



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Addendum)

THESE FAQs AND ANSWERS ARE IN RESPONSE TO THE MOST TRENDING QUESTIONS POSED DURING THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE KENILWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2020.

FACE COVERINGS

How can students take mask breaks if they have to wear their face coverings inside at all times?

The NJDOE specifies that mask breaks are allowed. [NJDOE guidance](#) reads, “Students and staff should be provided face covering breaks throughout the day only when social distancing can be maintained and ideally outside or with windows open.”

How can students have snacks and be required to wear face coverings?

The state allows several exceptions to wearing face coverings at all times, including “during the period that a student is eating or drinking.” We have options to facilitate safe snack breaks, such as holding them outside. Inside, we will hold short snack periods only when social distancing can be maintained. It’s possible that not all students in a classroom will have their snack at the same time, so not all face coverings will be removed at once.

What is the plan for teachers or students who cannot wear face coverings, or children who cannot use hand sanitizer?

We are legally required to provide more frequent mask breaks for teachers who have medically documented health conditions. During these breaks, teachers will wear face shields and keep a distance of at least 6 feet from others. Parents of a student who has a medically documented health issue related to wearing a face covering or using hand sanitizer should contact the building principal and school nurse so that an Individual Health Plan can be established.

What if a student refuses to wear a face covering?

Like all matters related to “code of conduct,” a student’s refusal to wear a face covering will be handled in age- and developmentally appropriate ways. Wearing a face covering is a school requirement. Continual refusal to wear one will be considered a violation of the school’s code of conduct and students will be subject to the measures contained therein. Our leadership team received legal training on how to handle such matters.

WELLNESS PROTOCOLS

Why are we conducting pre-screening symptom checks at home, rather than the school door?

At this time, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NJ Department of Health do not recommend that schools conduct universal screenings (screening all students in grades K-12). The CDC asserts that symptom screenings alone are inadequate to reduce transmission, and the exact level of effectiveness of symptom screening in schools is uncertain. [Learn more about the CDC’s position here.](#) By requiring home screenings, we’re tapping into the parents and caregivers who would be most aware of the subtle changes in their children’s appearance or demeanor that might indicate an illness.

Why isn’t the district requiring daily COVID-19 testing of all students and staff?

Neither the NJ Department of Health nor the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend testing for all students and staff at this time.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATTERS

What do I need to know about special education (including therapies, placement, number of instructional minutes, etc.)?

We cannot provide standard answers in the area of special education, given that each student has his or her own *Individualized Educational Plan*. Parents/guardians of a student with an IEP should contact their child's case manager or email our Director of Student Personnel Services, Dawn Cuccolo at dawn_cuccolo@kenilworthschools.com.

Does Kenilworth have enough substitute teachers?

Approximately 40 substitute teachers have confirmed their interest in working in the district. Many of them recently participated in an orientation program. These substitute teachers would be available to Kenilworth when illness or another temporary need arises. We are always looking for more substitute teachers. Anyone who is interested in substitute teaching is asked to contact Lorrell Dutkevicz, lorrell_dutkevicz@kenilworthschools.com.

How will teachers become familiar with technology-based teaching prior to the start of the school year?

Throughout the summer, we ran several demonstrations of classroom technology, including simulating the experience of teaching from the classroom with mock students participating "at home." We've set aside time during the opening days of professional development for teachers to get comfortable with technology. Of course, we still expect a learning curve, but we anticipate that our preparation efforts will smooth the launch of the school year.

How will the district equip students with Chromebooks?

Every Brearley student will receive a Chromebook as part of a pre-pandemic plan to advance our future-ready practices, in part through a 1:1 program. All students who are participating in our full-remote learning program will receive **his/her own** Chromebook. For Harding students, please see Mr. Bubnowski's August 27 Principal's Update.

What are the class sizes?

Harding School's class sizes mostly range from 11 to 15 students. We've addressed the one or two cases where a class size exceeded 15 by one or two students by moving the class to a larger room to comply with social distancing practices. In Brearley Middle-High School, class size average is around 14. The class sizes were developed based on the 70% of students who initially planned to return to in-person learning. Families who chose the all-remote option cannot make an immediate switch to in-person instruction. The earliest that those students can return to in-person learning is November 16, and parents must notify the district of that decision by October 30. That plan gives us time to make any adjustments needed to maintain adequate social distancing. That might include shifting to different classrooms or securing additional personnel. We've built some flexibility into our reopening plans to respond to staff requests for health-related accommodations in their assignments.

How will Basic Skills/Interventions and Gifted & Talented services still be offered to Kenilworth students?

At Harding School, Basic Skills/Intervention teachers were reassigned to create additional grade-level sections -- a necessary step to meet social distancing guidelines by reducing class sizes. Basic Skills/Intervention and Gifted & Talented services will be offered after the modified school day. This model will particularly benefit students who are at risk of academic struggles. Sometimes students were pulled from a core class to receive remediation. In this new model, students would not miss their regular literacy or math instruction with their grade-level achieving peers and would also get a "double dose" of support. At Brearley Middle-High School, intervention and accelerated learning opportunities will continue to be provided through leveled courses and differentiation.

FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

What steps has the district taken for indoor air quality?

We've taken extensive steps to properly review and maintain our HVAC systems, and have purchased equipment to enhance filtering and air purification. You can learn more about our HVAC systems through this [FACT SHEET on indoor air quality](#) or by reviewing our [HVAC Maintenance standard operating procedure](#).

Why are iWave units considered safe?

No radiation is emitted from the iWave units. They generate positive and negative ions, which are readily found in nature in the outdoors. In forests and near oceans and waterfalls, ion levels are much higher than the level that the iWave emits. The ions are harmless to people and are short-lived as they react with viruses, other airborne pathogens and small airborne particles. Some New Jersey schools that have installed or are installing iWaves include: Holmdel Public Schools, Fair Lawn Public Schools, Princeton Public Schools, Madison Public Schools and Brick Township Schools, among other schools, businesses and government offices across the country. Also, the ions don't produce water or any liquid that would cause slippery floors. More information about iWave units can be found in our [FACT SHEET on indoor air quality](#).

How have classroom and district cleaning practices changed in light of health concerns?

The district has stocked up on the latest cleaning products, including those specifically recommended to mitigate COVID-19. We've also hired two additional custodians. Please refer to our [FACT SHEET on Health & Wellness](#). Additionally, you can review our district [COVID-19 Cleaning Plan and Procedures](#).

OPERATIONS

What documents did Kenilworth submit to verify that the district was prepared to reopen schools?

District leaders completed the detailed [Reopening Plan](#) and submitted that by the deadline. The state's Department of Education and the Executive County Superintendent approved it. Additionally, the Superintendent completed the required attestation form to certify that Kenilworth met all aspects of the state's reopening checklist.

What steps has the district taken to reinforce social distancing guidelines in school bathrooms?

We are installing plexiglass barriers in the bathrooms where appropriate. Staff will be stationed outside the bathrooms to monitor the number of restroom users at one time. Other measures are outlined in this informational video.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE
INFORMATION FOUND IN THESE FAQS?

UNDER THE [FALL REOPENING TAB](#) ON OUR WEBSITE, YOU WILL FIND
DETAILED FACT SHEETS WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.