

Q&A from Town Hall Chat:

Q: How will cohorting work with things like Honors Math?

A: Since the students moving to Honors Math are just a smaller group from a larger cohort measures will be taken to clean/disinfect the room after each class.

Q: Is there a maximum number for a cohort? For example, the 8th grade class is fairly large...23 students...would they be considered their own cohort?

A: The CDC and CSO guidelines currently state that cohorts should be no larger than 25. Any group 1st - 8th, 25 and under will be considered a cohort.

Q: Will the whole cohort physically be in school each day?

A: Yes, our plan currently is to have all students all 5 days. We have measured the rooms and are making adjustments to support our numbers in the building.

Q: What does this look like for teachers to cohort ratio?

A: This depends on the age - Pre-K 3 is 20 students and 3 adults, Pre-K 4 is 20 students and 2 adults/class, Kindergarten - 20 students and 1 adult/class, 1st - 8th is 1 adult per class/cohort.

Q: Will students be allowed to share supplies with each other?

A: Students will have their own supplies in most cases. In the event that they are using "speciality" supplies teachers will disinfect those supplies after use.

Q: I do have a concern about the balance between cohorting and "cross-pollinating"- i.e. riding in the bus with several other kids out of cohort, etc. are there known safety measures that have been communicated about safety procedures on the bus- or does it vary by district?

A: We have not heard of any special protocols from the transportation departments yet but one of the suggestions given to the principals from another county was to have the students sit with siblings. Once we receive information from the transportation departments we will communicate this to you.

Q: Are there any updates to air filtration? Will windows be open? Etc.

A: We are making all necessary updates to the air filtrations and windows will be open to provide fresh air.

Q: Will the water fountains be removed?

A: The water fountains are currently turned off and will remain off until further notice. Students will need to bring a water bottle to school each day. In the event that a student forgets we will have bottles of water available in the office.

Q: Are there large tables in kindergarten or do they have their own individual desks?

A: Kindergarteners use individual desks. Pre-k uses tables but we are making sure we have enough table and space in the classrooms to ensure proper distancing.

Q: How can they play games and socialize being 6 ft apart?

A: Socialization is a very important part of learning. In the event that we are not able to keep students social distanced due to a game/activity students will wear a mask. We are being provided with a resource that gives recess and PE activities that have very little to no contact.

Q: Will students be discouraged from lending, say a pencil to someone who needs one?

A: Unfortunately, we will need to discourage sharing of items such as pencils/pens when someone needs one. Teachers will have a supply of unused materials that a student will be able to use.

Q: Even in a cohort how can this minimize exposure when they go home everyday to unknown germs?

A: We can only minimize the exposure of germs from school. Once a student goes home we do not know what they may be exposed to. Communication is very important and following the prescribed procedures for when a student is sick who possibly exposed will need to be followed.

Q: Would they need to wear uniforms during virtual learning?

A: Yes, If a student is attending virtually they will need to wear their uniform.

Q: If a family decides on virtual learning, is coming back to school later an option?

A: Yes, all students will have a desk in the school building and we will not give that spot away.

Q: I'd noticed during our switch to virtual that different students had differing levels of consistent/ stable access to the internet. Any thoughts about how the school could support that?

A: I have been doing research to see the support we are able to provide to help in these situations. Some of the issues we noticed was also that

the Learning Management Systems/Meeting platforms were not ready for everyone to be using them all at once.

Q: If we don't open as planned, will virtual learning follow the students' schedules/rosters so that there is learning all day, class by class? Not just occasional touch points with the teachers?

A: If at any point during the school year we would have to move to virtual learning we will follow the student schedule. Morning prayers would be live streamed at 8:20am, followed by homeroom, first period etc.

Q: Will confidentiality be kept if there is an infection?

A: Yes, although we will be communicating with the families that there is either a possible confirmed case/confirmed case at no point will we release the name of the family.

Q: Is there any consideration being given to more outdoor time to break up the day, especially for the pre-k/k who may have a harder time sitting/distancing?

A: The teachers will be encouraged to take the students outside for brain breaks and learning opportunities.

Q: What is the plan for Bathrooms?

A: The bathrooms will be clean frequently throughout the day, and the number of students using the bathroom at one time will be limited.

Q: How do you plan on conducting Pre-K and K orientation for parents?

A: Seeing that starting Pre-k and Kindergarten is a major milestone for kids, I feel that it is very important that we try to keep to as much of a traditional orientation for the parents and students. We are currently exploring options for this and will be communicating with the families about the plan for Pre-K and K orientation.

Q: When do we have to decide about school or virtual learning?

A: At least 2 weeks before the start of school. This will give us enough time to get the proper materials and devices into the hands of the students/families.

Q: Are there any plans for the faculty/staff to perform temperature checks prior to drop off/entering the classrooms or throughout the day?

A: Currently, our plan is to not take the temperature of students as they enter the building. This creates unnecessary anxiety in the students and we need to ensure that our procedures are smooth, stress-free, and safe. We are asking parents to do a daily health check, currently the plan that the CSO has put out says that parents will either need to submit something electronically saying they have checked or each student will come to

school with a note. They are also looking for other options for this step. Once those directives are "finalized" I will communicate this process with the families.

Q: If there is a confirmed case, will the cohort that student is in be shared or is that still covered by HIPA.

A: The identity of the student(s) will always be kept confidential. I will look into this further for clarification and will provide an update.

Q: If we send lunch with our children, should everything be in disposable containers/bags?

A: Seeing that the students are not sharing containers and all containers will be returned to the school bag reusable containers can be used for lunch items. Please make sure the students name is on the containers.

Q: How does Google Meet work? Is it a live stream of the classroom? Is there sufficient technology in-place (cameras in each classroom, microphones, etc.) to allow students to actively participate in the virtual classroom?

A: Google Meet operates similar to Zoom. We will have the classrooms set up with the proper materials to allow the students to actively participate from home.

Q: Would PreK do virtual learning if stay at home orders are put back in place or if a cohort is dismissed for an isolation period?

A: Although, virtual for Pre-k is a little harder we will have virtual learning for the Pre-k students in the event of an isolation period. In the event of stay at home orders (yellow phase) we are currently working on the requirements needed to be able to offer in-person for the Early childhood age. As that progresses I will keep parents informed.

Q: What happens if an affected child has a sibling in another cohort?

A: The sibling would also need to stay home. Health officials would help make the determination of the risk and the need to dismiss the siblings cohort. The CSO committee is getting clarification on how this communication to families would read. I will provide a clearer explanation once I have those details.

Q: Is there a possibility that after school care might not be offered at all?

A: We will be working on our plan for CARES, we know parents need CARES before and after school and our goal is to provide that in the safest way possible.

