

Community Forum
FAQ's
August 14, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Q. On Aug. 26th for 6th graders, is that a full or 1/2 day? Is September 3re all grades a full day?

A. August 26 is an early dismissal day and the first day of school for 6th graders at LIS. Student will go back to school on a staggered schedule to allow for protocol training for students. August 26, 27, and 28 are early dismissal days with different grades attending on different days. August 31, September 1 and September 2 are also early dismissal days with all students returning on Monday, August 31. September 3 is the first full day of school for the school year for all students.

Q. Are face shields ok?

A. Students are allowed to wear a face shield and it is recommended you wear a mask or face covering under the face shield.

Q. Assuming we may eventually need to move into Phase 2, do you have information on children's cohorts and can we know what days they will attend in order to have an opportunity to prepare necessary scheduling changes for work, child care, etc.

A. You should be receiving this information from your building Principal. If you have not, please feel free to reach out to them directly.

Q. Do we know how the kids will be on the bus? Example 6 feet apart? Are the buses going to be cleaned after each run?

A. There is no guidance regarding seating on buses with the 6 feet social distancing. We will do our best to have space between students while riding the buses. Buses will be cleaned after each run.

Q. On those first three days, will the two days that the certain grades are not in school, will it be remote learning or just 'free days off?'

A. Those will be days off.

Q. We heard five Stop & Shop employees near school tested positive for COVID. Your thoughts?

A. There are many rumors circulating and we need to be cautious when listening to them. The DPH data as of this morning does not have any confirmed cases in Litchfield in the last seven days.

Q. Does my 10th grader sign in on September 26th and 27th for virtual learning and attendance?

A. You will get specifics on how we are going integrate in-person and remote learners and will come directly from the schools.

Q. Will there be buses for out of district students? Where can we find info on bus schedules/pickup locations?

A. Please send an email to cleone@rsd6.org with your sending town and will get you in touch with the transportation coordinator to provide you with specific information.

Q. When is the start date for Pre-K at JMS? Is it August 31?

A. Yes, for all Pre-K students.

Q. If a student decides to do virtual learning. Will it be the same as March-June? What will the set up be?

A. Virtual learning is now called Remote Learning. It will be different from what was delivered in March-June. Students will receive a log in. Student will stream into their class and watch their teacher's instruction. Students will receive emails and send work back to teacher via email. This is no longer on demand video education. If you find this is the case, please reach out to me directly.

Q. What is a good mask to help protect from COVID?

A. N95 masks are the highly recommended masks. With that said, everyone needs to make a personal choice as what mask, face covering, or neck gaiter works best for them.

Q. What would a typical day look like for a student who does only virtual learning? Are they expected to be on their computers for the entire class and will they check in?

A. Schools will send a schedule with guidelines with clear expectations. Students will primarily follow what the in-person student will be doing. If the class is out for recess or a mask break, remote learners will take a break as well. They are expected to be a part of the class as possible.

Q. While students are doing in-person learning, will Art/PE/Language teachers be rotating between elementary schools?

A. The district is trying to limit the rotation of staff. For LPS the specials teacher will move into the classroom with the exception of PE, which will be outdoors or in the gym. For RSD6, specials will be on a trimester basis where the teacher will remain at one school for the trimester.

Q. How many kids on one bus?

A. In Litchfield buses range from 11 to a high of 25 students for buses designed for 70+ students. Region 6 data will be posted on the district website on Monday with capacity numbers.

Q. Will there be recess and lunch? Is lunch in the classroom?

A. Yes. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria with an increased number of lunch waves as capacity has been cut in half for each lunch wave.

Q. What will the LHS schedule look like?

A. The schedule will look the same as the past with little changes.

Q. Can you please talk about the rationale to return fully instead of hybrid (like school systems around us)?

A. Given the health data, our enrollment size and building structures, we have the capacity to social distance students based on our class sizes and spaces and the data supports opening in Phase 1. There are a number of rural districts in the northwest corner that are opening in Phase 1. With the work that has been done on Reopening since April, the district is the position to open in Phase 1 and the health data in Litchfield County and our town supports this decision.

Q. Danbury Public Schools are not allowing gaiters to be used due to a recent study stating it increases possible transmission by turning droplets into finer particles that can more easily be inhaled. Thoughts?

A. There are many studies out there regarding face coverings and their effectiveness. The district will follow the guidance of the DPH that gaiters are an acceptable face covering. Should that guidance change, the district will comply with the guidance.

Q. Is there a shuttle/shuttles from LIS to Center School this year?

A. Yes.

Q. Who should we notify if we decide to have our LHS student opt into remote learning from day one?

A. Please email your building Principal and they will be in contact with you to get you set up.

Q. How will the school system account for students or teachers that are travelling from high COVID areas returning to Litchfield immediately before school starts or during the school year?

A. Everyone is completing a self-wellness inventory daily prior to attending school/entering school buildings.

Q. If my children go back and within the few weeks of opening, the environment is just not for them are they allowed to start distance learning?

A. Yes. If you chose to make this change, please email your building Principal. Though we ask you please allow us 48 hours to set your child up as a remote learner.

Q. Will there still be art, music, gym, library, science etc?

A. Yes. Each school will have a different rotation/schedule.

Q. Do you know how many kids are opting for remote learning?

A. As of today, 100 students.

Q. Are Chromebooks available to students opting to do remote learning if we did not receive one in the spring?

A. Yes. Please reach out via the website using the Technology Help link or contacting your building Principal.

Q. How will band classes be held?

A. State guidance on music has just been received. The district will comply with this guidance. The district will likely hold some classes outside and social distance in the auditorium. More to come on this topic.

Q. Will there be orientation at intermediate school in Litchfield?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the discipline protocol for students who are non-compliant with regards to the mask mandate?

A. First and foremost we will educate and work with the students on protocols. If we find the student is not compliant, the student will receive a consequence.

Q. What will PreK and kindergarten look like in Warren?

Is there a reopening plan for middle school similar to the plan that was emailed for Warren?

A. There are not as many play stations or materials in PreK and Kindergarten as it used to be. Desks are separated to socially distance. We will introduce more things as possible though the environment does look sterile.

Yes, the reopening plan for middle school is similar. You should have received an email from the high school Principal. If you have not yet received an email, please reach out directly to him.

Q. What are the materials that the 5th graders need?

Do you see the entire school year staying with this set up?

A. You should have received an email from the building Principal on materials needed for 5th graders. If not, please reach out to the building Principal directly.

It is difficult to respond to the second part of this question given the unknown.

Q. What will we use to get rid of germs?

A. Watered down bleach/disinfectant.

Q. What will kids be allowed to do while at recess?

A. Run around. At this time, students are not allowed to use playground equipment. (This may change).

Q. Will there be outdoor classrooms that allow for additional mask breaks?

A. Yes. Mask breaks are highly encouraged and teachers have the flexibility to take masks breaks when needed.

Q. After September 3rd Warren school is taking on a standard schedule for Kindergarten correct?

A. Starting September 3rd Warren school is taking on a standard schedule for Kindergarten.

Q. We've heard a lot of anecdotal info school districts in the NW Corner are expecting a substantial number of new students as families have left NYC over the past few months. Is that true? Are there any preliminary numbers on that?

A. Yes, total enrollment is up in both districts, though with remote learning requests and new enrollments, in terms of in classroom students, we are net neutral.

Q. What are your thoughts on if we would rather do drop off/pick up but the timing for dropping children off at different schools may cause a student to be late.

A. The district acknowledges drop off and pick up based family dynamics may cause a student may be late. If you anticipate this to be an issue for your family, please contact your building Principal.

Q. Since August 31 is a half-day, how will you accommodate both morning and afternoon kindergarten?

A. Kindergarten is full day.

Q. If we opt to do remote learning can my high schooler eventually go back to school? If so should we still get a parking permit?

A. The suggestion is your child should obtain a parking permit now even if they start as a remote learned. The spaces go quickly

Q. What are we going to use to disinfect the school?

A. Watered down bleach/approved disinfectant.

Q. If we start with remote learning and it doesn't go well can we switch to in-school and vice versa?

A. Yes. Please email your building Principal and we as you give us 48 hours to transition a student in or out of remote learning.

Q. Can kids bring backpacks to school?

A. Yes. At this time there are no restrictions on backpacks.

Q. Do we keep our current Chromebooks in order to be prepared to go into a hybrid or remote phase?

A. Student Chromebooks are required to travel with them daily. Students will be responsible for keeping their Chromebooks are properly charged for use. If there is an issue with a Chromebook, please be sure to fill out a Technology ticket found on the district website.

Q. How are LHS classrooms being cleaned throughout the school day?

A. Daily. It is not possible to clean a classroom throughout the day. There will be wipes and hand sanitizers in every classroom.

Q. How do you support in class and remote learning simultaneously?

A. Teachers will check in with the remote learners throughout the instruction to address questions. It will be a challenge. It will not be the same as in-person but is the next best thing.

Q. Can the remote learner's have a half-day in the classroom as well to get to meet their teachers?

A. Details will be coming on how to phase in a remote learner. The district is finalizing what the first three days will look like for remote learners as the first three days for in person learning is going to be around protocols, wearing masks, which will not apply to a remote learner. There will be some type of connection with remote learners on the first three days of school. More to come.

Q. If students do remote learning, can they still join their class in person during each day for outdoor activities, such as recess or outdoor gym time?

A. This will be independent time for remote learners.

Q. How will related services/intervention work?

A. This will be accomplished based on the student IEP. If the student is in need of speech services, it will be behind a plexiglass divider. For OT/PT services, there will be much cleaning and disinfecting of materials between uses.

Q. Will textbooks be online for remote students?

A. Yes. Most of our textbooks are online. If a remote learner is in need of textbook, one will be provided.

Q. Did you say CT might not allow distance-learning option?

*A. We are hearing that Connecticut **may** put a limit on the distance learning option. The district has not received anything formal on this yet.*

Q. What would happen if there was an exposure? Would parents be notified?

A. If there was an exposure parents would be notified from the school as well as transportation and other potentially impacted. Contact tracing will be conducted through Torrington Area Health Department.

Q. Are any UV/blue lights being used in classrooms to mitigate germs?

A. No. The district did research on this technology however costs were out of range and some of the more affordable technology was unavailable.

Q. If a specials teacher or any other type of teacher gets exposed will all children in contact with the teacher need to get tested or self-quarantine for 14 days.

A. An exposure is not a confirmed case and a secondary exposure does not require mandatory self-quarantine.

Q. If someone doesn't feel well and opts to stay home, will they be able to participate in their classes remotely?

A. We cannot do that on a daily because we are giving links out to remote learners and these links are not be broadcasted for security reasons. We have heard a number of districts have had issues releasing links and experienced hacking issues.

Q. Are teachers going to be required to record their whole day's activities to be shared with students who are absent?

A. No. The district is not recording classes in Phase 1 or 2. Parent feedback did not support recording classes.

Q. Can you speak to the isolation room, how a child will be removed from class if they show symptoms, who will remove them, etc? Any ideas about what that will look like please

A. The isolation room is basically a wing/area off the nurse's room where a child will remain until a caregiver can get them.

Q. Has there been communication around at what thresholds we will shift between phases?

A. Yes. It is included in the Reopening Plan 5.0 that can be found on the district website. The guidance for moving to Phase 2 is there would need to be above 10 cases for every 100k persons. To move from Phase 2 to 3 there would need to be above 25 cases for every 100k. This is guidance, not a requirement.

Q. Is there anything we haven't discussed this evening that we as parents can be doing to assist you, teachers, and schools?

A. A simple thank you note or words of encouragement to a teacher or staff person can go a long way.

Q. I have twins - if one is sick does the other have to stay home?

A. This is a decision you need to make as a family.

Q. Is the health screener an app? If so, what is it called?

A. Yes. It is provide by Qualtrics.

Q. If a child is sick (any symptoms or illness) is there a timeline of when they can return to school? Example not all stomach issues are COVID.. could be just a bug.

A. The first timeline is to clear the daily health-care assessment. Agree, stomach issues may just be a bug and not COVID. If your child has "a bug," they will need to stay home.

Q. Have you heard of any COVID vaccination requirements?

A. There is talk about a vaccination to be available by the end of year or sometime in January. From a historical point of view, unsure if this can be a requirement given the greatest turn out in Hartford over the past 5 years was on a vaccination bill. 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.