

PARENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING REOPENING

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	
PARENT QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
CLASSROOMS/COHORTS	
What will be the class sizes for elementary classrooms and how much space will there be between children?	At this time, class sizes are very fluid due to the uncertainty of those students returning to school and those selecting remote learning. Survey results will facilitate class placements and reconfigurations once parent responses are finalized. We will have a clearer picture concerning class sizes in the upcoming weeks. Classroom cohorts are configured to achieve 6-ft distance when feasible. While many desk placements in classrooms are within 6 ft, desks are spaced apart and will have shields. Students will also be wearing masks as a core safety measure and will be with their cohort class throughout the day.
What are the rules and expectations for children moving around in a classroom?	Daily movement within classrooms will be determined and facilitated by the classroom teacher given the developmental ages of students and the academic and social emotional activities taking place during the day. All professionals recognize the importance for student movement throughout the day within their cohort group and within/outside the school building.
How many times will students be allowed to stretch, eat lunch/snack, have a mask break, use the bathroom, etc.?	Students will have scheduled breaks for masks, movement, snack, lunch, etc. Lunch and snack time will take place in classrooms. Students will be able to use bathrooms when scheduled or needed. Teachers will also be checking in with students and responding to their needs as far as mask breaks and the aforementioned classroom functions.
Will cohorts be geared towards children at the same academic level?	Students are in cohorts by class comprised of heterogeneous groupings.
How will our children be able to interact in developmentally appropriate ways if they aren't allowed to share or interact closely? (kindergarten students)	We will continue to promote positive, beneficial, pro-social interactions between students and provide social emotional

	instruction and support to the greatest extent while following acceptable safety and distancing protocols.
What options are being offered to allow families that heavily rely on each other for transportation and shared childcare to be sure their children end up in the same cohort or on the same schedule should we go to the hybrid learning model?	Consideration and support in this arena will be evaluated once enrollment is confirmed and hybrid model configuration is finalized. Given potential options for hybrid instruction that the district is considering, this may not present as an issue for parents and families.
Will there be plexiglass or other dividers in between desks or other objects in the classroom?	At the elementary level, each desk will have a desk shield. Tables and teachers desks will have plexiglass dividers.
Will kindergarten be full-day with typical start and end times?	Kindergarten will be a full-day. The school day begins at 8:40 am and ends at 3:25 pm.
TRANSPORTATION	
Currently, children are sent to the gym for parent pick up at the end of the day. What is the plan to keep children separated or in their cohorts during pickup?	Large spaces, such as the gym, will still be utilized for parent pick-up. Additional spaces will be used as well to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and to facilitate a safe, efficient pick-up.
Will there be staggered drop-off/pickup times if a lot of parents opt to provide transportation to and from school?	Finalized numbers will inform modified drop off and pick up procedures. While staggered drop off and pick up times are not being employed due to impact on the start and end of the school day for students and staff, current planning modifications look to address increased drop off and pick up numbers in an efficient manner. Should the current, modified models be unable to address increased numbers, alternative strategies will be considered
KEEPING STUDENTS HOME/REMOTE LEARNING	
How many hours per day of instruction will occur for K-5? What will the hours be each day?	Hours of instruction and hours required to complete remote instructional experiences and opportunities will be based on a combination of live, video-based, and virtual assignments.
Will each grade have a designated teacher to teach them online?	One teacher per district grade level will be assigned to provide remote learning experiences and opportunities. There may be scenarios where one teacher is providing remote learning to multiple grade levels depending on numbers.

Will Google Classroom be used? How will assignments be turned in?	Platforms utilized will depend on the grade level of the student (ex. SeeSaw or Google Classroom) Assignments may be turned in virtually within remote learning.
Will instruction be delivered live or via videos?	Remote learning may include a combination of live, video-based, and virtual assignments.
Will materials be provided for art and science projects?	It is the intention that remote learning experiences in art and science will consider access to resources and materials given distance and feasibility.
Can parents get lesson plans and materials needed sent each Friday for the week ahead?	This cannot be denied nor confirmed at this time given the uncertainty with remote learning numbers, staffing, and remote instructional program configuration.
MISCELLANEOUS	
How long will recess be for elementary students? If recess is shortened, will there be other opportunities for a break from work and masks?	Recess is 30 minutes for elementary students. There will be additional opportunities for work breaks and mask breaks.
How will recess be handled?	Students will be kept in their cohort classes at recess. Each school has developed separate, defined recess spaces that class cohorts will rotate through across a given week.
Will lunch and snacks happen in the classroom or cafeteria? How will this impact the food policy around food allergy awareness and safety?	Lunch and snack will occur in the classroom. As students will be eating in their own separate space in the classroom with shields, there will be no limitations on type of food for snack or lunch. If additional accommodations need to be made for students with allergies beyond the aforementioned individualized lunch and snack procedures (ex. alternate lunch space), these can be discussed and determined with school administration.
Will students with ADD have opportunities for movement?	Absolutely!
Will 504 plans be reviewed with parents prior to the start of school to adapt and adjust care plans within the new school plan guidelines?	It is the intention of the district to review relevant 504 plans in a timely fashion to address guidelines and adapt care plans as necessary and appropriate.
What will the differences be regarding the preschool program?	The current plan is to return full-session. The hours, structure of the program, and peer models will remain the same. Some changes that have been made to ensure safety include restructuring how students do centers to reduce the number of students in one area at a time, providing extra support in

	classrooms to help with social distancing and masks, giving each student his/her own materials, toys, and supplies, using plexiglass to section off the tables and removing rugs from the classrooms.
If schools are shut down, will the preschool program continue via online curriculum or will it effectively end?	Yes, it will continue.

MIDDLE SCHOOL	
PARENT QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Would students still be expected to rotate from classroom to classroom or will the teachers be rotating to allow the students to remain in their classrooms.	Students will rotate to classes; passing in hallways will be staggered by cohort; masks are mandatory; staff will supervise hallways, stairwells, and restrooms; floor markings will guide direction; narrow stairwells will be designated "staff only"; and the schedule will be fixed vs rotating to maximize routes, staff supervision, and relationship building/positive culture between and among students and staff.
Will there be any sort of orientation for incoming 6 th graders and their parents?	We are currently working on orientation programming. At this time, some of it will need to be held remotely, however we are working on a way to at least allow grade 6 students to physically experience their entrance after drop off and the route to their first period class on campus. The main goal of our orientation over the years has been the aforementioned (we are very confident that once the students arrive, staff completely take over to help - it's very much like kindergarten where we want to ensure students get to where they need to be) however, the idea of having them enter and find their first period is something that we hope to have a decision on within the next week or so.
Are students going to be cohorted into small groups? How will that impact students with an IEP who would typically spend time in a general ed and special ed setting?	Students will be in cohorts by team. McGee will be organized by teams 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B. Students with IEPs will still spend time in general education classes as written in their plans. The schedule will allow these students to remain in general education classes with their cohorts.

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Have you thought about an A/B model? A=Grades 9&10 attend on M/W or M/T and Grades 11 & 12 attend on T/TH or W/TH. Friday could be online for all students.	We have developed a few different hybrid models that would have 2 cohorts. It will likely be an alpha split so that each grade level class (ex. Grade 9 English) can be reduced in size. Splitting by grade level would not reduce the size in the majority of our core classes. We would work to keep families on the same schedule if they have students at multiple schools.
Has the district considered the breaks that all colleges have implemented (off from Thanksgiving to January) with online classes being conducted during this time?	We have not considered that model at this time.
BAND CAMP: When will we know if this is happening and if so under what altered conditions?	We are planning to hold Band Camp with some modifications. We are able to accommodate this because the program is outdoors. Mr. Sirois is sending information this week.
Will students who chose remote learning be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities at BHS?	Yes, provided they are virtually attending class and maintaining appropriate academic progress.
Would you be willing to have live meetings for high school students to get their opinions about the reopening?	We are planning to hold student forums in August. The meetings will be virtual.
How will the instrumental music program run?	Instrumental music programs will be moved to larger spaces as needed to permit the distancing recommended. Other appropriate safety precautions will be followed as well. Students attending remotely will still attend and participate in class through the livestream. If permitted, concerts and performances will occur in a modified fashion. If spectators are not permitted, we will livestream events.
Sports: Will there be school sports programs in the fall? While some sports like Cross-Country would likely be okay, I'm having a hard time imagining how contact sports like Wrestling and Football can possibly be deemed "safe". What would be the protocols if a student on an	We will be following the recommendations from the CIAC regarding athletics. They are currently presenting to the state for approval.

opposing team tests COVID positive? Perhaps it doesn't have to be an all or nothing decision - maybe some sports can move forward and others need to sit out the season?	
--	--

GENERAL	
PARENT QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
TRANSPORTATION	
How will bus transportation be monitored? How can we be assured students will be following guidelines for loading/unloading buses and adherence to mask wearing? Will there be school employees on the buses to ensure this?	Bus monitoring will take place by the bus driver. Students that are not adhering to safety guidelines, including the mandatory wearing of a mask, will be addressed by administration. Arrival and dismissal and protocols will be established and monitored by school personnel. School personnel will not be assigned to every bus but may ride a bus at any given time.
What are the plans to help with drop off & pick up traffic?	BHS - pick and drop will be the same, but students will enter and exit the building through multiple entrances.
Will more buses be in use to accommodate social distancing and cleaning between the high school, middle school and elementary runs?	Additional buses will not be used to accommodate social distancing. Cleaning of seats on the buses will take place between runs.
How are the buses being cleaned between trips?	School personnel and bus drivers will be wiping down all seats.
Is it possible to only have children of the same household sit together on the bus from day one?	All students will have assigned seats and children from the same home will be required to sit in the same seat daily.
How many children will be on a bus?	Maximum # Students: 55 (We expected much less as we know many parents have stated they intend to drive their children to school.)
SYMPTOMS/POSITIVE TESTS/QUARANTINE	
Please clarify what it means to be "visually observed" for symptoms of Covid. How can one be visually observed if a	Staff members will report students that exhibit cold-like symptoms to the nurse for further evaluation. The nurse will contact parents to

variety of illnesses or medical conditions present the same symptoms?	inform them of the current observed symptoms and make recommendations for monitoring.
What symptoms are required for a student or staff member to have to stay home? Will students be required to stay home for cold or allergy symptoms as a precaution (no fever)? Will every student with a fever be assumed to have Covid?	Parents will determine if a student's symptoms warrant staying home. If a student has a temperature he or she will need to be taken to the isolation room and monitored by the nurse or nursing assistant until a parent or guardian is available to take them home.
If a student or teacher test positive for Covid, will the cohort and teachers who have come in contact with this individual be notified? how quickly? and will all individuals of the cohort and their families have to quarantine for 14 days?	If a teacher or student tests positive, individuals that may have been in contact will be notified. The message will be provided in a timely manner that we expect to be less than 24 hours. We will seek direction from the Central Connecticut Health District regarding requiring individual quarantining for 14 days.
If a student or class needs to quarantine, would they immediately be enrolled in virtual classes? Would the instruction be the same as what is done in the classroom or would it be packets of information?	The instruction would depend on the grade level. Students in grade 6 through 12 would be utilizing a camera system that would allow the quarantined student to attend class virtually. At the elementary level, students would have the option of working with the teacher providing the virtual instruction or receiving assignments from the classroom teacher. Instruction may vary between remote and live, but curriculum will remain consistent between both models.
How will substitute teachers be handled?	Full plan to be determined. Substitutes will have appropriate safety training, PPE and be monitored for symptoms similar to staff.
Will a negative Covid test be required to return to school for any illness?	Negative Covid tests will not be required for students or staff to begin school.
The reopening document was specific to reporting and quarantining if a student or family member contracts COVID, but I don't think it mentioned any guidelines for "known or suspected exposures" (unless I missed it)? Is this something that can be addressed?	Guidelines for suspected exposure will be to remain at home and to have a Covid test should the symptoms persist.
What is the plan for the time period between a suspected case of COVID-19 and a confirmed positive? Is the potential positive case sent home (even if asymptomatic)? Are cohorts parents notified and additional cleaning measures instituted?	Staff and students that present symptoms should remain home until the symptoms are no longer present or a Covid test is taken and the result is negative. Cohorts are only notified if a positive case is determined.
What is the plan once flu season hits, as there are symptoms that overlap with COVID-19? Will parents get	We intend to address flu season with the same protocol, and parents will only receive notice for confirmed not suspected cases. The

notification that someone in their child's class or school is "potentially" infected with COVID-19? Will the school shut down every time there's a suspected case until it is determined negative and instead the flu?	metrics used to determine the closing of a school, team or classroom have yet to be shared.
MASKS/PPE	
What is a mask break? How many mask breaks will be offered to students per hour? What are the risks of exposure during them?	Appropriate areas will be designated for students to take a mask break if needed. Masks break will be provided upon request of a student.
What is the procedure for a student who may develop difficulty breathing due to the mask or because of a medical condition such as asthma?	Students that have a medical condition that prohibits the use of the mask will be given an alternative option to cover the mouth and nose.
Will students be required to wear masks? Is there a medical waiver for parents to sign for non-mask use for medical reasons?	Yes - students will be required to wear a mask. Parents will need to provide written documentation from a physician.
Face coverings can severely reduce oxygen and carbon dioxide input and output. Have the face coverings been approved and medically tested by professional and certified PPE experts?	We will be distributing 2 cloth face masks for use by students and staff. Students and staff are welcome to wear their own mask provided it meets set criteria. Criteria for acceptable masks: no valve systems, must cover nose and mouth, has to fit snugly around face and must be clean.
Has the ventilation system at the schools been altered to offer more support for deprivation of oxygen and carbon dioxide that can occur from wearing a mask?	Yes. The ventilation system has been adjusted to the greatest level possible in an effort meet the criteria and specifications.
If a student is not able to wear the mask provided by the district for medical reasons, will suitable and accommodating PPE be provided by the district to allow for adherence to the requirement?	Students may wear their own appropriate masks if desired. They are not required to wear the school issued ones.
How are the masks and their cleanliness regulated if parents are responsible for sending children to school already wearing them? When you say two masks per student are available, do they change their masks upon arrival to one provided by the school or is that a backup measure?	Two masks are being provided - one to wear for the day and one to wash when it needs washing.

What actions will be taken for students and/or teachers not following the proper mask and social distancing rules? Will there be known consequences for both accidental breaches as well as intentional ones?	Appropriate actions will be taken by administration for those not complying with safety expectations. Consequences are confidential.
What kind of PPE can we expect teachers and others to be wearing <u>other</u> than masks?	Teachers will have masks, and if desired a face shield and desk shield.
For students with a medical exemption to wearing masks, will they be isolated in a different grouping from those who wear masks?	Students that have a medical exemption will be provided with a face shield which will include attached cloth below. Students with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask, face shield and social distancing of six feet will receive his or her education in an alternative setting.
More information on the masks being provided to students would be appreciated - e.g., when will they be receiving them, where were they purchased from, maybe a link to the exact masks so parents can assess their comfort level on their effectiveness?	The masks will be distributed to students prior to the first day of school which will allow parents and students to assess comfort and fit.
KEEPING STUDENTS HOME/REMOTE LEARNING	
Are there steps to be taken to keep a child home and use remote learning?	If a parent elects to have their child or children to receive remote instruction at home please complete the Family Return to School Survey in order to let us know. Additional information will be distributed at the same time that class and team placements will take place. We are anticipating this to be late August.
What is the plan for school to start (date) and what metrics will drive a green, yellow or red phase?	School will begin on Monday, August 31st. The state is expected to release metrics by the end of July.
If I send my child to school in the fall, is it possible at a later date to opt out and do distance learning? Will there be a reassessment period – maybe one week after school starts - where parents can switch what their child is doing (remote or in-person) once they see how things progress?	Parents are able to switch to and from remote learning at any given time.
Are blended weeks possible (part distance learning and part in-person)?	The current hybrid plan does provide a combination of live instruction each week.
Will Chromebooks be distributed at the beginning of the school year in case of unexpected closure?	BHS - students in grades 10-12 will use their current chromebooks. All grade 9 and new students will be issued their chromebooks during orientation.

Will in-person classes be live-streamed for children who are distance learning so they may participate in the same lessons in real time?	For grades 6-12, yes.
What is the downside to just continuing our distance learning until the threat has lessened?	At the request of the Governor and Commissioner of Education we have been asked to provide 3 plans for the return to school. Distance learning is an option regardless of the plan that is implemented as parents can select remote learning for their children at any time.
If there are multiple children in the home, is there an option to keep one home and not the other?	Yes. The option of sending children to school for live instruction or accessing remote learning is made solely by the parent.
MISCELLANEOUS	
Will teachers, staff and volunteers be tested prior to school opening and periodically?	No. At this time we are not testing staff, teachers and volunteers unless they exhibit symptoms.
Can children have their temperature taken when entering the bus or school using a non-contact thermometer like summer camps have been doing?	At this point we are not requiring temperature checks for staff or students. We will continue to discuss the possibility of making this a requirement.
If temperature checks are performed before students enter the school, will additional nurses be hired to assist in this process?	If we decide to do temperature checks they will most likely not be provided by additional nursing staff.
If our nurse comes in contact with someone who has been exposed, how will that be addressed if we do not have another nurse on staff?	We will have at least one nurse and a nursing assistant at all schools this year.
Will the school day begin earlier to accommodate the time it will take to check each child's temperature?	The school day start and end time will remain consistent with previous years
Security measures have included keeping classroom doors closed. The re-opening plan seems to rescind that decision to avoid multiple touch points on doors. Are there concerns that germ protection measures are outweighing security measures?	At this time we have checked with our Security Director who is comfortable with classroom doors being open given the fact that no visitors will be allowed to enter the building, all outside doors are secure, additional security staff have been hired and the number cameras at each school has increased at all 5 schools.
Less stops at lockers means more in backpacks – how are those being checked for weapons or substances?	BHS - very few students currently use their lockers, so we will permit students to use their lockers as they have in the past.
Are there going to be any specials (art, music)?	BHS - all elective courses that we had scheduled to run will run.

Is Berlin planning to reopen with fully in-person teaching five days a week?	We will make this determination in the next few weeks based on the advice and guidance of the Governor, Commissioner of Education and Central CT Health District.
What is the district's plan for announcements over the speaker system specifically regarding Covid danger and social distancing?	Periodic announcements, signage throughout the building and classroom reminders and reviews will be used.
Can students bring their own food/snacks? If school-provided, what kind of food will be supplied?	Students are able to bring their own snacks. The school will have breakfast and lunch options available for purchase daily. All food will be served in a covered container.
Where will students eat? If in the classroom, how are they being sanitized after students eat?	Elementary - Classrooms McGee - Combination of cafeteria, gym, outside picnic area and classrooms. BHS - students will eat in the cafe, the B gym and outside. We are adding an additional lunchwave and using more spaces to reduce the number of students eating in one place.
How could the CEA paper effect the plan Berlin has outlined?	We do not expect the CEA paper to affect the Berlin plan as we have been working with the BEA to provide a safe learning environment while optimizing the learning environment.
My children won't have updated health assessments for the start of school. Will this be an issue?	Health Assessments need to be updated within the past year from the first day of school. If your child's current physical meets the criteria above it is acceptable.
Do you have preliminary data, by school, which indicates how many students will be opting out?	We are currently compiling data from the most recent survey and should begin class placements in a few weeks.
Why is going back to school in a building a safe plan, even if for a couple of days or hours per week?	Under the direction of Governor Lamont all CT public school districts are being asked to open schools and to also allow parents an option of selecting remote learning..
Where will the containment room be for a child who shows symptoms and is waiting for a parent pickup? Will there be a side door for that?	Various rooms have been designated as quarantine rooms at each building and protocols will be established for exit when outside doors are not available.
Have filters been changed to the MERV13 filters, which are known to help?	Filters have been changed, but not to MERV13 filters.
If an in-person student were to participate in the classroom from home while sick, would it still be considered an absence?	This would not be considered an absence.

