

Community Forum
FAQs
August 31, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Q. Any feedback on how the online experience has been for kids this week?

A. It has been a challenge though we have had students logging in to meet with the Principal, to meet with Guidance Counselors. Remote learners are only getting one view in the classroom and we are wondering if there is a better way to engage these students and if there are improvements we can make to better the experience of the remote learner. Also of note, the district has less remote learners than prior week, as students are opting for in-person learning.

Q. If a student on the bus does not complete their health check and has symptoms will other parents of bus riders be made aware?

A. There are a lot of symptoms of COVID, and if someone shows a symptom, it does not necessarily mean they have COVID. However, if someone shows symptoms of COVID, is sick, we suggest they see a physician. If the physician recommends they get tested and are positive for COVID, contact tracing begins. The bus driver would be notified; students and staff who may have come in contact with the student will be notified.

Q. My question was about the Health Assessments: I haven't gotten texts or emails each morning.

*A. Please recheck your email and spam folder and also check a message from the school. The schools have resent the message to families of where the email is going. If you have further problems, please contact the building Principal. Additionally, you can use the static link on the district website. Here is the link:
https://regionalschool6.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZJtmJTwGOAXbh3.*

Q. Any thoughts on getting water filling stations since water fountains are not recommended?

A. A few of our schools do have water filling stations. The district is looking into converting existing water fountains though, this is not an inexpensive project or something we can do as quickly as we would like.

Q. Is a "to go" lunch available for pick up at LHS for students engaged in distance learning?

A. Yes. Please contact David Fiorillo at dfiorillo@rsd6.org or dfiorillo@lpsct.org for food service questions.

Q. KUDOS to teaching staff navigating keeping students remote learning and in person engaged. It was great.

A. Spot on. Was observing a teacher going back and forth with remote learners, doing a great job, doing her best and keeping the students engaged.

Q. Where do students do the symptom checks? I don't think we've done that?

A. Please check your student's email for the self-assessment health check. Schools sent another email out one today. If you have the need you can use this static link: https://regionalschool6.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZJtmJTwGOAXbh3

Q. How about the mics for the teachers for the online learners? Any thoughts on having the teachers wear wireless mics - as it might be hard for the students online to hear the teachers roving in a large room who are also wearing a mask? We started our children in school in person - but are still in two minds on it so it would be great to see online learning working smoothly.

A. As of today all the facilities have better mics and document cameras. In the next few days, teachers will have tripods to better maneuver their cameras and get them a little bit closer so student should have better audio. If that is not the case, please send an email to cleone@rsd6.org.

Q. Is there any way for a parent to experience the remote learning and then decide if it is workable?

A. Unfortunately no due to student privacy issues. The closest example we may be able to offer parents is to set up a mock lesson but it will not be the same.

Q. Is there guidance somewhere that limits the ability we have for hot lunches? The lunch menu is all sandwiches and salads as opposed to the traditional burgers, etc.

A. The district has been serving 'grab and go' food while trying to phase in lunch in the cafeteria. Students will see a lot sandwiches and salads because food has to be prepackaged because of the COVID pandemic.

Q. Is it true Spanish is no longer offered at LIS? This is what my son tells me.

A. The district had posted the position and we were not able to find a candidate to fill it. Therefore, we are unable to offer Spanish at LIS.

Q. Charlie suggested tape in the center of hallways as kids like to "wiggle". Think he means kids aren't staying on the correct side

A. Yes, this is an ongoing process and we are working on it with our students. They are getting better at staying in the lanes and we will continue to work with the students.

Q. Staff has done amazing! Our girls (PreK & K) loved being at school. The masks were a non-event for them and they thought having their own desk was the best thing

A. Yes. The masks are a bigger event for adults than students. The students are rock stars and are wearing some really great masks.

Q. Do you need any certifications to be a sub?

A. You do not need certification to be a short-term sub. Building subs usually have a degree or are finalizing their degrees. There is a lot of flexibility on certification right now and certification is only required when you get past 30 days.

Q. Are there virtual classroom tours for us anxious parents maybe?

A. At this time no, but will research this topic more. One of the Principals held a meeting with their virtual students, walking them through the process of logging in and seeing what they may be nervous about. There is a possibility to build off this work.

Q. How are the bathrooms being sanitized? How often during the day?

A. Bathrooms are cleaned with water-downed bleach multiple times a day. The custodial and FMP staff has done a phenomenal job.

Q. Two of our kids were the only remote learners in their class today and the teachers put their faces on the SMART board. Will this continue going to be the procedure forward?

A. This should not be the case and may have been a technical glitch. Please reach out to the building Principal to make them aware, as this should not be the process and would like to correct this when moving forward.

Q. Thank you to the PTO Team too!!! It was really nice to meet on the first day with other parents!!

A. Yes, thanks to the PTOs in every school, White Memorial, Seherr-Thoss Foundation, and private donors. None of this would be possible without this community. The districts received more funding from local contribution than actual receipt of dollars from the state of Connecticut. This is what it means to be local, coming together and making it work.