

Opening of School 2021-22: District-based Planning

**District Task Force/
Board of Education Meeting
June 22, 2021**

District-Based Ideas and Frames

- **“Return to normal”- all kids in-person five days per week, running programs that we have traditionally run.**
- **Current NYS DOH guidance provides direction for planning.**
 - **Social distancing rules: three feet classroom; six feet eating and singing/ woodwind/brass/ aerobic**
 - **Masking: Masking required indoor school activities except when eating or mask breaks. Masking optional/ not required for outdoor school activities.**
- **NYS guidance could/ is likely to change. District plans will evolve/ change to reflect changes to the guidance that are likely to emerge. If the guidelines change, the District’s plans will change to reflect them.**
- **Not Recommending a “remote academy” unless required by NYSED. Students\ families with medical conditions may petition for a 504 plan.**

District-Based Ideas and Frames

- **Maintaining/ Returning to previous school opening closing times:**
 - High School: Start- 7:30; Dismissal 2:06
 - Elementary Start – 8:30; Dismissal 2:40
 - Middle School: Start 9:07; Dismissal 3:37
- **Transportation: Load busses to “normal” levels to maintain arrival/ dismissal times.**
 - To maximize efficient use of limited driver pool, we will survey families to determine how many are willing to commit driving their children to school.
 - In order overcome issues related to driver shortages, District will study impact of establishing walking zones around schools and potential small shifts in start/ stop times.
- **Some Practices utilized this year proved beneficial for safety and the student experience and will be continued.**

Feedback Process

- **Building Based Feedback from:**
 - **Building Leadership Team Meetings**
 - **Team Meetings**

- **Community Feedback**
 - **Elementary in a meeting held on June 9, 2021**
 - **Middle School in a meeting held on June 17, 2021**
 - **High School in a meeting held on June 17, 2021**

Funding Sources

- **District Budget**
- **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act- December 2020 (CRSSA)- \$3.2 million over three years.**
- **American Rescue Plan- February 2021 (ARP)- \$5.8 million over four years.**

Health and Safety Protocols

- **Per the Erie County Department of Health, all current Health and Safety Protocols remain in place until changed by NYS DOH**
 - Responding to symptomatic students and staff
 - Identifying isolation rooms for symptomatic individuals
 - Daily screening of students and staff
 - Close Contact Definition
 - Contact Tracing Protocols



**Opening of School 2021-22:
Elementary School Plans**

Opening Recommendations: Elementary

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return to normal programming:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-person attendance five days per week.• Support teachers (interventionists/ coaches/ return to normal roles.• Science Specialists resume elementary Science program.• Adhere to current NYS DOH guidance related to health and safety issues. Three feet and a mask in classrooms at all levels.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepared to move to no masks pending NYS DOH guidance.• Using single desks for each student- can be reconfigured to groups of varying sizes.• Targeted Class Sizes (but not hard caps):<ul style="list-style-type: none">• K-1 Under 15• 2-5 Under 20• Hiring eight additional staff to meet these targets (CRRSA/ ARP)

Opening Recommendations: Elementary

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current guidance requires six feet for singing and woodwind instruments. Elementary music continues in the cafeterias. Elementary choruses resume in the cafeteria after school.• Maintain current arrival and dismissal procedures<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Return to "normal" arrival and dismissal times.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School day begins at 8:30• Dismissal: 2:40• Parent pick-up system<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single entry points for each elementary building.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For example, K, 1, & 2 (Door #1)/3, 4, 5 (Door #2)/Drop-offs (Door #3)

Opening Recommendations: Elementary

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will eat in their classrooms. Students will be required to remain seated while eating.• Based on current guidance, possible options include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-20 minute lunch sessions (40 minutes/class);• split class for recess and lunch;• additional eating stations (overflow rooms).• If there are no social distancing requirements during meals: students would be given more flexibility in where and how they ate.• Final decisions will be made this summer closer to the opening of the school year (based on recommended guidelines). Additional staff will provide supervision for any necessary changes.

Opening Recommendations: Elementary

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="474 451 1785 625">• Expanded summer school intervention/remediation program. This program will feature intensive 90 minute sessions in small groups of 3-4. (CRRSA/ ARP)<li data-bbox="474 683 1955 917">• Additional Reading interventionist at each school to supplement the two in each building that already are in place. This will create a need for four additional K-6/ Reading certified teachers. (CRRSA/ ARP)<li data-bbox="474 976 1902 1149">• Three additional program aides will be assigned to literacy classrooms in grades K-1 in each building to provide small group instruction for every student/every day(CRRSA/ ARP)

Opening Recommendations: Elementary

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
After School Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After School Programming will resume as in 2019-20.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elementary choruses will meet after school.• Blue and Gold Band/ Orchestra Ensembles will meet after school at HS.• Clubs and activities will begin in the fall at each elementary school.



**Opening of School 2021-22:
Middle School Plans**

Opening Recommendations: Middle School

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students attend in-person five days per week. All programming returns to 2019-20 levels with no “hybrid” study halls. • Arrival and departure times return to 2019-20 settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival time 8:45-9:00. • First period begins at 9:07. • Student Dismissal at 3:37. • Adhere to current NYS DOH guidance related to health and safety issues. Three feet and a mask in classrooms at all levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared to move to no masks pending NYS DOH guidance. • Individual student desks will be purchases to provide individual seating and flexibility to meet any social distancing guidelines.
Instructional Model/ Continuity of Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will schedule team classes using cohorting without interfering in student programming/ choices- allowing school to continue if community transmission rates return to “high” levels. • All students attend encore/ off-team classes each day. • Chorus and Band classes remain in auditorium due to need for six feet of distancing when singing. Need to maintain study halls for hybrid style delivery of performing music. Performing music classes return to home classroom is guidance allows.
Meal Consumption	<p>Six feet of distancing in cafeteria settings. Will need to install additional desks in cafeteria foyer if guidance remains at six feet for eating. Return to tables if guidance allows.</p>

Opening Recommendations: Middle School

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Size Targets: 20-22 to establish four to 4 ft of distancing. (May go beyond 22 if necessary while maintaining at least three feet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most class sizes are 20 or under • Some Advanced/ Accelerated classes may exceed 22. • Some grade eight classes could be larger. • These are good targets regardless of COVID. If COVID measures are eliminated- they are quality targets
<p>Passing Time and Hallway Movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-directional traffic will be allowed again. No need for one way traffic.
<p>Instructional Model/ Continuity of Instruction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will attend school in person five days per week. • <i>On the very, very small chance of the transmission rate moving back over 100 cases per 100K population, the middle school's use of cohorting will allow the model employed at the end of this school year to be resumed- daily team classes/ hybrid special areas with study halls.</i> • <i>If some sort of extreme situation required a move to remote instruction, all students would be instructed five days per week.</i>

Opening Recommendations: Middle School

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Intervention/ Remediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded summer school intervention/remediation program.. (CRRSA/ ARP) • <u>Additional Reading Intervention Teacher</u> to provide added support. (CRRSA/ ARP) • Added Special Education support to provide stronger Sped student support across the building and in 15:1 class. • <u>Three Additional program aides</u> to provide support for working lunches and after school remediation program. (CRRSA/ ARP) • Stipends for building teachers to plan/ coordinate student after school programming and provide tutoring support every day after school in course/ grade remediation program. (CRRSA/ ARP)
Extracurricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school clubs and activities to resume in the fall at 2019-20 levels. • Modified sports to resume in the fall as per guidance of the NYSPHAA and Section VI.



**Opening of School 2021-22:
High School Plans**

Opening Recommendations: High School

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will attend school in person five days per week. Arrival and departure times return to 2019-20 settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival time 7:20-7:30. • First period begins at 7:30. • Student Dismissal at 2:06. • Class Size Targets: to establish four feet of distancing with masks. (May go beyond 22 if necessary while maintaining at least three feet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most class sizes are 20 or under • Some AP/ NUSTEP courses are at higher levels but will only drop lower. • Prepared to move to no masks pending NYS DOH guidance. • Additional student desks to be purchased.
Instructional Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will be schooled/ scheduled to interact with teachers five days per week. • <i>On the very, very small chance of the transmission rate moving back over 100 cases per 100K population, we will move to concurrent instruction. There appears to be very little chance of that occurring.</i> • <i>There is an infinitesimal chance of having to move to remote instruction. If so, all students would be instructed five days per week.</i>

Opening Recommendations: High School

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meal Consumption<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six feet of distancing when unmasked and eating in cafeteria settings.• Unless guidance changes, will need to install additional individual desks in senior lounge, cafeteria and athletic foyer.• May need to add desks to climbing gym as an ancillary lunch location to provide necessary distancing per current guidance.• If guidance on social distancing with meal consumption changes, plans can change.• Table use can return if guidance allows.• Chorus and Band classes remain in auditorium due to need for six feet of distancing when singing. Return to chorus room if guidance allow.
Passing Time and Hallway Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bi-directional traffic will be allowed again. No need for one way traffic.

Opening Recommendations: High School

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Intervention/ Remediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="474 451 1902 808">• .8 FTE in Math, Science, Social Studies and ELA hired to provide remediation- credit recovery/ quarter recover- during the school day in the ALC. (CRRSA/ ARP)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="575 634 1824 808">• Remediation teachers have flexed day to provide support after school for all students and athletes (study table)<li data-bbox="474 878 1915 992">• 1.0 Reading Teacher to assist in reading remediation and content area reading. (CRRSA/ ARP)<li data-bbox="474 1062 1934 1175">• <u>Three additional program aides</u> to assist teachers in providing remediation during and after school. (CRRSA/ ARP)

Opening Recommendations: Middle School

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Extracurricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After school clubs and activities to resume in the fall at 2019-20 levels.• Interscholastic sports to resume in the fall as per guidance of the NYSPHAA and Section VI.



**Opening of School 2021-22:
Social Emotional Support
Planning**

Opening Recommendations: Social/ Emotional Support

Area	Recommended Parameter
Anticipated School Community Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="407 727 2018 824">• Emotional needs of Remote Academy students returning to full- time in-person instruction.<li data-bbox="407 841 2018 1060">• Emotional needs of Remote Academy staff returning to full- time in-person instruction.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="512 963 2007 1060">• Anxiety, stamina. Re-connecting with colleagues, working in large group settings.<li data-bbox="407 1076 2018 1174">• Staff readiness to grapple with behaviors created by S/E issues and provide differentiated support

Social Emotional Needs: 2021-22 Action Steps

- **Distribute student, parent, staff survey to identify areas of potential needs and support.**

Stakeholder Survey: Parent Responses

- **392 Responses (49% High School, 32% Middle School, 19% Elementary)**
- **69% Not concerned about students returning to school full time in September**
- **Top Concerns**
 - **Academic gaps by students not attending school full time**
 - **Getting Student back on a routine /schedule**
 - **Student being able to reintegrate socially with peers**
 - **Safety issues: what will school do to keep students physically safe**

Stakeholder Survey: Student Responses

- Total responses 105 (only High School Students)
- How do they feel about returning to school full time in September?
 - 45% Okay
 - 43% Excited
 - 13% not great
- What are they looking forward to?
 - School activities
 - Seeing Friends
 - Having a Schedule
 - Being in class every day
- Greatest Concerns
 - Increase in school expectations (45%)
 - Being in school with more students (16%)
 - Returning to more structure and a schedule (15%)
 - Reconnecting with other students (9%)
- What can school do to support me?
 - Vast majority of students looking for ease in of academic expectations, giving a time for an adjustment back into routine and communication about expectations/general information

Stakeholder Survey: Teacher Responses

- **Total responses: 164 (44% Elementary, 31% High School, 26% Middle School)**
- **What do teachers see as their biggest challenge as they start the new year?**
 - **Academic Situation of my students**
 - **Supporting the emotional/mental health needs of my students**
 - **Personal health and safety concerns**
- **What do teachers see as the biggest challenge for students?**
 - **Academic Expectations**
 - **Adjustment to the routine and schedule of in person learning**
 - **Transition from hybrid/virtual learning to in in person learning**
 - **Emotional/mental health issues**

Social Emotional Needs: 2021-22 Action Steps

- **Distribute student, parent, staff survey to identify areas of potential needs and support.**
- **Create framework to clarify the Mental Health support roles:**
 - School Counselor, School Social Worker, School Psychologist, Family Support Center
- **Implement a district wide S/E assessment with all students**
- **Create easy mechanism for students and families to self-report need and request assistance.**
- **Establish training year-long training program for interested staff in Trauma Informed Care.**
- **Develop plan for training and curriculum development in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

Opening Recommendations: Social/ Emotional Support

Area	Recommended Parameter					
Resource Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to our current building, district and outside provider resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Elementary School Social Workers. Add an additional school psychologist to provide one per building. (CRRSA/ ARP) Additional staff to support students with special needs and English Language Learners. (CRRSA/ ARP) 					
School Mental Health Resources	Glendale	Heritage Heights	Maplemere	Willow Ridge	Middle School	High School
	School Counselor	School Counselor	School Counselor	School Counselor	3 School Counselors	4 School Counselor
	School Psychologist	Shared School Psychologist	School Psychologist	Shared School Psychologist	School Psychologist	School Psychologist
Shared Social Worker	Shared Social Worker	Shared Social Worker	Shared Social Worker	Social Worker	Crisis Counselor	

Opening Recommendations: Social/ Emotional Support

Parameter Area	Recommended Parameter
Staff Development/ Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="432 586 1787 699">• Three-year training program in trauma informed care. (CRRSA/ ARP)<li data-bbox="432 841 1982 954">• Multi-year training program and materials for diversity, equity and inclusion. (CRRSA/ ARP)

Federal Funding Summary

Elementary	Middle	High	District
4.0 Reading Interventionists	1.0 FTE Reading Teacher	1.0 FTE Reading Teacher	Individual Desks
8 K-6 teachers		.8 Math	HVAC Equipment
	Stipends for After School Programming	.8 Social	Intensive Early Literacy Training
		.8 ELA	Student tablets
		.8 Science	Classroom Libraries
4 X 3 Program Aides	3 Program Aides	3 Program Aides	ENL Teacher