



Reopening Plan 2021- 2022: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 7, 2022

General Health and Safety Protocols

Is there a mask mandate?

- As per Governor Murphy’s announcement on February 7, 2022, the Fort Lee School District will make the wearing of masks in schools optional for all students, staff, outside providers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status **starting on March 7, 2022**. Any student, staff member, outside provider, or visitor may continue to wear a mask if they choose.
- On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC lifted their federal order requiring masks on school buses. As per Governor Murphy’s announcement made on Monday, February 28, 2022, the Fort Lee School District will make the wearing of masks optional on its school buses (owned and contracted) for all students, staff, outside providers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status **starting on March 7, 2022**. Any student, staff member, outside provider, or visitor may continue to wear a mask on the district’s school buses (owned and contracted) if they choose.
- Each school will have masks available for students, staff members and outside providers if needed.
- The “gaiter”, bandana type, and masks with ventilators are not acceptable types of face coverings and should not be worn to school.

Is there a vaccine mandate for students?

- There is no requirement for vaccination by either the State of New Jersey or the Fort Lee Public Schools for students. However, there are different quarantine requirements depending on vaccination status. Please scroll down for detailed information about isolation and quarantine protocols.

Is there a vaccine mandate for staff?

- As per Executive Order 253, signed by Governor Murphy on August 23, 2021, all public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (“covered settings”), must maintain a policy that requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof to the covered setting that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times weekly. This requirement shall take effect on October 18, 2021, at which time any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof that they are fully vaccinated must submit to a minimum of weekly or twice weekly testing on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.
- Proof of vaccination will be collected by school nurses, or specified designee, and submitted to the Human Resources Department for recording and filing. Proof of vaccination will be stored with all other medical records in a locked confidential filing cabinet in the Human Resources Department, separate from personnel files. Staff that are not fully vaccinated will be required to submit their weekly

test results beginning the week of October 18, 2021. Test results must be submitted to school nurses once a week, on Tuesdays, beginning October 19, 2021. If the school nurse is absent, results must be submitted to the Director of Human Resources. Staff members not assigned to school buildings must submit their test results to the Director of Human Resources or specified designee. Each week, all staff members that are not vaccinated need to be tested sometime between the previous Tuesday and the coming Monday. The district is providing on-site testing, at no cost to the employee or district, through the New Jersey Department of Health. Staff members also have the option to get tested by a provider of their choice. Testing will occur outside of professional district responsibilities.

- There are different quarantine requirements depending on vaccination status. Please scroll down for detailed information about quarantine requirements.

Where can I go to get vaccinated or tested for COVID?

- The district is now offering free COVID testing for Fort Lee's students and staff at multiple school locations. More detailed information regarding COVID-19 testing will be provided periodically, as needed. For questions pertaining to COVID-19 testing in our schools, please email covidtesting@flboe.com.
- There are multiple locations in our communities providing access to COVID tests and vaccines such as CVS, Walgreens, ACME Pharmacy, Royal Pharmacy, and STAR Pharmacy. Click this link for additional vaccination and testing sites in Fort Lee and neighboring communities:
[Fort Lee Health Department COVID Testing and Vaccination Locations](#)
- Visit [COVID19.nj.gov](https://www.covid19.nj.gov) to find additional testing sites based on your zip code and the types of tests each site offers.

What social distancing protocols will be implemented in schools?

- To the extent possible, a physical distance of 3 feet will be maintained between students.
- Signage and markers will be used to promote social distancing in the halls, stairwells and cafeterias.

What should I do if my child wakes up feeling ill?

- Students who are not feeling well should stay home.
- School nurses and Healthcare Assistants may contact parents of students who are ill and request that they pick their child(ren) up from school as soon as possible.

Will parents be required to complete and submit a daily COVID symptom screener?

- No. Parents will not be required to complete a daily COVID symptom screener form. However, parents should monitor their child's health daily and keep their child home if their child is sick.

What happens if a student, staff member, or outside provider has COVID compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID?

- All quarantine protocols for students, staff members, and outside providers who have COVID compatible symptoms, or test positive for COVID are outlined in the chart below.
- All quarantine protocols for close-contacts of students, staff members, and outside providers who have COVID compatible symptoms, or test positive for COVID are outlined in the chart below.

- In order to determine if a student or staff member is symptomatic, they must be experiencing:
 - **TWO** of these COVID compatible symptoms: fever of 100 or greater, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose
- OR**
- **ONE** of these COVID compatible symptoms (difficulty breathing, loss of taste, loss of smell, cough, shortness of breath)
 - A “close-contact” refers to an individual who is within 6 feet of a COVID symptomatic or positive person for more than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period 48 hours prior to the case’s symptom onset or positive test date if there are no symptoms present. However, as per *The Road Forward*, in the K-12 **indoor classroom setting**, the close-contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. The exclusion does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

For determining the timing of close-contact to a positive COVID-19 case:

- Individuals would only be considered exposed if they had close contact during the case’s isolation period (Days 1-5)
- Individuals would not be considered exposed during the case’s additional precaution period (Days 6-10)

What if a student or staff member has received both doses of a two dose vaccine or one dose of a single dose vaccine, but not the booster shot?

- Individuals who have received their primary series of vaccines (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna **OR** one dose of Johnson and Johnson) **AND** booster shot are considered “up to date” with their COVID-19 vaccines. Individuals who are not yet eligible for their booster shot will be considered up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines until they are eligible. An “up to date” status applies only to quarantine protocols for individuals who have COVID-like symptoms, tested positive for, or who have been exposed to COVID-19.

Individuals are considered up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines based on the following criteria set by the NJDOH and CDC:

11 years of age or younger:

- 14 days after receiving both doses of a two-dose vaccine

12 years or older:

- 14 days after receiving both doses of a two-dose vaccine **AND** recommended booster shot, if eligible **OR**
- 14 days after receiving a one-dose vaccine **AND** recommended booster shot, if eligible

To allow time for students to catch up with the latest recommendations and to minimize disruption to in-person learning, the Fort Lee School District will wait until **February 1, 2022** to implement quarantine protocols for student ages 12-17 years who have completed their two-dose vaccination series

but have not yet received all eligible boosters.

Note: The criteria outlined above are ONLY applicable when determining quarantine protocols for COVID exposure or illness. At this time, they do not apply to travel quarantines or Executive Order 253 which identifies requirements for school employee vaccinations.

- Refer to the chart below to determine the appropriate quarantine protocols students, staff members, and outside providers must follow depending on the individual’s up to date status. There may be unique scenarios that are not addressed in the chart below. In those cases, the district will consult with the local health department to determine the most appropriate response, which may require additional health measures to be taken.

<p>If a student, staff member, or outside provider:</p>	<p><u>Not Up-to-Date with COVID-19 Vaccines</u></p>	<p><u>Up-to-Date with COVID-19 Vaccines</u></p> <p>11 years of age or younger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 14 days after receiving both doses of a two-dose vaccine <p>12 years or older:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 14 days after receiving both doses of a two-dose vaccine AND recommended booster shot, if eligible OR ● 14 days after receiving a one-dose vaccine AND recommended booster shot, if eligible
<p>Exhibits COVID-like symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of symptoms ● Quarantine for 5 full days after symptom onset ● <u>Strongly recommended</u> to get tested after symptom onset <u>with a laboratory confirmed</u> COVID-19 viral test (PCR or rapid) ● If test result is negative, it is recommended to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See a healthcare provider for an alternative diagnosis ○ Symptomatic individuals who are close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case, should be tested with a <u>PCR test that provides laboratory confirmed results</u> ● Home-based tests are not recommended ● Individuals must have improvement of symptoms that includes no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications to return on Day 6 of symptom onset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of symptoms ● Quarantine for 5 full days after symptom onset ● <u>Strongly recommended</u> to get tested after symptom onset <u>with a laboratory confirmed</u> COVID-19 viral test (PCR or rapid) ● If test result is negative, it is recommended to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See a healthcare provider for an alternative diagnosis ○ Symptomatic individuals who are close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case, should be tested with a PCR test that provides laboratory confirmed results. ● Home based tests are not recommended ● Individuals must have improvement of symptoms that includes no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications to return on Day 6 of symptom onset

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative test results and alternative diagnosis may be submitted to the school nurse or direct supervisor It is strongly recommended to mask on Days 6-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative test results and alternative diagnosis may be submitted to the school nurse or direct supervisor It is strongly recommended to mask on Days 6-10
Tests positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of the test result Isolate for 5 full days from symptom onset or the date of the positive test if no symptoms are present Individuals must have improvement of symptoms that includes no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications to return on Day 6 of symptom onset or date of positive test On Days 6-10, it is strongly recommended to continue masking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of the test result Isolate for 5 full days from symptom onset or the date of the positive test if no symptoms are present Individuals must have improvement of symptoms that includes no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications to return on Day 6 of symptom onset or date of positive test On Days 6-10, it is strongly recommended to continue masking
Is an asymptomatic close-contact of someone who tests positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify school nurse or direct supervisor immediately Quarantine for 5 full days after last known exposure Recommended to get tested at least 5 days after last known exposure <u>with a laboratory confirmed</u> COVID-19 viral test (PCR or rapid) unless close-contact has confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days and has subsequently recovered Return on Day 6 if close-contact remains asymptomatic or tests negative Negative test results may be submitted to the school nurse or direct supervisor It is strongly recommended to mask for a full 10 days On Days 6-10, it is strongly recommended to monitor for symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine not required as long as the individual remains asymptomatic Recommended to get tested at least 5 days after last known exposure <u>with a laboratory confirmed</u> COVID-19 viral test (PCR or rapid) unless close-contact has confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days and has subsequently recovered Monitor for symptoms for 10 full days after exposure Follow isolation protocols for vaccinated individuals if COVID compatible symptoms develop or test is positive
Is a close-contact of a household member who tests positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify school nurse or direct supervisor immediately 10 day quarantine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the household member with COVID-19 <u>remains isolated from the individual and masked through Day 10</u>, the individual may return to school/work on Day 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine not required as long as the individual remains asymptomatic Recommended to see a healthcare provider and get tested within days 5-17 of exposure. Monitor for symptoms for 10 days after exposure Follow isolation protocols for vaccinated individuals if COVID compatible

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommended to get tested with a <u>laboratory confirmed PCR or rapid test</u> between days 5-17 after the last exposure ○ It is strongly recommended to continue masking on Days 11-20 from last exposure ○ Monitor for symptoms for 20 days following last exposure ○ Follow isolation protocols if COVID-like symptoms develop or if test result is positive. ● 15 day quarantine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the household member with COVID-19 <u>CANNOT remain isolated from the individual and masked through Day 10</u>, the individual will need to quarantine through the ill individual's 10-day isolation period plus 5 additional days after the last exposure date ○ Recommended to get tested with a <u>laboratory confirmed PCR or rapid test</u> between days 5-17 after the last exposure date ○ Monitor for symptoms for up to 20 days following last exposure ○ Follow isolation protocols if COVID-like symptoms develop or if test result is positive ● Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 with a laboratory confirmed PCR or rapid viral test within the previous 90 days and have subsequently recovered and remain asymptomatic do NOT need to quarantine. These individuals should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is strongly recommended to mask for 5 days after exposure ○ Monitor for symptoms ○ Follow isolation protocols if COVID-like symptoms develop ○ Individuals will be asked to provide documentation of the positive test result. ○ Home-based test results that are <u>not laboratory confirmed</u> will not be accepted. 	<p>symptoms develop or test is positive</p>
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Is a close-contact of a household member exhibiting COVID compatible symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine for 5 days OR until symptomatic household member receives a <u>laboratory confirmed (PCR or rapid) negative test result. Home-based tests will not be accepted.</u> If the symptomatic household member tests positive or does not test, follow the quarantine time frame above for household close contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required as long as the individual remains asymptomatic Monitor for symptoms for 10 days following the last exposure date Follow procedures for vaccinated individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID if symptoms develop
Is exposed within 90 days of recovery from COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required as long as individual remains asymptomatic A laboratory confirmed viral PCR or rapid test will need to be submitted to the school nurse or direct supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required as long as individual remains asymptomatic
Is a secondary contact of someone who tested positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required Monitor and report any symptoms that develop to the school nurse or direct supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required Monitor and report any symptoms that develop to the school nurse or direct supervisor
Is a close-contact of someone who is symptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is required if the close-contact is a sibling or household member of the symptomatic individual AND until the symptomatic individual receives a negative COVID test result Monitor and report any symptoms that develop to the school nurse or direct supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required Monitor and report any symptoms that develop to the school nurse or direct supervisor

Will the district conduct any contact tracing?

- The building principal and the school nurse must be notified as soon as possible if a student, staff member, or outside provider tests positive for COVID, was exposed to someone who tests positive, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID.
- The school nurse will conduct the contact tracing and notify all close-contacts of confirmed positive COVID cases in the school building.
- A “close-contact” refers to an individual who is within 6 feet of a COVID symptomatic or positive person for more than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period 48 hours prior to the case’s symptom onset or positive test date if there are no symptoms present. However, as per *The Road Forward*, in the K-12 **indoor classroom setting**, the close-contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. The exclusion does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

For determining the timing of close-contact to a positive COVID-19 case:

- Individuals would only be considered exposed if they had close contact during the case's isolation period (Days 1-5)
- Individuals would not be considered exposed during the case's additional precaution period (Days 6-10)
- Upon receipt of notification of a positive test result of a student, staff member, or outside provider, the school nurse and/or principal will contact the Fort Lee Health Department.

What happens if a student, staff member, or outside provider begins to experience COVID compatible symptoms during the school day?

- As recommended in *The Road Forward*, students, staff members, and outside providers who experience symptoms related to COVID during the school day will be safely and respectfully isolated from others in a separate location from the nurse's office and monitored by a Healthcare Assistant.
 - There will be an air purifier in each isolation area in every school building.
 - In order to determine if a student, staff member, or outside provider is symptomatic, they must be experiencing:
 - **TWO** of these COVID-compatible symptoms: fever of 100 or over, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose
- OR**
- **ONE** of these COVID-compatible symptoms (difficulty breathing, loss of taste, loss of smell, cough, shortness of breath)

How will the district respond if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in its schools?

- Schools must report single COVID-19 positive cases to their local health department. Local health departments will work with our schools to determine if there is a COVID-19 outbreak.
- During an outbreak, the district may reinstate the wearing of masks and/or consider a temporary transition of affected cohorts to remote learning if a high number of cases is preventing timely contact tracing and exclusion and a short-term transition to remote learning is needed to allow for such actions to occur.
- Decisions to reinstate additional health measures and transition cohorts to remote learning will be made in consultation with the local health department based on individual circumstances.

How will non-COVID related medical issues be handled?

- The school nurse will support students with non-COVID related medical needs as in any other school year.
- As a rule, we will not use the school nurse's office for COVID related occurrences.

Will there be any facility enhancements to support the health and safety of the students and staff?

- Touchless faucets will be installed in all bathrooms by the end of August.
- Automatic flushometers will be installed in all toilets and urinals by the end of August.
- Public health signage (i.e. importance of hand-washing, social distancing markers) will be used to promote proper hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing.

- Schools will also be equipped with touchless hand sanitizer dispensers.
- All ventilation units will be equipped with ionization units to further purify incoming air by the end of August.

Will school buses be cleaned and sanitized?

- Yes. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Before the start of the school year, bus drivers will be trained on how to spray/wipe down areas with disinfectant once students exit the bus.
- Bus drivers will be supplied with hand sanitizer as well as peroxide wipes, botanical disinfectant, and paper towels to clean in between bus routes.
- Windows will be open during bus routes to provide ventilation, weather permitting

In addition to cleaning, what types of health and safety protocols will be implemented on buses?

- On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC lifted their federal order requiring masks on school buses. As per Governor Murphy’s announcement made on Monday, February 28, 2022, the Fort Lee School District will make the wearing of masks optional on its school buses (owned and contracted) for all students, staff, outside providers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status **starting on March 7, 2022**. Any student, staff member, outside provider, or visitor may continue to wear a mask on the district’s school buses (owned and contracted) if they choose.
- Eating and drinking will not be permitted on buses.
- Windows will be open during bus routes to provide ventilation, weather permitting.
- Siblings will be seated together on buses where possible.
- Students will be assigned seats on buses.

What are the quarantine protocols for travel?

- The following quarantine protocols after travel are in place:
 - Domestic Travel:

NOTE: As per the New Jersey Department of Health, domestic travel is defined as travel lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than contiguous states (i.e., Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware).

Unvaccinated	Vaccinated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine is not required. ● It is recommended to get tested with a viral test (PCR or rapid) 3-5 days after travel. Home-based tests may be used for screening after travel. → If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected. ● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine is not required. ● Self-monitor for COVID-like symptoms. ● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols.

○ International Travel:

Unvaccinated	Vaccinated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine for a full three days ● Get tested with a viral test (PCR or rapid) 3-5 days after travel. Home-based tests may be used for screening after travel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → If your test is negative, you are able to go back to school after submitting negative test results and travel documentations. → If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected. → If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel. ● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols. ● Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 with a <u>laboratory confirmed</u> positive rapid or PCR viral test within the previous 90 days and have subsequently recovered and remain asymptomatic do NOT need to quarantine. Individuals will be asked to provide documentation of the positive test result. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get tested with a viral test (PCR or rapid) 3-5 days after travel. Home-based tests may be used for screening after travel. ● If your test is negative, self-monitor for COVID symptoms. ● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols. ● If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected. ● Vaccinated individuals do not need to await test results to return to school or work.

School Operations and Procedures

What will morning entry procedures look like?

- There will be no special entry procedures for students and staff.
- Individuals are not required to complete a temperature check when entering the school buildings. It is strongly recommended that individuals stay home if they are feeling ill.
- Entrance procedures for specific buildings will be communicated by the building principals.

Will visitors be permitted to enter the school buildings?

- Yes. All visitors must access the buildings through the main entrances during school hours and must be prepared to present identification.
- If a parent is dropping off items for their child, a security officer will direct them to an appropriate location where the items can be retrieved.

How will we accommodate students in the classrooms and use other spaces to provide the recommended distance between them?

- To the best extent possible, the recommended social distance of 3 feet will be implemented.
- Signs and markers will be placed throughout the school buildings reminding staff and students to maintain social distancing and follow the designated traffic patterns.

How will we manage lunch?

- Lunch will be administered in building cafeterias. Additional indoor spaces may be utilized to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria, if possible.
- Lunch will be served in individually wrapped containers.
- Certified staff members will be assigned to locations to supervise students during lunch.
- Additional substitutes will be hired to supplement regular staff and provide adequate coverage.
- For grades K-6, lunch will be separated into sessions; one for eating, and one for recess.
- Areas will be cleaned prior to a new group of students entering the eating area.

What is the process for cleaning and sanitizing areas?

- All spaces will be cleaned daily by the custodial department using the following process:
 - Remove all visible soil from all surfaces with attention to high touch areas like desktops and chairs
 - Thoroughly disinfect all hard surfaces in the room using a disinfectant approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Provide time for the disinfectant to air dry to maximize its effectiveness
 - Mop the area using a microfiber pad and cleaner
 - Re-sanitize the area using our electrostatic spray applicators and botanical disinfectant

Instruction and Program

What schedule will students follow?

- Students will return to school for their regular full-day, full-time, in-person instructional program in September, with all traditional bell schedules, programs and extracurricular activities in place, provided that regulations do not prevent us from doing so.
- All students at the intermediate, middle and high schools will receive their schedules prior to September 9th. If there are any questions regarding a student's schedule, please contact your child's guidance counselor or building principal.

Will there be an option to choose remote instruction for students?

- As per NJDOE guidance issued on August 11, 2021, "where an individual student, group of students, or entire class(es) are excluded from school due to meeting the NJDOH's COVID exclusion criteria, LEA's (Local Education Agency) are strongly encouraged to immediately provide virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction." Therefore:
 - There will not be an option to select remote instruction this school year.
 - Remote instruction will ONLY be made available to students who are required to quarantine due to COVID exposure whether it be as a result of a positive test, or a close-contact situation.
 - Remote instruction will commence after an individual positive COVID test result is provided to the school nurse, or consultation with the school nurse determines that a student is a close-contact of an individual who tested positive for COVID.

- Remote instruction will be accessible via a unique link that will be provided to students. Each school building will establish their individual protocol for communicating with parents and students about remote instruction.
- Depending on their assignment, staff may be able to work remotely if they are required to quarantine due to COVID exposure.

What will classroom instruction look like?

- Regular interactions that take place in a classroom (i.e. small group instruction, collaborative group work, laboratory activities) will take place during the school day.
- Teachers will continue to post assignments, notices, and classroom materials on Google Classroom or Seesaw (Grades K-2 only).
- For students attending school remotely, instruction will be provided through a live-stream of lessons and activities.

How will the district address the learning needs of students?

- We will assess student learning and teachers will identify areas of focus, and plan instruction accordingly.
- District benchmark assessments in English language arts and math will be administered to students in grades K-12 at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.
- The New Jersey Department of Education is requiring all NJ public school districts to administer the Start Strong Assessment at the beginning of the school year to students in grades 4-12 in the various content areas and grade levels:
 - English Language Arts: Grades 4-10,
 - Mathematics: Grades 4-8, Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II
 - Science: Grades 6, 9, and 12
- The district will use the data from its benchmark assessments and the Start Strong Assessment to identify areas of focus with regards to curriculum and instruction and determine supports students may need.
- Teachers will be able to provide support in the classroom setting through differentiated instruction. Differentiation can occur in a variety of formats such as small group instruction and one-to-one instruction during lessons to meet the needs of individual students. Teachers can also use online resources to differentiate instruction for students.
- All of the instructional support programs that are offered to students every school year will remain in-place. These support programs may include, but are not limited to Gifted and Talented, Basic Skills, Title I, Smart Readers and any program or service made available to our English Language Learners and students with special needs.
- The district will also offer instructional support programs either before or after school for identified students. More information will be shared in regard to these program offerings.

How will we meet accommodations for students with special needs?

- All programs and related services will remain as they are written in the Individualized Education Plan and 504 Plan.

- Students who are assigned a paraprofessional throughout the day will continue to receive this support.
- If a student who has a current 504 plan is having difficulty, please contact the student's guidance counselor AND the office of the building principal.
- If a student with an IEP is having difficulty, please contact the student's case manager and the office of the Director of Special Services.

Will students use personal lockers to store their belongings?

- Personal lockers will be assigned to students in grades 5-12. Time spent at lockers will be minimized to avoid hallway gatherings.

Will students use locker rooms to change for Health and Physical Education?

- Yes, locker rooms will be available so that students may change for PE.

Extra-Curricular Activities, Field Trips and Assemblies

When will co-curricular activities be available to students?

- Yes. The beginning of individual programs depends on the specific activity and the grade level(s) of students involved.

Will field trips be permitted?

- Field trips will occur if deemed necessary by the district curriculum and approved by the Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and Board of Education.

Will schools hold assemblies?

- Yes, assemblies will resume with social distancing protocols implemented to the extent possible.

Will all extra-curricular music, art and theater activities take place?

- Yes. All scheduled extra-curricular activities in music, art and theater will take place in-person. They will follow the same district protocols that are in effect.

Will students participate in athletics?

- Yes, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) resumed regular operations effective July 1, 2021.

Will spectators be allowed at athletic events?

- Yes, attendance will be permitted at athletic events.

Will athletes have access to locker rooms to change for practice and games?

- Yes, locker rooms will be available for use during athletic events.

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Wellness of Students and Staff

What resources and supports will be available this year to continually support students?

- All counseling services, including those that are offered before and after school will continue to be provided in the 2021-2022 school year.
- The administration and staff will continue to be available to assist individuals and families in need of referrals for mental health assessments and treatment.
- The guidance department will continue to conduct student wellness surveys for students in all grade levels.
- Summer counseling services were offered to identified students in grades K-12.
- The district will implement a series of programs across all grade levels to address student mental health and wellness which will include the following:
 - Flow and Grow curriculum for grades K-4
 - Reboot curriculum for grades K-8
 - Kid Grit curriculum for identified students in grades 7 and 8
 - Timothy Schumacher's Raising Resiliency Program for students in grades 7-12
 - Dr. Michael Fowlin's presentation to the 10th grade class
 - Additional assemblies will occur in all school buildings focusing on various mental health topics, social-emotional wellness, positive affirmation, and character as well as leadership development.
- Training will be made available to staff members to assist with identifying and helping students who are experiencing mental health or addictions challenges or are in crisis.
- Our Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) will be trained as an instructor in Teen Mental Health First Aid which will allow the district to provide additional staff members with this training in subsequent years.
- The Guidance Department will provide a parent portal of resources that will be accessible on our website.
- Trained staff are ready to assist. Please contact your school's principal for more information or to express a concern.

What resources and supports will be available this year to continually support staff?

- To ease staff anxiety, each school will discuss concerns surrounding the start of the school year. The topics will include but are not limited to social distancing in classrooms, disinfecting plans, substitute process, COVID testing, a quarantine process, and reporting COVID 19 diagnosis.
- Time and space will be provided for staff members to process traumatic events, re-establish connections with each other, and receive support to promote healing.
- We will continue to identify mental and behavioral resources and encourage faculty and staff to use these services.
- The following resources are always available to staff:
 - Free access to headspace App through Pure Edge <http://go.headspace.com/pureedge/>
 - Free access to on demand educator focused stress relief webinars through Pure Edge <https://pureedgeinc.org/pure-community-webinars/#on-demand>
<https://pureedgeinc.org/mindful-mondays-3/>
<https://www.mindfulschools.org/back-to-school/>

- Mental health and social-emotional wellness resources are also available to staff through the Human Resources department.