a fully remote learning program while school is being provided in-person/hybrid.
  - 1) Students may receive daily virtual instruction through a collaboration with Capital Region BOCES and regional partner schools.
  - (2) Students may receive direct virtual instruction from district faculty during times when teachers are not providing in-person instruction.
  - (3) Classes may be streamed live from school and students attend virtually from home.
- For a September start of remote only, families must notify the district by Aug 15.
- If a student begins the year in an all-remote format by choice and wishes to switch to the in-person/hybrid, families will be able to do so during designated time windows.

## **Special Education**

- Students in self-contained programs have been prioritized for in-person instruction.
- Special education will also use a consistent platform (Google classroom/Seesaw K-2) when in a virtual or hybrid model for easy access to all materials as well as modifications to instructional content as needed.
- Related services will be provided to students in accordance with the frequency and duration listed on the IEP. This could include a combination in person, hybrid, or virtual services depending on health and safety guidelines and individual needs of the student.
- CSE meetings will continue to be virtual for the time being.
- Special Education students and families will receive more detailed schedule and program information as the school year approaches.

## **Technology: Device & Internet Access**

- We will have one Chromebook for each student for the 2020-21 school year.
- We will share the details in August, including when you can get your child's device and the required handbook and sign-off. (How this is handled will vary by grade level.)
- A question on the Returning Student Registration Form asks about high-speed Internet access in the home.
  - We will follow-up with those who do not have this with information about a program from Spectrum or a hotspot.
- The district will be providing support videos and how-to instructions to support staff, families and students with technology in either a hybrid or all-virtual scenario.

### Social & Emotional Support for Students and Staff

- Support is available for all students through social workers and counselors.
- We will utilize a tiered approach, with universal lessons and conversations intended to support students as the year begins and more intensive support for those who need it.
- Each buildings clinical staff will train faculty and staff in their respective buildings in developing social and emotional skills as it pertains to COVID-19, as well as work collaboratively with teachers to educate students in the same area.

## Health Screening: Students and Faculty & Staff

#### **Students**

Use Standard Screening App



Health Screening at Home Includes Temperature Check 100.0°F or greater cannot come to school.



If Not Screened at Home
Temperature check will need to be
conducted at school
If 100.0°F or greater, student sent home.

### Faculty & Staff

**Use Standard Screening App** 



Health Screening Prior to Work Includes Temperature Check

100.0°F or greater cannot report.



If No Access to Technology
Paper Screening in a Designated
Area

## What happens if there is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within the school community?

- Notification to potentially exposed individuals will occur pursuant to the state's contact tracing protocols.
- Notification, as well as decisions to potentially close school based on COVID-19 case(s)
   will take place in consultation with the local health department.
- The district will not share health information or notify the wider community unless directed to do so by public health authorities.
- Any time there is reason to do so, we will work in close partnership with the local health department as we did in the March of 2020

## Masks / Face Coverings

- Families will be encouraged to send students to school with face coverings (cloth-based, surgical, homemade, etc.) that cover the mouth and nose.
- Students who arrive at the bus or at school without a face covering will be provided with one.
- Students will be required to wear a face covering on the bus and at school.
- Once students are seated for instruction and are socially distanced, students must continue to wear their mask.
- Students will also be able to remove their masks during breaks and while eating assuming the 6 foot social distancing is maintained.
- Tip: Trying a variety of masks on your child will help you to find one that fits well and is comfortable.

### **Transportation**

- Students and school staff must wear acceptable face coverings at all times on school buses (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated).
- School Bus Routes will be designed with a reduced operating capacity to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent practical.
- Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to drop off or walk students to school to reduce density on buses.
- All buses will be cleaned/disinfected regularly.
- In light of reduced capacity on buses, it is likely to take longer to get students to school,
   which could complicate the tentative schedules shared tonight.
- Under usual circumstances, the routing process takes months. Given that the on-site schedule was just established, this compresses the time available to make the routes significantly.
- We will share bus schedules with families as soon as possible, but it is likely to be very close to the start of the year.

#### Childcare

- We are working with the Schenectady JCC on options for a childcare program at district schools.
- The program will have a written plan that addresses social distancing, PPE usage, cleaning and disinfection requirements, as well as risk of COVID-19 transmission.
   Protocols in how to maintain cohorts, if applicable, or group members of the same household will be considered.
- We will provide information about this in partnership with the JCC as soon as possible.

#### Food & Nutrition

- During meals, students will maintain appropriate social distancing. Students do not need to wear face coverings when seated and eating as long as they are appropriately socially distanced.
- Each student will be required to wash their hands prior to the beginning of meal service and after the meal has been consumed.
- Meals may be served in alternate areas (e.g., classrooms) or in staggered meal periods.
- For meals that will be served in classrooms, meals will be delivered to classrooms in a sealed container.
- Food and beverages cannot be shared.
- Each student with an allergy will be entered into the foodservice database.
- Meals will be distributed for students that are learning remotely by either delivery or a
  pickup location that will be announced.

#### **Visitors**

- No outside visitors or volunteers will be allowed on school campuses, except to attend to the safety and well-being of students.
- Parents/guardians who have a need to be at the building for a meeting or some other approved purpose will follow established visitor procedures.
- Essential visitors to facilities will be required to wear face coverings and will be restricted in their access to our school buildings.
- Any visitor who enters the building will need to complete the required health screening.

#### **School Activities & Events**

- School-sponsored student clubs and extracurricular activities will be allowed provided they follow all necessary safety precautions.
- At this time, no outside groups will be permitted to use school buildings.
- To the extent possible, and especially depending on event size, fall school events and activities will be redesigned for virtual experiences, either recorded or live streamed.
   This would include events like Back to School Nights, PTO meetings, school assemblies, etc.
- Administrators will schedule school events and activities that can be conducted in a safe environment following criteria established by the Reopening Task Force.
- The schedule of any events will be communicated through the district calendar and details for participation will be shared with families and staff by the principal.

# What Information Should You Look for in August and Early September?

- → On-Site Attendance Decision from the Governor's Office
- → Chromebook Device Rollout
- → Your Child's Schedule (Classes & Days of Attendance for Grades 7-12)
- **→** Health Screening Protocols
- → Bus Schedules
- → Weekly e-mails ("The Nisky Weekly") in August
- → Town Halls by Level and MS/HS Student Town Halls
- → Questions/Suggestions? <u>reopening@niskyschools.org</u>

## Q&A

Some frequently asked questions from the chat