

# Logan Township School District

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## Preliminary Restart Plan for September 2020

Good Afternoon, Families of Logan Township School District,

**(In addition to reading the information listed below regarding our Restart Plan, please take the time to complete the survey (here's the link: <https://forms.gle/JkqLbBMdK794kTSBA> ) one for each of your children.)**

This letter is to provide you with a preliminary look at Logan Township School District's plan to reopen schools in the fall of 2020. The reason that this plan is only a preliminary framework is that the situation we find ourselves in, as a result of the pandemic, is fluid. Please realize that this plan could change at any time over the next month or so.

The Administration, staff and Board of Education has had the following guiding principles in mind, when developing our district's Restart Plan:

1. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community;
2. The continuity of **quality** teaching and learning and how best to accommodate the needs of our students while keeping all students academically engaged;
3. Helping families and the community get back to some sense of normalcy.

When developing this plan, we also focused on the priorities Governor Murphy stated (when he rolled out the NJDOE's Road Back plan) that school districts must prioritize:

- Social Distancing
- Face Coverings
- Limited capacity
- Cleaning/ disinfecting

The Logan Township School District has followed the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) when developing our Restart Plan. As stated above, our first priority is the health and well being of our students and staff as we prepare for the safe reopening of schools. The guidance from the CDC includes the mandates to keep social and physical distancing in classrooms, buses, and shared spaces. These are important procedures for containing COVID-19 recommended to us by the New Jersey Department of Health. Adhering to physical distancing limits the number of students and staff who can be on a bus or inside a school building together at the same time.

Taking all of this into consideration, some of the procedures, which we will be following, include:

- Six-foot separation in school will be maintained, whenever possible, for both staff and students.
- We are enacting new capacity limits and seating guidelines for buses, per health and safety expectations.
- Masks will be required of all students and staff when on school busses and at all times once they enter the grounds and of course, the school buildings.
- In an effort to limit mixing groups of students, our plan has children staying in one classroom for the period of time they attend while teachers will move to each room. (This reduces the chances of having one cohort of students interact with another cohort of students.)
- Middle School students will not have lockers. They will keep materials in their own backpack and carry them back and forth to school.
- Buildings will undergo daily sanitizing for high-touch areas (doorknobs, handles, etc.) using an approved cleaning solution. Bathrooms will be cleaned thoroughly each day and between sessions of PreK and K students. Deep cleaning protocols, which will take place on Wednesdays, when students and staff are not in the building, are still being developed and refined.
- Lunches will not be served at school, since in-person instruction will be no longer than 4 hours for all grade levels of students (with PreK and K students attending less than 2.5 hours.) Meals will be distributed to families on Wednesdays (when no in-person instruction is occurring) using a similar format to the food distribution practice we used during remote instruction last spring. We will be distributing five days of meals on Wednesday at two set times, **Noon to 2 PM** and **4 to 6 PM**. Pick up will be at the LEMS building for all district students. As we did in the spring, families would be asked to complete food surveys beforehand, if they desire to be part of this food distribution process. This service will begin on Wednesday, September 2nd. More about meal pick up will be forthcoming, as details surrounding various meal programs are expected to differ from the Spring.
- Visitors to the school buildings will be limited but will be required to wear masks while in the building.

Below are more specific plans of which cohorts of students will attend on which days/sessions.

- **Students in PreK and K (Cohort C)** will come to school at the Center Square School (CSS) building on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2 hours and 20 minutes. Each class will be split into two; with one half of the class attending the AM session (8:40 to 11AM) and the other half of the class attending the PM session (1:10 to 3:30 PM). The break in the middle of the day would provide us with time to clean bathrooms, tabletops, chairs, etc. between the two cohorts of students. **This schedule would provide our youngest students with the ability to have daily interaction with their teacher (in a smaller group of students, 8 to 12) for four days each week.**
- **Students in Grades 1 - 5 (Cohort A)** will come to school at the Logan Elementary/MiddleSchool (LEMS) building on Mondays and Tuesdays each week. **The part that is new is that Grade 1 will be attending in-person instruction at LES building.** The reason for this is that in order to split each of these three first grade classes into two (to

produce smaller cohorts of students to meet social distancing guidelines) we will need six classrooms. (Remember...limiting capacity with each classroom is an overarching priority.) We don't have six classrooms available at CSS, but we do have extra classrooms available at LES. Moving first grade to LES provides us the space we need to adequately maintain social distancing in all classrooms.

- **Students in grades 6 - 8 (Cohort B)** would attend at the LEMS building on Thursdays and Fridays.
- **Special Ed Self-Contained classes (Cohort D)** will follow the PreK and K hybrid model in the way that they will be present in school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday but the way they differ from PreK and K is that they will be participating in in-person instruction for 4 hours each of those four days.
- All in-person days for grades 1 - 8 (including Cohort D) would be a four-hour day most likely from 8:15 AM to 12:15 PM. Grades 1 to 8 would share the LEMS building. Cohort A will be grades 1 to 5 and they will be stretched throughout the entire LEMS building on Mondays and Tuesdays. Cohort B will be grades 6 to 8 and they will be stretched throughout the entire LEMS building on Thursdays and Fridays.
- On Wednesdays, all district teachers and students would be involved in teaching and learning **remotely**. The primary reason for this is so that both buildings would undergo substantial deep-cleaning, while students and staff are out of the buildings.

I am sure as parents and guardians, your next question will be: *"What will instruction look like on the days/ sessions when students are in-person and what will instruction look like when students are participating in remote learning?"* Please keep in mind, when developing the described **Hybrid Model** cited below, **it was our goal to improve upon the remote learning experience which occurred in the spring.**

#### **Hybrid Model of Instruction:**

**Includes In-Person Instruction and Remote Instruction**

**In-Person Instruction:** On the sessions/days of In-person Instruction, the student will be participating in teacher-taught lessons which will provide the student with immediate feedback from the teacher while allowing for collaborative in-person discussions with other students about grade level content. These will be the times when teachers will be able to personally monitor your child's academic growth and from the data gathered during this monitoring, teachers will be able to better accommodate your child's specific needs during the three days of remote learning. Also, in-person days will provide opportunities for students to make personal connections and develop relationships with their teachers and aides and other students in their cohort.

**Remote Instruction:** On the times/days of Remote Instruction, students will follow a structured schedule which will include multiple Live Sessions with their teacher(s) in order to tailor instruction to their specific learning needs (which were identified during the in-person instructional days). Please note that Remote Instruction will require your child to be actively engaged with his/her teacher at **scheduled** times. Other times, your child will be given independent assignments to be completed before returning to In-Person instruction. All of these possibilities depend on the specific grade level of your child.

**Special Areas Instruction:** During Hybrid Instruction, all special areas and PE/Health classes will be held during the remote days of instruction; **not in-person**. Students in grades K - 5 will only be held accountable **for one special area** (e.g Music, Art, World Language, etc.) for an extended time period/

marking period. Physical Education/ Health will be held at least two times a week, one time live virtual session and one or two additional assignments. *(This paragraph on Special Area Instruction does not apply to PreK.)*

For grades 6 and 7, all students will move through the 5 special areas (art, music, world language, STEM A and STEM B) in 36 day rotations. In grade 8, students will still have their selected special areas for one semester each (90 days). Period Zero pre-engineering classes will not be offered during the pandemic, as these classes are very hands-on in nature and go against the cohort model described above. Grade 8 Italian 1 and Spanish 1 will be completely remote with classes held five days a week. More information will follow.

One reason for special areas needing to occur remotely, is the inability to keep the same, small cohort of students together, if held in-person. Physical Education classes, especially, would be a huge challenge since these classes generally have a bigger class, which would result in little or no social distancing.

### **All students (K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) will have their own Chromebooks.**

The district has ordered Chromebooks for all students in grades K through 8 in order that each student has his/her own device to use at home, **since our updated ReStart Plan includes online, live instructional sessions during remote learning days.** However, due to the pandemic, these devices are on backorder and may not be available in early September. As a result, we need your help in identifying each child's *present* accessibility to his/her own device at home (Chromebook, Laptop or Desktop with a webcam). We have included a question in our attached survey, as to your child's access, at this time, to his/her own device. *Please know, this is only a temporary arrangement.* As soon as the recently-ordered Chromebooks are delivered, the district will ensure that each child in K through 8th grade has his/her own device to be used for live sessions at home during remote instruction.

**To summarize,** the Hybrid model we detailed above does the following...

- Provides true continuity of instruction both in person and online. A hybrid of In-Person Instruction and days of Remote Learning provides consistency. All students are in the same spot in terms of what lessons they have been exposed to, which turns out to be more equitable than the all-remote learning which occurred in the spring;
- Limits the number of adults in the building each day;
- Maintains a cohort system for students - students are with only a small number of the *same* students in the *same* room each day they are in school. (This priority is referenced often in every document we read). In other words, keeping students in a small "bubble" and not interacting with students from another "bubble". (This was the only decision we could make, once we realized that we were not going to be able to bring in **all** students at one time if we were to adhere to social distancing and limited capacity in the building,)

### **Health Protocols**

Health monitoring protocols will be implemented in accordance with the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) guidance.

- A daily health screening will be required of all parents to report that their child is asymptomatic and has not been exposed to anyone who is symptomatic. We are in the process of purchasing an app, namely *Ruvna Health*, to assist the district in gathering the screening data daily. Parents and Guardians will be sent either a text or e-mail message asking them to complete a short screening survey (on a daily basis). We are working on having each student have a QR code, which is scanned upon the students' entrance into the school building. If the parent completed the survey, and the criteria is met, the student is admitted and goes directly to their classroom. If the parent did not complete the survey at home, then that student will need to be screened by a Logan School District employee before entering the school.

- Temperature checks of ALL students and staff will NOT occur (and are not required), but we are considering random temperature checks taken of students, as they enter the school buildings.
- The District's school nurses will continue to collaborate with the Gloucester County Department of Health throughout the pandemic. They will appropriately respond to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school and to implement all necessary health and safety protocols. This includes:
  - Students and staff are expected to stay home, if they show any of the symptoms related to COVID-19. When in doubt, you should keep your child at home.
  - If a child shows symptoms of COVID-19, as listed by the CDC, they will be sent immediately to the nurses' office and parents or guardians will be called immediately to pick up that student from school. While waiting for the parent/guardian, that child will be held in isolation in the nurses' office. Parents must have an available back up plan in place to pick up their child.
  - If a student/staff is tested COVID positive, that person will be in isolation, *away from school*, for the number of days required by the CDC and DOH.
    - **Isolation** keeps sick people restricted to home separate from healthy people for the duration of **infectiousness**, which is 2 days prior to onset of symptoms and at least 10 days after onset of illness.
    - A student or staff member who might have been in close contact (definition below) with someone who is infected with COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 days from the last day of contact with an infected person.
    - **Close contact** is defined as someone who has been within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more (with or without a mask) of a person who is infected with or tested positive for COVID-19. They need to be **quarantined**.
    - Quarantine keeps someone who is healthy and who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 **away from others**.
  - The recommendation by the CDC is to *only* notify the students or staff that are within close contact (defined above) of the person who has tested positive.

#### Families,

We will continue to communicate with you, throughout the month of August, to share more details or possible changes to this preliminary plan.

**\*\*\*PLEASE COMPLETE THE PARENT SURVEY LINKED BELOW FOR EACH CHILD\*\*\***

<https://forms.gle/JkqLbBMdK794kTSBA>

If you are interested in reading the NJDOE's "The Road Back" Restart and Recovery plan, you can find that document on the front webpage of our district website.

Sincerely



Patricia L. Haney  
Superintendent

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