

Hanover Township Public Schools

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School Reopening Plans Frequently Asked Questions July 28, 2020

1. What plan(s) will be used to reopen schools?

- As of July 28th the elementary schools will follow Plan B and MJS will follow Plan C

2. Why were Plan B and Plan C selected for our schools?

- There is no single solution or plan that will satisfy everyone or fit perfectly with the work and child care needs. Given the parameters and guidelines set forth in the NJDOE Road Back Plan and always mindful of best interests of our students and staff, the Board of Education, District Administration and our District Restart Advisory Committee, along with meaningful input from our school-based pandemic teams, have collectively developed and are implementing what we believe to be the best possible plans.

- **Elementary Level: Plan B-“All students every day following a modified early dismissal schedule:”**

- ✓ This plan was selected based on a number of factors such as:

- The social and emotional needs of students on the K-5 level, which favor the in-person model.
- Students spend their day in one classroom as one cohort with minimal transitions or switching classes.
- Younger students tend to have more difficulty independently logging in and following virtual instruction on a Chromebook.
- This District has ordered individual desk shields for all students desks (PreK-5).

- **MJS: Plan C- “Hybrid” student cohort A/B model following a modified early dismissal schedule:”**
 - ✓ MJS students will be divided into two separate cohorts which will follow an AA/Pivot Day/BB schedule. Students will most likely be assigned cohorts alphabetically, to ensure family members are on the same schedule. For example Cohort A will attend school in-person on Monday and Tuesday and participate in class virtually on Thursday and Friday; Cohort B will attend school virtually on Monday and Tuesday and in-person on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a “Pivot-Day;” the A/B Cohorts will rotate every other week, with each Cohort attending in-person one week and virtually the next, on an alternating basis.
 - ✓ This plan provides for fixed days with fixed student cohorts that provides parents with predictability, and teachers and students with an element of consistency.
 - ✓ Both plans are fluid and provide us with the ability to “pivot” to our other two plans while keeping the integrity of the instructional programs in place

3. What is a modified early dismissal day?

- Each school will follow their respective half-day schedule:
 - MJS: 8:00 AM – 12:15 PM
 - Elementary Schools: 8:45 AM – 12:45 PM
- ✓ These schedules meet the NJDOE requirements to count as a school day (4 hours)

4. Why modified early dismissal days and not full days?

- A number of factors were taken into consideration regarding the decision to open all schools on a modified early dismissal schedule that go beyond the lunch/recess periods. A major challenge included the supervision of students in classrooms for lunch and teacher schedules. All teachers, by contract, must have a “duty free” lunch period meaning they would not be available to supervise students. We do not have sufficient staff to provide supervision for small groups of students eating in classrooms while providing a lunch period for ALL staff. This would be true on both the elementary and middle school level.
- We also recognize that it will be challenging for our students, especially on the primary grade levels, to sit and learn in the “New” normal social distancing classrooms for a full day.
- The modified early dismissal schedule also provides additional time for cleaning and disinfecting ALL district facilities

5. How will related services be delivered to special education students?

- Mr. Margolis and the members of the child-study team are looking at various approaches to best meet the educational needs our students "to the greatest extent possible."
- If you have questions regarding your child's specific program or related services please contact your child's case manager or Mr. Margolis, Director of Special Services, via email or phone calls.

6. How will transportation be handled?

- Hanover Township has a tiered system of transportation, meaning that the same buses/drivers are used to transport students to and from the middle school, elementary schools and our PreK programs. As a result there would not be sufficient time to run multiple routes for the same school. It would be impossible from a logistical standpoint.
- As per the NJDOE guidance:
 - Face coverings must be worn by students riding the bus, accommodations for students who are unable to wear face coverings will be addressed on an individual case by case basis.
 - Busses will be cleaned and disinfected after each route on a daily basis.
 - Families eligible for transportation can "waive" their seat on the bus.

7. Will the HTSACC "Early Birds" and/or "After Care" Programs be offered?

- At this time the district is planning to offer both the Early Birds and After Care Programs assuming each program can be adequately staffed
- The primary focus is to open the program on the K-5 level, pending staff availability.
- Consideration will be given to providing child care on the middle school level at a later date.
- Additional information regarding the program and a parent survey will be sent out by Ms. Mead, HTSACC Coordinator, in the coming weeks

8. How will the screening process work for students and staff?

- To date, a decision has not been made as to how the screening process will work at each of our schools. District nurses are currently working with our local and county health departments to develop screening procedures and implementation guidelines.
- The CDC released new guidelines for symptom screenings related to schools on Friday, July 24th .
- Once a decision is made, it will be communicated to our families as soon as practical

9. Can I "opt" for remote/virtual learning for my child?

- Yes, Based on the guidelines recently announced by the NJDOE on Friday, July 24th, families/guardians may request fulltime virtual/remote learning.
- Procedures for submitting "formal" requests for virtual/remote learning are currently being developed based on the most NJDOE guidance. Specifics will be sent out shortly.

10. What will virtual/remote learning look like?

- The administrative team is in the process of finalizing specific” master schedules for each of their respective buildings.
- Virtual/remote learning may look different and be used differently at each grade level and/or content area, and resemble a blended learning model.
- The virtual/remote learning schedule will parallel the in-person learning schedule as appropriate.
- Virtual cohorts of students will be livestreamed with in-person learners to the greatest extent possible.
- Based on the number of students and staff who select this option, the virtual/remote delivery of instruction may look different on the middle school level vs the elementary level.

11. Has the District made improvements to the Distance Learning Plan?

- Yes, based on feedback from our Distance Learning Survey, improvements and enhancements have been made to our Distance Learning Plan.
- The revised Distance Learning Plan will provide more structure with the students following a set-schedule, unified platforms via Google Meet, and going “one-to-one” with Chromebooks from PreK-8. In addition, we enhanced our digital curriculum by purchasing various digital programs to assist teacher in the virtual delivery of instruction such as IXL, Screencastify, and Edpuzzle.

12. Will there be “new” cleaning and disinfecting procedures in place when schools reopen?

- Yes. Based on the current guidance in the NJDOE Road Back Plan, district directors and supervisors are in process of developing procedures for their respective departments to establish cleaning and disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned and methods and materials to be used.

13. Will students be required to wear face coverings?

- Face coverings will be required to be worn by students and staff, unless it will inhibit the individual’s health. This rule will be the same on our buses, a face covering must be worn by all students who are able to do so upon entering the bus.
- Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering will be addressed on an individual case-by-case basis