

## 20-21 School Year Frequency Asked Questions

### Schedules

When is the first day of school?

- The current date is set for August 27<sup>th</sup>. With the delay of materials due to COVID-19 arriving on site, the school construction is behind schedule. There has been discussion of adjusting the school calendar with a start date of September 14, 2020. A final decision will be approved Tuesday August 11, 2020.

When will we know the days students will be going to school during a hybrid?

- The information has been sent out the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

When is middle school orientation scheduled?

- This will be dependent on the start of school. Information will be provided for sixth grade through the middle school office. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade meet and greet will not occur.

How will students be assigned their F2F days?

- By alternating bus stops with the goal of keeping family units on the same days.

### Sanitation

If sanitation is happening daily why is it necessary to only have kids in school 2 days?

- Daily sanitizing is table tops, door knobs, and other high touch items. The sanitation day(s) will utilize misting machines that will mist a sanitizing solution over the entire classroom, hallways, etc. This includes walls, bathroom stalls, etc. The district buildings encompass 178,000 square feet. This is the equivalent to 119 houses that are 1,500 square feet in size.

Has there been consideration for contracting with an outside cleaning crew?

- We have advertised for proposals from cleaning crew companies and to date we have received one inquiry. We are still accepting proposals.

How will playground equipment and general supplies be addressed?

- Equipment and common supplies will be sanitized.

What is the purpose of the online day?

- The custodians will use the day to complete a deep sanitation of the buildings. The teachers will be using this day for asynchronous learning for their students and prepare the lessons for future F2F and online learning. The day separates Group A (M-T) and Group B (TH-F) students to help with contact tracing if we have COVID cases.

Will the same sanitation take place after Group B as was done after Group A?

- Yes, that is the plan.

## Education

Will teachers be conducting live classes for students?

- Yes, that is our intended goal for the HS/MS. Elementary teachers will either provide live or recorded video lessons for their students. The district is purchasing additional technology to do so. The intent is for the instruction to be recorded so that in the event a student was unable to be “live” they would be able to watch the recorded lesson. The district will be flexible with the students/parents.

Will NBC offer a full online option if parents would prefer this option?

- Yes. Parents that do not feel comfortable sending their children to school need to contact their respective building principal for additional information.

How will teachers be grading student work when we are in a hybrid schedule?

- Teachers will be delivering their planned curriculum 5 days a week utilizing F2F, and virtual instruction techniques. Assessments will continue to be utilized to hold students accountable for their learning and to guide future instruction.

How are teachers to teach kids F2F and be available to online needs?

- Most students will have the opportunity to be part of the class while at home. There may be a delayed response from teachers at certain times of the day.

How will accommodations be dealt with for special needs students?

- Parents should communicate concerns with the special education director.

Will PSSA/Keystone assessments be administered this year?

- Yes. At this time the Department of Education has not waived this requirement.

Are electronic devices being provided to each child?

- Yes. The district purchase computers so that all students K-12 will have an electronic device.

How will children access a “meeting” with a teacher when under the care of a grandparent or daycare?

- Our goal is to have the devices distributed to the students at the beginning of school. Teachers will be working with their students showing them the procedures to utilize the device. There will be training available for adults as well.

## Hybrid Schedule

Has there been consideration to begin 5 days F2F and scale back as needed?

- Yes. We understand the desire to return to school full time. However, our goal is to be proactive in an attempt to sustain the F2F days we currently have scheduled.

How often will this model be reviewed?

- We will continually monitor this plan and will determine what adjustments can be made to the plan within four weeks of the start of school. We will continually monitor the situation at NBC and make adjustments accordingly. Parents will be notified as soon as possible of upcoming changes to the school schedule.

Will Pre-K go all day for two days following the hybrid model or still half day?

- The pre-K program will continue to follow the ½ day schedule.

Why is NBC choosing a hybrid model when some districts are returning full time?

- With the size of NBC classrooms, it is difficult to maintain 3 foot spacing of students.

Do you think starting the year with the hybrid model will have a negative impact on the district with students leaving?

- 89% of the respondents to the survey stated they would send their children to school with a hybrid model. That was the highest favorable percentage response.

Will snow days be online instruction days under the hybrid plan and not required to be made up?

- If we are operating on a hybrid schedule, all students will be online learning for that day and will be counted as a school day.

## **Attendance/COVID**

If one child/family has symptoms, will you request/hope all NBC students in the family stay home?

- Use the chart from the CDC also provided in the NBC Operational Plan which gives guidance on when to keep children home.

Will students be asked to quarantine for 14 days if a family member test positive for COVID, but has no symptoms?

- It is expected the student(s) will quarantine for 10 days if they have been in close contact with the individual.

Will attendance guidelines be waived if a child does not feel well and decides to stay home and work online that day?

- Students will be marked present if they stay home and complete their work online. Student attendance will be regularly monitored.

Will school be closed if there is a positive case of COVID?

- We will be in communication with the PA Department of Health and follow their directives.

Does only going F2F 2 days per week keep children safe?

- This option allows the district to divide the school population in half. With fewer students attending physically, the district can provide greater physical distance between students in all areas including busses, classes, and cafeteria. This option should limit exposure and allow greater physical distancing during large portions of the day.

If multiple teachers are absent due to COVID symptoms, how will the district remain open?

- Our goal with the hybrid model is to maintain F2F instruction for students for as long as possible. In order to do this, we must be able to maintain our full complement of staffing. In the event multiple staff members become infected, due to the substitute shortages in Pennsylvania, NBC may be forced to go completely online.

## School Activities

Can you have sports if we aren't 5 days F2F?

- Yes. The majority of fall sports are outside. Inside athletic programs have the ability to use appropriate spacing and is limited in hours compared to a full day in school. Athletes are still required to follow the current PaDOH guidelines. This may likely change in the future.

Are kids permitted to come to NBC after school activities on their online days?

- Students will be able to attend school sponsored activities as determined by the person in charge of the activity or at the direction of PIAA and the DOH. After School and After 3 students may attend on the days they are physically present at school.

Will there still be F2F or virtual PTO events and PAWS in the elementary school?

- All activities will be determined by necessity and on a case by case basis.

## Transportation

How will NBC manage filling buses back to front and unloading front to back when we have children in both MS/HS and elementary?

- We recognize that it will not be absolute when loading and unloading at school, but will do the best we can under the circumstances which include the wearing of face coverings.

What happens if a child is sent/dropped off to/at school on the wrong day?

- The school will contact the parents to pick up their child if they attend on the wrong day. It is imperative that we work together to maintain the appropriate schedules.

Can family groups choose to have kids going same days so that families can plan for child care for siblings and/or cousins within the family unit?

- We split the groups based on bus stops trying to accommodate immediate families.

May an older (high school) sibling drop an elementary student off at the elementary school?

- Yes. However, it is important that time is allowed so the high school student is not late to homeroom.

## Face Coverings

Will you provide masks for kids who don't have access or will they be exempt?

- The district will provide one mask for each student if needed. All students are expected to wear a face covering on the bus, hallways, and where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Can we wear items other than face masks?

- Students and staff are able to wear any face covering that is defined in the Secretary of Health's definition which is included in the NBC operational plan sent to all parents.

How will face coverings be stored/preserved during school day for kids?

- Depending on the building, students will keep it with them or be told where to keep them until they need to wear it.

## Other

Does the board support the reopening plan?

- The school board is fully aware of the plan and supports the reopening plans.

Can students get meals on their "off" days?

- The food service director is working on a plan to provide three breakfasts and lunches on Wednesday. The USDA waiver that provided everything free to children 18 and under expires prior to the start of school. Students must pay for their breakfast and lunch unless they qualify for free/reduced meals.

Would the school be willing to have small group parent classes to help the adults use the online schooling?

- Absolutely! We can coordinate this training once we receive the laptops. Information will come from the building principals.

When the CDC and pediatric doctors want kids in school full time, how can you override this?

- All medical professionals that we are aware of want children to return to school safely. The CDC continues to use six feet as the standard for social distancing. The hybrid model is the best option to return to school safely at this time.

Were medical consultants part of the decision making process?

- We had input from professionals within the medical field along with reviewing the guidelines from the CDC, WHO, and the PaDOH.

Has the administration considered the use of all areas within the school?

- Yes, the administration has considered areas such as the gym, auditorium, etc. These areas are already used as classrooms.

Has the district considered modules? Outdoor classrooms?

- These scenarios have been considered. Modules require an extensive amount of work to prepare and require permits to be placed on the property. Outdoor classes are an option and will be encouraged weather permitting.

Was plexiglass separations or face shields considered?

- These items were considered. Face shields are considered a face covering under the Dept. of Health's definition and can be used by students and staff.

Why can't we have options—parental choice?

- Parents have the choice of attending school under the current school schedule or parents can have their students do NBC online learning.

Are you aware there was an issue with email and middle school parents did not receive the communications related to the survey or plan?

- We were provided that information and checked with some middle school parents who said they did receive the notification. Information was sent to the email address on record at the school. If you did not receive the notification, please update the information when you update your child's enrollment information.

If MS/HS students are not permitted to return, will elementary students be spread over all school buildings?

- No. Our plan includes all students in the district.