

Londonderry Middle School 2020-2021

Frequently Asked Questions - V 2.0

“A Smile Behind Every Mask”

General Questions

When families choose their option, are they locked in for the year?

After making a decision, you will have the first 2 weeks to change your decision. After that, it will be based on our trimester schedule, approximately within the 2nd week of December and again in late March. Additionally, we plan to follow science and CDC recommendations throughout the year and adjust our plans accordingly.

How can I stay up to date with what the district is doing?

<https://news.londonderry.org/> - our district is updating a blog with information regarding the opening of this school year. You can subscribe to it and receive email notifications when it is updated.

In-Person School

Will my child be required to wear a mask?

Yes. We will be following the guidelines set by the district for all students K-12. Teachers will incorporate mask breaks into the day. When students are at lunch, they can remove their mask. During PE class, teachers will be using activities that are socially distant and outside as much as possible, allowing students to remove their masks during class. The district will be supplying each student with 5 masks each. More details to come regarding those masks.

Will my student be on the same team that they were assigned in the spring?

No. While we determine how many students and staff will be in-person and remote, every team of teachers is changing. Most teams will be a make up of teachers from the other grade-level teams.

If two students are both on the same team, will they have classes together?

Maybe. Students on the same team will share the same teachers. The team of students are then split into 3 cohorts of 30-40 students. Those 30-40 students will have their classes together, travel together, and eat lunch together. They will not interact with the other cohorts on their team. Cohorting groups of students is the best way for us to limit contact and contact trace if someone is tested positive.

I want to drive my student to school. At what time can I drop off my student?

Supervision of students will begin at 7:40. Therefore students may not exit their vehicles until 7:40. Students will go straight into the building to their Get S.E.T. (social-emotional time), which starts at 7:50. Details about the changes in drop off procedures will be forthcoming as we approach the start of the school year.

I have a 6th grader/new student. Will they have an opportunity to come to the building before the start of school for orientation?

We are working this summer to create an orientation within our safety guidelines that allows students to learn where they're going and meet their teachers. We know that this is an important part of transition for incoming 6th graders and new 7th and 8th graders..

Will students be using lockers?

No. In order to increase social distancing, students will not use lockers and they will be allowed to carry a backpack with them from class to class.

What supplies will we need?

Since teams will be a new group of teachers, they will not have time to prepare an official list until we begin our teacher workshop days in late August. We are working to create a generic school supply list based on new procedures at the building.

How often will my student have PE?

5 out of 6 days. This has been built into the schedule purposefully to allow students a chance to be outside more frequently and move, as we no longer have as many transitions. There will be no required changing, and activities will be at a lower intensity to accommodate that.

What will my student's music program look like?

Students will have music 1 in every 6 days for an approximate 90-minute block, opposite of PE. Students will have a choice of music program. To date, we are still working on what and how specific programs will be offered.

Where will students be eating lunch?

We have increased the number of lunch periods and the space to eat lunch. Students will be eating in the MPR, the cafeteria, the stage, and the tent outside. Indoors, students will be at least 6 feet apart. They will have the option for a hot lunch. For the first few weeks, lunch choices will be limited and ala carte items will not be sold.

Who can my child sit with at lunch?

Students will be sitting within their cohort at lunch time. After the first couple days, the seat they have chosen will be their assigned seat until the next marking period.

Remote School

Will the remote school have a structured day?

Yes. The day will have a set beginning and end time for students and teachers. During that time will be a daily check-in first thing in the morning, and required meetings with the teachers throughout the week.

Will my student receive the same curriculum as students in school?

Our core subject teachers and related arts will be working together to keep the curriculum in line for both the in-school and remote experience. This is a focus of our professional development as we begin the year.

Are there any courses or levels that aren't going to be offered in the remote school?

Because we are creating a schedule for in-person and remote that align, we are doing our best to offer the courses we have in the past whether in-school or remote. We will not be able to confirm that until after August 21st when all staff placements and assignments are finalized.

Will we be able to access dining services?

Yes. All students who participate in remote learning will have access to meal service. Curbside pickup will be available at the high school.

How will my special education student receive the services in their IEP?

We are prepared to offer all of the services for students remotely. Your student can also access their specialized instruction and services during a scheduled time in the building. Transportation, however, may need to be provided by the family.

Will teachers be available to assist my child outside of the established school day?

Based on feedback from the spring remote learning experience, we learned that students and teachers were working well outside the norm of a traditional school day. This fall, our remote school will have structure to keep the school day to a set time. Students can continue their learning experiences outside the school day and send teachers questions, but they should not expect answers and feedback until the next school day.

Who will my student's teachers be?

The team assignments for all students from the spring were based on returning to school in a more traditional setting. Due to specific circumstances that lead to specific staff out of the building, the teachers on the team will not be the same as they were in the spring. Using that data, as well as the number of families choosing remote, we have established 2 remote teams. One team teaches 6th and 7th graders and the other teaches 7th and 8th graders.

What type of instruction can I expect in remote learning?

Teachers will be using a combination of live video lessons, taped lessons, live small group lessons, office hours, and independent work.

How are my child's social-emotional needs going to be met?

Every student's day will start with a 30-minute Get S.E.T. (social-emotional time) period. This is time for a daily connection between a group of students and their teacher. Staff will also make sure they make time for students to build relationships with other students during remote instruction as well. You will also be provided information as to how to access and reach out to our school counselors to support your student.