
ND-BG SCHOOL REOPENING FORUM

PRESENTATION BY PRINCIPAL JONES, 8/20/2020

OVERVIEW OF THE EVENING

- Review key parts of the school reopening plan and questions that I have been frequently asked.
- Parents will be able to use the chat bot feature to ask questions after my presentation.

WILL ND-BG OFFER IN-PERSON CLASSES?

- Yes. Due to the small environment at ND-BG and large campus facility we are able to accommodate every student with in-person classes in a safe and socially distanced manner.

WHAT WILL THE NDBG VIRTUAL PROGRAM LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR?

- The virtual learning option will be very different this year.
- Students will use Microsoft Teams.
- Students will be able to attend classroom lectures each day and they will follow their regular class schedule.
- Students will be able to ask questions through the chat box function.
- Students will submit their assignments through MS Teams.
- Attendance will be taken in each class.
- Any family interested in the virtual program should contact my office.

ARE STUDENTS AND STAFF REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS?

- Yes. Masks are required for entry, when walking around school, and **whenever social distancing** is not possible.
- Students may remove masks when eating lunch, when all students are seated socially distant at their desk, and during prescribed mask breaks.
- Any student that arrives to school without a mask will be provided with one.

WHEN IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

- September 10th is a middle school only orientation day.
- September 11th is a high school only orientation day.
- September 14th is the first official day of the school year.
- The orientation days will be used to explain to students the new procedures and protocols for the school year.

WHEN ARE STUDENTS ALLOWED INTO THE BUILDING?

- We will begin the student screening process at 7:45am each day.

WHAT ENTRANCE WILL BE USED FOR DROP OFF?

- The rear entrance to the school will be used for student drop off this year.
- At dismissal students can use the front or rear exits.
- Dismissal will be staggered to reduce the numbers of students in the hallways.
- All students must be picked up by 3pm.

ARE DAILY QUESTIONNAIRES AND TEMPERATURE CHECKS REQUIRED?

- Students and staff will be required to answer an online questionnaire prior to entering the building daily.
- Temperature checks will be done at one of two stations as students and staff enter the building.
- Students and staff will also need to sanitize their hands upon entry into the school.
- A student who does not pass the screening process will not be allowed to enter the building and must be picked up right away.
- Once a student is cleared through the screening process, they will report to their homeroom.



WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT SPIKES A TEMPERATURE OR FEELS ILL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

- The student will see the nurse and then be escorted to the quarantine room where they will wait for parent/guardian or family member to pick them up.
- Students will need to consult with their physician.
- The school will follow-up with the family to discuss next steps.
- Medical documentation will be required before a student can return to school.

WILL ATTENDANCE BE TAKEN FOR IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL CLASSES?

- Yes. A daily bell scheduled is followed and attendance will be taken on PowerSchool.

HOW ARE CLASSROOMS SET UP?

- All student desks are spaced 6 ft apart from each other.
- Most classrooms can safely fit between 16-18 students.
- The teacher's desk is also socially distanced.
- Classroom windows will be left open to increase ventilation.
- Students will have access to hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes in each classroom.

WHAT WILL GYM CLASS BE LIKE?

- Yes. Students are required to take PE in NYS.
- Students will remain socially distanced at all times.
- Gym classes will take place outside weather permitting.
- Gym class will be non-contact and will include units on walking and stretching.
- PE lockers will not be used, and students will not need to change for gym.

WHO WILL CLEAN CLASSROOMS BETWEEN PERIODS?

- Students will be given cleaning wipes to disinfect and sanitize their desks.

HOW WILL STUDENTS MOVE THROUGHOUT THE HALLS EACH PERIOD?

- Students must walk on the right side of the hallways, stairs, etc. while maintaining social distance.
- Signage will be used to remind students of the directional flow of hallway traffic.
- Teachers and staff will assist with monitoring students between class changes.
- Staff and students must wear masks while in the halls and in all common areas.

WILL STUDENTS BE GIVEN LOCKERS?

- Yes. Students will be provided lockers.
- Locker use will be restricted.
- Students will be able to use their lockers before homeroom and lunch, and at the end of the day.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL BE CLEANED EACH NIGHT?

- We are using a cleaning service to clean and disinfect the school each night.
- During the school day we will have someone clean bathrooms, common areas, railings, doorknobs, etc.

WILL THERE BE SPORTS THIS FALL?

- NYSPHSAA has delayed the start of the fall 2020 sports season until Sept. 21, and canceled all regional and state championship events.

ARE CHANGES BEING MADE TO SCHOOL UNIFORMS THIS YEAR.

- Yes. In order to maximize comfort students will be allowed the option of wearing the polo shirt all year. If students choose this option, the only thing they can wear over their polo is the NDBG sweater or quarter zip when it is available (January 2021).
- The polo can be worn with the spring or winter bottoms. White sneakers are worn with the spring bottom and black shoes are worn with the winter bottom.
- Students will also still have the option of wearing the traditional winter uniform once we switch over in the fall.
- We will begin the school year with the spring uniform.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE IN THE BUILDING TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

- A decision will be made regarding closure in consultation with the Schenectady County Health Department and the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Albany.
- Families will be notified via email and our emergency notification system. Due to privacy laws, names will not be released for those that test positive.
- Schenectady County Health Department contact tracers will contact anyone who comes into contact with a Covid-19 positive person.
- If at any time ND-BG has to close all students would continue learning in daily scheduled virtual classes through Microsoft Teams.

WILL HOT LUNCH BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR?

- Yes. We will have separate lunch periods this year for the middle and high school students.
- Students will need to sanitize upon arrival to the cafeteria.
- Students will be socially distanced and will eat in the cafeteria or on the gym bleachers.
- Students can also choose to bring their lunch to school.

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE OF PICKING UP A STUDENT EARLY?

- Please make the Main Office aware of the early dismissal in advance. When you arrive please call the Main Office. Your child will be sent to the front door to meet you.

CAN I STILL MEET WITH MY CHILD'S PRINCIPAL, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, OR TEACHERS?

- Yes. Call the school or email to arrange for a meeting or phone call.
- Anyone entering the building will need to do a temperature check and complete a Covid-19 screening questionnaire.
- Masks are required.

WILL THE REOPENING PLAN BE REVISED?

- As circumstances change the plan will be updated. Families will be given email notifications when the plan has been updated.

QUESTIONS

- Please use the chat box function to ask questions.
- I will answer as many questions as our time allows.
- Please send an email if I did not get to your question this evening.