

## ***Deposit CSD School Reopening FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)***

*School reopening plans are complicated and include a lot of information. This FAQ includes answers to some of the most frequent questions you've had since our reopening plans were released. We'll continue to update it as more questions are received.*

### ***Health Related Questions***

#### ***Does my child have to wear a mask?***

*All children and adults who enter the campus buildings will have to wear a mask while moving through the corridors of the district. Masks are also required when students cannot socially distance from one another in areas such as office spaces. Masks are also required on district transportation. Only students and adults with a documented medical condition will be excused from masking. In this case, alternative accommodations such as a face shield will be considered.*

#### ***Will the district provide masks?***

*The District will provide masks for students and adults. Masks will be available in the buildings and on buses. Families are allowed to provide their own masks for children but are responsible for the laundering of any cloth masks.*

#### ***What if my child refuses to wear a mask?***

*The first thing we will do is work with your child to help him/her understand the importance of wearing the mask. All students will also receive instruction about how to properly wear a mask. If a student refuses to wear a mask but does not have an identified medical exemption, we will work with families to identify alternative options.*

#### ***What will happen if my child comes to school with a fever (100+) or develops COVID-like symptoms during the day?***

*Families will be reviewing the symptom checklist daily before sending students to school. However, there's always the chance that a student comes to school with a fever or develops symptoms throughout the day. Student and staff temperatures will be taken at the entrances of the buildings each day. If your child is identified with a temperature at or above 100 degrees, he/she will be discreetly placed in the isolation area. In the elementary and MS/HS, the isolation area is a private room attached to the health office. You will be required to pick up your child within an hour and will be referred to your regular physician.*

*Health Related Questions Continued*

***How will the district conduct COVID testing if there is a suspected case?***

*The District neither initiates nor oversees COVID-19 testing. The District will follow the screening protocol outlined in our Reopening Plan that is consistent with state-wide guidelines from the Department of Health. Individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID prior to arrival or while they are on school grounds are directed by the district plan to seek out medical attention.*

***How will the district conduct contact tracing?***

*The District neither initiates nor oversees contact tracing. In the event that the Department of Health determines they need to do contact tracing, a Department of Health representative will reach out to the District point of contact, Lacey Diemer, for a list of close contacts of the affected individual. A close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes. The District will cooperate fully with the Department of Health in support of contact tracing. Lacey Diemer will act as the point of contact for the County Health Department in the event there are other questions/ information needed for case investigation.*

***Will the district close down if there is a known case of COVID? Will everyone have to quarantine if someone in their class is being tested for COVID?***

*The District will work directly with the Department of Health to identify next steps in the event of an identified case. Since students will be socially distanced on the bus and in the classrooms, there is no reason to believe that our students will be “exposed” to a student who is required to quarantine or who tests positive for COVID. Exposure is defined as being close (less than 6 feet) to someone for a period of 10 minutes or more. The Department of Health will notify all individuals who need to quarantine or isolate due to an alleged exposure. For more information, see the Broome County Department of Health FAQ: <https://www.depositcsd.org/Downloads/School%20FAQs%20Broome%20DOH2.pdf>*

***Is my child allowed to bring hand sanitizer from home?***

*Yes, you can have your child bring personal hand sanitizer. Because of its flammability, hand sanitizer should not be transported on school buses.*

## **Instructional Questions**

### ***Why aren't we going back to school full-time?***

*Although the governor said we could have students come back to school, we are still required to follow all of the social distancing mandates that were established by the CDC, The Department of Health, and the New York State Department of Education. Based on the size of our buildings and the number of teachers we have, we are not able to have 100% of our students attend our campus on a full-time, regular basis. Therefore, our students will attend the campus on an alternating day schedule with remote learning occurring on opposite days. Families were also offered a full-time remote learning option.*

### ***How many students will be in each classroom?***

*Each classroom is a little different. At the elementary building, we are able to fit approximately 9 students in each classroom in a socially distanced set-up. In the MS/HS, we are able to fit approximately 8 students in the average classroom.*

### ***Why are some students allowed to come back 4 days/week?***

*The State asked districts to prioritize the in-person learning of its youngest students and students with intensive special education needs.*

### ***Will students still have special area classes? (Art/PE/Music)***

*Yes, students will still receive instruction in the special areas. Depending on the grade level, certain specials may be delivered on-line.*

### ***Does my child have to switch classes or do the teachers switch classes?***

*All efforts are being made to keep students in one location to the extent possible. At the elementary level, students will remain in one location with the exception of going to the gym for PE. At the MS/HS level, schedules will be developed to minimize student movement throughout the day. When students do have to switch classes, movement will be staggered and students will be required to wear masks in the hallways.*

### ***What kind of grading system will be used?***

*At the elementary level, students will get standards-based grades (scale of 1-4). At the MS/HS level, grades will be based on a traditional (percentage/weighted) system. Teachers prioritize what assignments are graded and how they are graded. This includes remote assignments.*

### **Instructional Questions Continued**

*Will I be able to switch my choice from remote to hybrid and hybrid to remote?*

*Parents will have the option of switching their choice of learning programs at the end of the first semester (January 29 2021). This will allow us to maintain consistency with transportation, class rosters, and staffing.*

*What should my child bring to school?*

*Your child should not need to bring much to school on a daily basis. Students may bring outerwear such as coats and hats, family provided masks and personal devices such as cell phones. Students in grades 6-12 will need to bring their Chromebooks to school on their in-person days. MS/HS students will be able to carry a backpack with them during the day.*

*What are the arrival and departure times?*

*When students attend instruction on campus, the time for arrival is 7:55 AM and the time for dismissal is 1:40 PM. Students should plan to arrive at school as close to the start time as possible to avoid excessive waiting. Breakfast will be available and eaten in the classroom.*

### **Facilities Questions**

*How will the district keep the buildings and buses clean?*

*Nightly cleaning will be handled by the maintenance team at DCS. All classrooms, offices, buses and other meeting spaces on campus will be deep cleaned every night using Vital Oxide, an environmentally friendly and effective disinfectant. Teachers will have cleaning kits available in the classroom in order to clean high contact areas throughout the day.*

*Is there enough fresh air in the classrooms?*

*Our buildings' HVAC (Heating/Ventilation/Cooling) systems are designed to take in fresh air throughout the day. Currently, the system is set up to take in enough fresh air for a classroom of 20 students. With class sizes of 9 or less, we are confident that our current system exceeds the requirements to bring in fresh air.*

*Facilities Questions Continued*

***Will the students from the M/W group share the same desks as the students from the Tues/Thurs group?***

*Yes, students will share the same desks as the groups from the alternate days. However, students will not need to keep any materials in those desks. Materials will be kept in a separate location in the classroom. Desks will be deep cleaned on a nightly basis using Vital Oxide, an environmentally friendly and effective disinfectant.*

***How will students maintain social distance in bathrooms?***

*At any given time, only two students will be allowed in bathroom facilities. Signage will be placed on doors and every other stall/urinal will be blocked from use. Students will be required to wear masks in corridors and bathrooms.*

***Will MS/HS students use lockers?***

*No, lockers will not be used during the 2020-2021 school year. Students are permitted to use backpacks and will keep coats in their assigned homeroom. Backpacks may be carried throughout the building and will only be searched if we have reasonable suspicion that something illegal and/or dangerous is present per the code of conduct.*

***How will students enter/exit the buildings***

*All staff will assist students as they enter and exit the buildings to avoid large gatherings. Students will enter through the main doors (Elem. & HS) and the back door nearest the band room (MS). Entering and exiting the buildings will be done in a staggered manner so that not all students are grouped together at one time. Students will have a designated waiting area each morning. Staff will assist students in finding their places during the first weeks of school.*

***Nutrition/Food Service Questions***

***Where will my child eat breakfast and lunch?***

*In the elementary building, students will receive their breakfast and lunch in the classroom. In the MS/HS, students can get breakfast in a grab and go bag and eat in their homeroom. For lunch, MS/HS students will go through the cafeteria line and return to their classroom to eat. Masks will be worn while in line. Social distancing markers will be placed on the floor to assist students in the cafeteria line.*

*Food Service Questions Continued*

***Can my child bring his/her own lunch?***

*Your child can bring his/her own lunch, but food may not be shared with others. This includes birthday celebrations. Guidelines for birthday celebrations at the elementary level will be provided.*

***How much do breakfast and lunch cost this year?***

*We are thrilled to have qualified for the free breakfast and lunch program for the next 4 years. This means that all students receive a free breakfast and lunch each day.*

***How will my student receive breakfast and lunch on remote learning days?***

*Students who are part of the hybrid model will receive their breakfasts and lunches for off-campus days when they are on campus. Students who are fully remote will be offered scheduled pick-up/drop-off times to receive breakfasts and lunches.*

***Transportation Questions***

***Why can't I request transportation changes this year?***

*This year especially, transportation routes and seating assignments on buses will have to be very carefully created in order to protect the health of our students and drivers. Daily and last minute changes to transportation will not be accepted. In the event of an emergency, families will need to make arrangements to have their student picked up at school or met at the usual bus stop.*

***How will you protect my child's health on the bus?***

*Students will be required to wear a mask on the bus and will be seated in assigned, distanced seats. Siblings may sit together. We may not be able to accommodate requests for siblings to be separated on the bus based on the total number of students riding.*

***Technology/Remote Learning Questions***

***What if I don't have internet (or reliable internet)?***

*All families were contacted to identify students who may need assistance setting up reliable internet service. The District is partnering with providers to offer solutions to families. The District is also installing wireless access points on the outside of campus buildings so families can visit the campus to gain access if necessary.*

Technology Questions Continued

**What if I have problems with the devices/technology at home?**

If you are having problems with the devices or hardware you were issued, please contact the technology help line at 607-766-3800 or visit the website at:

<https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/school-closure-technology-supp/>

**How will my child's attendance be taken on remote learning days?**

Student attendance is important regardless of where the student is learning. On remote learning days, student attendance will be counted when the student accesses and completes the daily attendance activity on the learning platform.

**What types of assignments will my child have for on-line learning?**

Both the hybrid program and the fully remote program will have **asynchronous and synchronous** learning opportunities. Asynchronous learning is on-line learning that is accessed by students at a time that is convenient to them during the day. Weekly lessons, videos and activities are uploaded by the teacher in advance. Synchronous learning happens when students are learning together with the teacher. This would occur through Zoom sessions that are scheduled by the teacher.

**Will there be a set schedule for on-line learning?**

Yes. For fully remote students, synchronous learning (face-to-face via Zoom) will be scheduled daily. Asynchronous (uploaded lessons) will also be accessed daily at a time that is convenient for the student/family. For hybrid students, asynchronous lessons will be accessed on remote days and both asynchronous and synchronous learning will be scheduled on Fridays. Weekly asynchronous lessons and materials will be posted on Monday mornings.

**How can I stay on top of my child's grades, missing assignments or other educational issues?**

Parents are able to access different features of the on-line platforms to view student work, missing assignments and important messages. Parents in the MS/HS also have access to the parent portal of our student management system: <https://sms2.scrib.org/Deposit/>

A point of contact teacher (POC) will be assigned to each student at the beginning of this year. At the elementary level, this will be your child's homeroom teacher. We are in the process of determining who the POC will be at the MS/HS level.

This person will be the teacher who is responsible for maintaining regular communication with parents. We hope that having one regular POC will make communication with parents smooth and non-stressful.

*Technology Questions Continued*

***What learning platforms will be used?***

*PK-2: Seesaw; Grades 3-12: Google Classroom; Synchronous Learning: Zoom*

***I don't know how to use Google Classroom or Seesaw. How can I learn?***

*There are excellent training videos on YouTube that are short, helpful and made for parents. Check these sources out: Google Classroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgS-hoSljnw>  
Seesaw: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzlrDR84KY>*

***How will my student receive the technology this year?***

*Dates will be set up prior to the start of school for families to retrieve technology. This will help parents and students log into the computer and make sure everything is running smoothly before instruction begins.*

***Can my child use the remote learning system if he/she is sick and absent from in-person learning?***

*Yes; since the teacher will have Monday-Friday lessons uploaded each week, your child can participate remotely on days he/she is absent due to illness.*

***Is there a way to verify that my child's assignments have been submitted in the learning platforms (Google Classroom/Seesaw)?***

*Yes, parents will have access to view messages, assignments and grades in the learning platforms. Be sure to visit these videos for more information on features that are helpful for parents:(Google Classroom) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgS-hoSljnw>  
Seesaw: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzlrDR84KY>*

***Athletic Questions***

***Are fall sports cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year?***

*No, but the Governor has stated that interscholastic sports are on hold.*



*Athletic Questions Continued*

***If fall sports are allowed, when will they begin?***

*If the Governor allows fall sports to take place, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) has set a starting date of September 21<sup>st</sup>.*

***If my child is being taught 100% remotely, will they be able to participate in sports?***

*Yes, if they are enrolled in our district, they will have that opportunity. Only students who are homeschooled are not allowed to participate per NYS regulations.*

***If sports are allowed, how will my child sign up?***

*Sign-ups were done remotely in the spring of 2020, but will be conducted again if/when the Governor allows sports to take place.*

***This document will be updated as needed. If you have additional questions about the reopening plans, please email them to:***

***[question@deposit.stier.org](mailto:question@deposit.stier.org)***