



FOLSOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1357 MAYS LANDING ROAD

FOLSOM, NJ 08037

Phone: 609-561-8666 / Fax: 609-567-8751

www.folsomschool.org

Matthew Mazzone, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Christopher R. Veneziani

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Michele L. Hetzel

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

July 15, 2020

Dear Folsom Families,

The Restart Committee met on Monday, July 13th to review the critical elements to re-opening Folsom School this September by following the health and safety guidelines set by the New Jersey Department of Education.

The committee needs to hear from our parents and guardians as we navigate this process. We want to know your present plan of your child returning to Folsom in September. In addition, we want to know your plan for transportation. Lastly, we ask for you to give us your thoughts/feelings on school's reopening and the draft below. Thank you for taking the time to provide this important information. Survey Link - <https://forms.gle/V5UxpD1cA6EX1PTBA>.

Please fill out the survey by Monday, July 20, 2020. Your feedback will be taken into consideration by the restart committee and help finalize the restart plan by August 1st.

The committee is exploring the possibility of students returning to Folsom School five (5) days a week with arrival beginning at 8:20 am and dismissal starting at 3:15 pm. This option aligns to prominent associations supporting students return to school in September. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), National Education Association (NEA) and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, released a joint statement on the safe return of students, teachers, and staff to schools:

“Educators and pediatricians share the goal of children returning safely to school this fall. Our organizations are committed to doing everything we can so that all students have the opportunity to safely resume in-person learning.

“We recognize that children learn best when physically present in the classroom. But children get much more than academics at school. They also learn social and emotional skills at school, get healthy meals and exercise, mental health support and other services that cannot be easily replicated online. Schools also play a critical role in addressing racial and social inequity. Our nation's response to COVID-19 has laid bare inequities and consequences for children that must be addressed. This pandemic is especially hard on families who rely on school lunches, have children with disabilities, or lack access to Internet or health care.

Returning to school is important for the healthy development and well-being of children, but we must pursue re-opening in a way that is safe for all students, teachers and staff.”

Following is a detailed breakdown of how Folsom School will safely open in-person 5 days a week:



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SCREENING

We strongly encourage parents/guardians to take their child's temperature prior to leaving the home each day. Students entering the school will enter in a designated area by grade level to minimize the number of students entering at the same time. For instance, PK and K students will enter the school near the PK/K playground. Staff will greet students at the entrance and take their temperature using an infrared thermometer. Next, students will be directed to the hand sanitizer station located in the hallway near the entrance. This type of process will be executed for all students in various entry points in the building.

TRANSPORTATION

Students will have to wear face coverings when on a bus. Students will load buses from back to front and unload front to back. Bus windows will be kept down when the weather permits to allow for air circulation. The district will provide additional masks on each bus in the case a student forgets their own face covering.

CLEANING SUPPLIES and PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The district purchased 1 Odorox Hydroxyl Generator Slim line for the nurse's office and 2 Odorox Boss XL3 Hydroxyl Generators for the hallways. The Odorox® process mimics Mother Nature by safely generating hydroxyls and other molecules that naturally "seek and destroy" bacteria, viruses, mold, odor causing chemicals and VOCx. Hydroxyls actually neutralize odor molecules and gasses by breaking down their chemical bonds.

The district also purchased 2 HEPA 500 Air Scrubbers for the hallways and 2 Victory Electrostatic Backpack Sprayers to assist in cleaning classrooms. The HEPA 500 Air Scrubber uses HEPA filter media with an efficiency rating of 99.97% against 0.3-micron oily aerosol particles and provides 250 to 500 CFM, the typical airflow level demanded on restoration jobs. The Electrostatic Backpack Sprayer reduces cross contamination as it takes the place of spray and wipe down surfaces with a cleaning agent.

Each classroom and school entrance will be outfitted with a wall mounted sanitizer dispenser coupled with 180 foaming sanitizer pumps.

Lastly, the district purchased 2500 disposable masks for students and staff that need one. We strongly encourage students to bring their own face covering/mask to school each day. However, we will have spare masks in the event personal face coverings are misplaced or forgotten.

CLASSROOM LEARNING

The district purchased 400 student desk shields called Guards Up Triguard. The clear barrier is approximately 24 inches tall x 22 inches long x 13 inches deep. A barrier will be attached to each student's desk. The barrier will enable the entire class to be in the classroom together as long as the desks are facing the same direction or having students sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart from each other. We are projecting class sizes to be the following:

Pre-Kindergarten - 15 students

First Grade - 18 to 20 students

Third Grade - 22 students

Kindergarten - 17 to 18 students

Second Grade - 17 students

Fourth Grade - 20 - 21 students



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Fifth Grade - 22 to 23 students

Sixth Grade - 22 - 23 students

Seventh Grade - 22 to 23 students

Eighth Grade - 22 students

Students have to wear face coverings/masks when social distancing cannot be achieved or students are not at their desk behind the clear physical barrier.

School staff are required to wear face coverings in the school.

Students will have the chance for outside “brain breaks” throughout the school day. An example brain break can be a walk, game, and/or yoga stretches.

ENTRY, EXIT, and STUDENT FLOW

As stated earlier, we will stagger arrival and pick-up areas throughout the school. For instance, students will be dropped off and picked up in certain areas by grade level. This will reduce the number of students congregating in one area during these times.

Students and staff must wear a face covering/mask when walking in the hallways/common areas.

LUNCH / RECESS

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms at their desks with the clear barrier in place.

A schedule will be set up for students to wash their hands before and after eating lunch. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms have a bathroom and sink to assist in this step.

We will continue pre-ordering meals during homeroom. The cafeteria staff will prepare the meals in individual boxes and deliver to each homeroom.

Recess will continue to be a part of the student’s day. During recess, students will be expected to practice social distancing. Students will have to wear face coverings/masks if social distancing cannot be maintained outside.

BATHROOM USE

All hallway bathrooms have touchless toilets, sinks, and hand dryers. Restrooms will be periodically cleaned throughout the day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / SPECIAL AREAS

Students are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and safe footwear to school that allows for safe movement and is appropriate for the weather in order to participate in physical education without the use of a locker room.

The goal is for physical education classes to be outside weather permitting. The gymnasium will only be used for physical education classes during inclement weather. An Odorox Boss XL3 Hydroxyl Generator and a HEPA 500 Air Scrubber will be relocated to the gymnasium during these times.



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We are exploring the possibility of special area classes (i.e. – music, art, etc.) being in the student’s classroom. Our goal is to minimize students moving from class to class throughout the school day.

REMOTE LEARNING OPTION

An alternative to in-person schooling is for your child to continue to learn remotely. Students would be expected to follow the school day schedule to interact with their teacher and classmates during the direct instruction lesson. Students would log onto a Google Meet link that would interface with the class for the teacher’s direct instruction for the day. The live lesson would be approximately 15 to 20 minutes. The live lesson will be recorded in the event a student cannot attend at the designated time. Next, students would complete daily assignments through Google Classroom. An example schedule for a 6th grader choosing to learn remotely would be the following:

- 9:00 am - 9:20 am - Math Lesson by the Teacher
- 9:20 am - 10:00 am - Math Independent Work
- 10:05 am - 10:25 am - Special Areas Lesson by the Teacher
- 10:25 am - 11:05 am - Special Areas Independent Work
- 11:10 am - 11:30 am - Science Lesson by the Teacher
- 11:30 am - 12:10 pm - Science Independent Work
- 1:00 pm - 1:20 pm - ELA Lesson by the Teacher
- 1:20 pm - 2:00 pm - ELA Independent Work
- 2:05 pm - 2:25 pm - Social Studies Lesson by the Teacher
- 2:25 pm - 3:05 pm - Social Studies Independent Work

All independent work shall be submitted electronically.

We look forward to gathering your feedback from the survey as we continue to explore the best possible options for our students, staff, and families. Thank you for your continued understanding and support. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at mmazzoni@folsomschool.org or by phone at 609-561-8666.

Respectfully,

Matthew Mazzoni, Ed.D.
Superintendent