Update On Our Reopening Plans

Presented to the Board of Education
July 20, 2020
Funneling Down Into the Details

Tonight’s Presentation

July 24th:
Superintendent Update & Survey

First week of August:
Our Full Plan Released

Weekly Superintendent Updates Throughout August
Our Reopening Mission

To responsibly return all members of our school community to school in a healthy and safe way.
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Our Emerging Belief System

- *We believe* the physical health of our school community members is our top priority.
- *We believe* we must continue to provide a rigorous academic program that provides for the continuity of learning.
- *We believe* it’s our responsibility to tend to the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
- *We believe* in equitable access to technology.
- *We believe* if we can safely account for athletics and extracurricular activities, we need to provide them for the whole-child experience.
Some Early Committee Outcomes

- We need *extra personnel support*.
- We need to make *enhancements to Distance Learning* based on lessons learned from the spring.
- We need *increased communications* from the schools to home; from the schools to faculty.
- We need to provide for *flexibility* now and throughout the year.
- We need to accelerate our *cleaning and sanitizing* practices and make those widely known.
- We need to reassure the public that *health and safety is our top priority* by creating and sharing the policies we are mandated to create (like pre-entry protocols, our process if we suspect someone is sick, etc.)
Personnel Support

- Care Plus
  - Social & Emotional Health

- Additional Nurse
  - Health & Wellness

- Additional Custodians
  - Buildings & Grounds

- Technology Facilitator
  - Curriculum & Instruction
What You Can (Tentatively) Expect

- A modified day schedule (similar to a half day) at Harding with a strong attempt to get students to school everyday
- Slightly staggered start and stop times
- Childcare
- A rotating schedule at Brearley with students grouped into cohorts with distance learning on days when students are not in school
- No lunch in either building. Students eligible for free and reduced lunch will be available; lunch will be part of aftercare.
- Remote learning for students who do not return supported by Brearley’s 1:1 effort and technology facilitator
Differentiating Distance Learning from Remote Learning

**Distance Learning:** Our mode of instruction last spring. The use of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning. For example, this will be the mode of instruction at Brearley Middle-High on days when students are not in school for in-person instruction. You should not expect live instruction on those days.

**Remote Learning:** Virtual learning will be available for students who do not return to school at all, as per the Governor’s announcement today. We anticipate this will include synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences. We’ll share more details about what this looks like in the coming weeks.
Remote Learning

Regarding Remote Learning
- This is for students who are not coming back at all.
- This will most likely include live instruction and pre-recorded instruction using our learning management systems and other online tools.
- We’re developing a protocol that will include parental permissions.
- It will be impermissible to vacillate between remote instruction & in-person instruction on a daily or weekly basis, although we realize we need to provide an opportunity to move from virtual to in-person at some points during the year.
- We’ll have more details about what remote learning looks like in August.
Regarding Remote Learning

● Since the requirement for districts to offer Remote Learning as an option for students who opt not to return was only released today, we cannot share more details at this time.

● The NJDOE indicated further guidance will be released this week.

● We’ll need to use that guidance to plan.
We’re working to create a schedule where Harding Elementary School will open to all students every day on a modified schedule, which will roughly follow a half day schedule with no lunch or recess. There will be a remote option for students who need to stay home.
An Early Look at Scheduling Possibilities

Harding Elementary School

How can we do this?

- We already have reasonable class sizes
- If needed, we will re-assign personnel to create additional grade-level sections.
- We will clear out non-essential equipment and furniture to open up space.
- We will repurpose large space and convert into instructional space.
- We will slightly stagger drop-off & pick-up times.
- We will provide for remote instruction for students who stay home.
An Early Look at Scheduling Possibilities

We’re working to create a rotating schedule where students are grouped into cohorts to provide a balance of in-person instruction several days of the week and distance learning several days of the week. The day will roughly follow a modified, half-day schedule with no lunch. There will be a remote option for students who stay home.
An Early Look at Scheduling Possibilities

How can we do this?

- We will divide students into groups.
- If needed, we will re-assign personnel to create additional class sections.
- We will clear out non-essential equipment and furniture to open up space.
- If needed, we will repurpose large space and convert into instructional space.
- We will support distance learning with our 1:1 Chromebook program and enhancements based on survey feedback, additional professional learning, and lessons learned from the spring.
- We will provide for remote instruction for students who stay home.
Protocols in Development

- Pre-screening health checks
- How to handle when someone is suspected to have COVID-19 (with associated quarantining rules)
- Guidelines around when to return to school after an illness
- Cleaning & sanitizing routines and procedures
- Drop off and pick up procedures
- Building logistics
- Guidance on face coverings (including when they will be mandated to be worn, how to safely provide breaks from face coverings, etc.)
- Remote learning
- Distance learning
All students in Brearley Middle-High School who will be returning to school will participate in Distance Learning on days when they are not assigned to be here for in-person instruction.

Some highlights from our distance learning survey:

- More than 80% of students in grades 5-12 said they were able to manage the change to distance learning.
- Staff members identified the opportunity to think “outside the box” as an advantage, but student attendance was the highest reported issue.
- More than 40% of parents identified live or pre-recorded lessons as the most helpful elements to support their child’s distance learning.
We’re offering a summer professional learning institute to support teachers with instructional matters related to the return of school.

- We will need to adjust our curriculum (and resources like scopes and sequences, pacing guides, assessments) and provide teachers with time and support to do this.

- We’ll need to look at beginning of year, pre-assessments more closely than ever before.

- We’ll need support students with academic interventions who may have experienced academic loss during the spring and/or summer.
Classified students with Individualized Education Plans will have schedules that match their needs as determined by the child’s IEP team.

We will continue inter-departmental coordination of services.

Care Plus will help to support social emotional and behavioral needs.

We’ll continue to focus efforts on a multi-tiered system of supports to provide academic, behavioral, and social support.
Communication Timeline

- **Friday, July 24th**
  - Summer Update #3 released to include:
    - Tentative outline of potential schedule
    - Summer Survey #2
- **First Week in August**
  - Full Reopening Plan released
- **Weekly updates beginning August.**
Sharing Our Reopening Plan

We’ll share our Reopening Plan through:
- A series of fact sheets by committee strand
- A comprehensive set of FAQs
- Other content

We’ll share our Reopening Plan on:
- Our website
- Our social media outlets
- Through “Superintendent Updates” sent via School Messenger
- Through August Friday Folder blasts
Questions, Comments, Concerns?

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