

Community Forum  
FAQs  
August 19, 2020  
1:00 p.m.

Q. If a family opts to homeschool temporarily, what's the process to re-enter the school community?

*A. If a child is being Home Schooled, a parent withdraws their child and choses to teach them at home. In order to re-enter school, the district asks you complete a new registration form and provide proof of residency. The district will have the child's historical records on hand. If you have chosen remote learning for your child, and want your child to re-enter school in Phase 1, please email your building Principal and allow 48 hours for the district to prepare for your child's to re-entry as well as set up bus transportation if needed.*

Q. Are you still planning on having the students take several outside breaks throughout the day?

*A. Yes, masks breaks are encouraged at the teacher's prerogative. In the event of inclement weather, mask breaks can be taken in the gym or auditorium.*

Q. How are intermediate students are doing remote?

*A. Students will be provided a link to log into their classrooms and view teacher instruction. Students will be able to send emails to the student and students to send work back via email. When the teacher takes mask breaks or lunch, the remote learner will take a break at that time as well.*

Q. State of Connecticut teacher union is recommending to postpone school for two weeks. Will this impact us if it goes through?

*A. No, unless the State of Connecticut and the Commission of Education requires us to do so. The district has worked collegially on reopening of schools with the LEA, WEA and AFSCME and while there hasn't always been 100% agreement, none of the groups have asked the district to postpone the reopening of schools.*

Q. Will the students be able to use the Chromebooks at school or required to bring device?

*A. If your child is in need of a device, please reach out to your building Principal or submit a Tech ticket via the district website.*

Q. Why do students have to use the loaned device for remote learning instead of their home computer?

*A. Student can use their home computer. If so, the district cannot be held responsible for website filtering, viruses, inappropriate content, phishing. This came up as an issue last year and we want to ensure the safety and well being of our students.*

Q. What is the protocol for parent notification when a student or staff member tests positive? Who is notified?

*A. If a student or a parent test positive for COVID, the Superintendent is notified and/or the district learns about it from the Torrington Area Health District. At that time, contact tracing will begin and the notification process also begins for those who have come directly in contact with the person. Confidentiality of the effected party is maintained.*

Q. Can you talk about specials at the elementary school level? Will there be music/band?

*A. Music and band will look very different this year as the requirements for a full band make it probative given the space needed and the cleaning requirements immediately following. Chorus will be held outside as possible. The district is unable to offer recorders at the elementary level this year.*

Q. Last week there were 100 students remote learning. Has that increased and by how much?

*A. As of today, there are a total of 127 remote learners between the two districts.*

Q. Has the air filtration system at any of the schools been modified/upgraded at all?

*A. Yes, all HVAC air filtration ventilation systems have been checked and are in compliance. All air filters have been changed and filters will be changed more frequently than in the past.*

Q. How will the iPads work for Kindergarten? What will students be using them for? We are new to the district and school system in Connecticut.

*A. Welcome to our district. Students will use iPads for online learning programs such as Lexia and Dreambox as well as various different math and language arts programs. The device will also allow for remote learners to log into their classroom. The iPads will go home with students and will have protective cases, learning apps, filters and anti-virus software installed.*

Q. If we don't currently have a Chromebook at home (because we opted not to borrow one last spring) do we need to notify/remind the school so our student will have one available when they show up at school next week?

*A. Please reach out to your building Principal and notify them of your need for a Chromebook. The district wants to ensure all students have the necessary tools to learn for when they return to school.*

Q. Can LHS offer seniors SAT's AT LHS in the fall? These were obviously cancelled in the spring. My son already is scheduled for first time outside of LHS but in the event these get cancelled, or students want to take it again, it would be beneficial for our students to have the ability to take in their school.

*A. Both high schools (LHS & Wamogo) are working on SAT day. It **may** require the test will be taken outside. More to come on this topic.*

Q. If students have returned to school then families decide that distance learning might be a better option what is the procedure to make that change?  
Any word on fall sports?

*A. Please send an email/notify the building Principal you would like your child to be a remote learner. The Principal will follow up with you on next steps and remote learning set up. The district asks you allow 24-48 hours to arrange this for you.*

*Regarding fall sports, we are still awaiting direction from the CIAC and state.*

Q. How are Homeschooled students monitored to make sure they are complying with their studies?

*A. The State of Connecticut does not require homeschool students to be monitored. Once you notify the district of your intent to homeschool, the student is withdrawn from school.*

Q. If students borrowed a Chromebook last spring, should we return those on the first day of school?

*A. Students will not need a device on the first three days of school. If your child has a Chromebook from the spring, they can continue to use it.*

Q. Will there be social distancing on the bus - what does transportation look like?

*A. There is no social distancing requirement for students on buses from the Department of Public Health or the CSDE. All students are expected to wear a mask or face covering on the bus and students are expected to comply with those rules.*

Q. Can parents test out both options - home school online and in person and then decide on what feels more comfortable?

*A. The district asks you choose one option or the other as there is a lot of work that goes into both sides; teacher preparation, administrative work. Trying to go back and forth makes it difficult which is why we ask if someone transitions from one to the other; the district is given 48 hours to make the transition for the student/family.*

Q. Clarification, the current seniors will be included? I was told ONLY juniors would have this option this year for SAT.

*A. Please email me directly at [cleone@rsd6.org](mailto:cleone@rsd6.org) as I need more clarification on your question to properly address.*

Q. Are fall sports teams still practicing?

*A. As of right now, there should be no fall sport teams meeting/practicing.*

Q. How will LHS students be able to get extra help from teachers without Flex periods or after-school hours?

*A. In order to get extra help, student will have to do so through email. The district cannot have after school hours per the guidelines. After school clubs and enrichment will need to be held virtually/remotely.*

Q. Will bus drivers have extra masks for students who are at the bus stop already and forgot my mask at home?

*A. Yes.*

Q. What should parents expect for the time commitment for drop off and pick up procedures?

*A. Please prepare for extra time depending on the school, but unable to answer this as this is the first time we are doing this and it will vary school by school.*

Q. VoAg is a fine program, will animals be test for COVID-19?

*A. This is not a requirement but is under consideration.*

Q. I am envisioning being more...aggressive? With sick days this year - will it be possible for students who are home sick but still feel well enough to participate to join their classrooms remotely on a one-off basis?

*A. Don't want to use remote to replace a sick day. If a child is sick they need to get well. Remote learning is offered as an accommodation based on the state requirement.*

Q. If a student is required to quarantine based on an exposure to COVID, will they be able to participate in their classes remotely during that time?

*A. Absolutely.*

Q. I will be starting as a building substitute at Goshen Center School. How will substitutes across the board be trained to teach students both in person and online to make sure that all students needs are being met?

*A. Please contact your building Principal to set up your training. The district wants to ensure you have proper training to follow all protocols and have the tools to be an effective substitute teacher.*

Q. What happens if one kid is sick and the other kid is fine but kept them home to make sure they do spread germs? Could that one kid go remote?

*A. The district does not want to provide remote learning as a supplement to a sick day. If a child is ill, rest and get better.*

Q. How will students who are distance learning be required to participate in things like gym class?

*A. Students who remote learn can participate in gym class, by going outside, jumping rope, riding a bike.*

Q. Do you need to notify the school if your child, who is remote learning, is sick?

*A. Yes. It is always best to notify the school if your child is sick.*

Q. For doctor appts (routine care, eye, dentist etc). Can students come in late or leave early?

*A. Yes. There are no changes to routine eye care, doctor or dentist appointments.*

Q. Can you repeat the percentages you have now signed up for online learning verses in person? What kind of one on one contact will remote learners have with their teachers?

*A. There are currently 127 remote learners from both districts. A remote learner will live stream teacher instruction on their computer/device. If a teacher determines it is time for students to take a mask break, the remote learner will take a break.*

Q. The daily wellness inventory - is this done by email or hard copy the student brings in with them?

*A. This is done by email. Once you receive your first email, you can opt into a text link. No paper is needed.*

Q. When will new students get Chromebooks and logins?

*A. As soon as possible. If you child has not received technology, please reach out to staff at the school.*

Q. For remote learners, will each day be relatively the same schedule so that the students and parents at home know what to expect on a regular basis?

*A. At the elementary level yes. At the high school level it will be based on an A or B day and student will follow their schedules based on the day.*

Q. If Phase 3 is implemented; will grades go pass/fail again?

*A. No they will not. Parents and student feedback from the Spring Distance Learning was the need for more rigor and earned grades.*

Q. Will the students find out if they are in group A or group B on day one? Is it going to be done alphabetical?

*A. Cohort information has been sent to some students already. If you have not received your cohort yet, please reach out to your building Principal. There may have been a delay due to some additional adjustments that needed to be made.*

Q. Parents will want to be engaged with each child they have during lessons while at home. With multiple children of different ages, is there an understanding that the parent will have to split their time? Each child is online at the same time, joining opening meetings at the same time, and learning different lessons at the same time. We will all do our best, but I imagine this can be complicated...

*A. The district understands the challenges of multi student remote learning households. It will be a difficult balance.*

Q. Do remote learners need to do wellness check?

*A. You will receive a wellness check email and the first question is "Are you going to be on campus today?" When you check "no" as a remote learner, you are done.*

Q. What does lunch look like - is there social distancing in the cafe?

*A. There are additional lunch waves and seating will be at 50% capacity.*

Q. For remote learners, do we notify the office secretary for a sick day like previously?

*A. Yes. That would be helpful.*

Q. What kind of curriculum resources will be there for parents of children doing online? So that a parent of a kindergartener, for example, can help support the learning online.

*A. The district has great curriculum resources online. The information can be found*

Q. I know that kids are not allowed to eat in classrooms. Will they be allowed to have snacks during their "mask-breaks" throughout the day?

*A. The district is waiting for guidance on allowing snacks in classrooms.*

Q. Can you talk about emotional supports to help students re-acclimate to being in school with peers?

*A. The first three days, with staggered reopening is the first steps in re-acclimating students back to school. The plan is to help students learn protocols, understand what 6' of social distancing looks like and lunch room seating to name a few. The districts Mental Health Teams have been working hard over the summer and we have established local partnerships with organizations likes Greenwoods to provide services and support when needed.*

Q. Will there be assigned seating on buses?

*A. Seating on buses is still under discussion. However, we do plan to have siblings sit together.*

Q. Will we be able to access a recording of this meeting? Thanks.

*A. No. These meetings are recorded for purposes of notes only. The district does not have permission to share pictures of others on video.*

Q. What about the heating system in the winter? Are the new filters you mentioned planned to address air quality mitigation for all seasons?

*A. New filters will be replaced in the heating systems as well.*

Q. Once there is a vaccine, will kids be required to get it?

*A. The only way to require everyone in the state to be vaccinated is through an Executive Order. When a COVID vaccination is available the expectation is there will be a large discussion and argument by many on what can and cannot be required or legislated.*