



THE ROAD BACK TO SCHOOL

Reopening our school for the 2020-21 school year

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Questions	Answers
Health & Safety	
<i>Will staff and students be required to get a COVID-19 test before returning?</i>	No, universal testing is not part of the CTSD reopening plan. The CDC does not recommend universal screening as a guideline for reopening schools. It is not clear if it would prevent transmission of the contagious disease beyond what the guidelines recommend (i.e. face coverings, cohorts, social distancing). Since a test only captures the individual's status at that moment, results quickly lose their relevance.
<i>How are students being screened for possible COVID-19 symptoms prior to the start of each school day?</i>	<p><u>Bus Riders</u> - Students disembark buses at one of two locations out front: MS wing doors or main doors. Prior to entering the building, district staff use a touchless thermometer to screen students through a visual and temperature check. Students whose temperature reads 100.4 or above walk to the BOE building for follow-up. Temperatures at 100.4 or above are recorded numerically; all screenings are documented. Students who are sent home prior to entering the building and prior to the start of the school day will be housed at the BOE building. Student data is maintained as confidential. In the event of inclement weather, adjustments will be made accordingly.</p> <p><u>Drop-off</u> - Students exit vehicles at cafeteria side doors as directed by staff. Prior to entering the building, district staff use a touchless thermometer to screen students through a visual and temperature check. Students who are flagged in the visual/temperature screening process (temperature reads 100.4 or above) and directed to return to their vehicle. Adults dropping off students are directed to pull away once students have been screened. Temperatures at 100.4 or above are recorded numerically; all screenings are documented. Student data is maintained as confidential. In the event of inclement weather, adjustments will be made accordingly.</p>
<i>How are staff being screened for possible COVID-19 symptoms prior to the start of each school day?</i>	Staff complete a daily self-assessment prior to entering the building. The self-assessment follows a documented checklist of the telltale COVID-19 symptoms. Staff who determine their status indicates they remain home report their status to school officials. Staff data is maintained as confidential.
<i>What happens if a student becomes ill (possibly with COVID-19) during the school day?</i>	Students with possible COVID-19 symptoms are referred to the school nurse for evaluation. The school nurse follows guidance from the school physician, the CCDOH, and the CDC. If indicated, the student is isolated and supervised/monitored until the student can be picked up. The school nurse provides follow-up to parents/guardians as indicated.

<p>What happens if a staff member becomes ill (possibly with COVID-19) during the school day?</p>	<p>Staff with possible COVID-19 symptoms are referred to the school nurse for evaluation. The school nurse follows guidance from the school physician, the CCDOH, and the CDC. If indicated, the staff member is sent home to follow up as indicated.</p>
<p>What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?</p>	<p>School officials follow procedures that include contacting the Cumberland County Department of Health (CCDOH). Our school nurse, Patricia Teasenfitz, collaborates with our school doctor, Dr. Jain, for additional guidance as it pertains to COVID-19. School officials have established lines of communication with those poised to provide best guidance and feedback to implement guidelines for the health and safety of the school community. Isolation and quarantine help mitigate the spread of a contagious disease. <i>Isolation</i> is separating those sick with the contagious disease from those who are not sick. <i>Quarantine</i> is separating and restricting movement of those who may have been exposed to the contagious disease. The timeframe for isolation/quarantine is determined by test results. Any individual who is getting a COVID-19 nasal or saliva test is to self-quarantine after the specimen is collected and are advised of the results unless otherwise directed by the testing facility. This does not apply to antibody testing. Length of time for isolation and self-quarantine is determined by the NJDOH' guidance based on test results. CTSD cooperates with the CCDOH regarding contact tracing. Contact tracing is a protocol for identifying and notifying exposed individuals.</p>
<p>How does the travel ban impact our school community?</p>	<p>CTSD directs the school community to be guided according to the Governor's travel advisory notices. Gov. Murphy has advised NJ residents to voluntarily self-quarantine after returning from named "hotspot" states. This information is constantly changing as the pandemic unfolds. For up-to-date information, visit Which states are on the travel advisory list? Are there travel restrictions to or from New Jersey? FAQ</p>
<p>What is the expectation for wearing masks?</p>	<p>At CTSD, <i>Panthers take care of Panthers</i>. Since asymptomatic individuals can unknowingly spread the virus to others, all visitors, staff, and students are required to wear a proper cloth face covering. It provides a layer of protection against transmission. All students will be given a mask, but students may wear their own - (and are encouraged to wear one they have become accustomed to). Masks should align with the intent of the dress code meaning it cannot be offensive or cause disruptions. CTS intends to use a positive image superhero campaign in conjunction with education to promote mask-wearing. Experts recommend students start wearing masks now to become accustomed to wearing a mask for the school day. Some students may adapt quickly to this new requirement. CTS will work individually with students who experience difficulty with this requirement on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>What supplies are provided in the classroom to ensure proper hygiene and</p>	<p>Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in instructional spaces as advised per the NJDOE guidance. Many classrooms also have sinks and soap for hand washing. All classrooms have wipes so that hard surfaces can be intermittently wiped down when indicated (i.e. after eating breakfast).</p>

cleaning?	
How will hand washing be promoted?	The school nurse explains the proper procedure as well as the benefits for hand washing via video. Classrooms signage reinforce when hand washing is indicated. Hand washing is part of the classroom routine.
In-person School Cohorts (2+3 / 4+1)	
When will I get information on my student's cohort * assignment?	Students who return for in-person learning through our "2 + 3" plan will be assigned to a cohort. All students in a household are in the same cohort. Cohort A attends in-person on Mondays/Tuesdays; Cohort B attends in-person on Wednesdays/Thursdays. Both Cohort A and Cohort B have computer-based learning on Fridays. The purpose of cohorting students is to decrease the number of students in a classroom so that social distancing can be implemented, so we anticipate 50% of the class to be in school at a time. School officials finalize cohort lists based on survey feedback. Notification will be sent as soon as possible - by mid-August. *PK, K, and self-contained special education homerooms are Cohort C; they attend as "4 + 1" which is 4 in-person days (M-R) and one individualized day (F).
Could my grade 1-5 student possibly attend Mon.-Thurs.?	Depending on survey feedback and staffing, it may be possible that some of our younger student classrooms could open to be a "4 + 1" classroom. If that becomes possible, parents/guardians of students in that grade will be contacted.
What factors will determine phasing up to a full day?	The reason for starting students back with an abbreviated day is to facilitate students a smooth transition. Wearing masks, socially distancing, and other protocols are unfamiliar and new; we expect there to be a period of adjustment and transition. As students and staff transition and acclimate, the reopening committee will re-evaluate the school community's readiness in conjunction with local conditions (COVID-19 transmission rate). The school day will return to a full day as indicated and recommended by the committee.
What happens to in-person days on 4-day weeks?	When notification of cohort is sent, a calendar of cohort days will be included. The first week of school for students is Tuesday, Sept. 8 - Friday, Sept. 11. This is a 4-day week. Cohort A will attend T/W; Cohort B will attend R/F. Wherever there are 4-day weeks in the school calendar, the cohort days will be adjusted so that two days of in-person instruction is provided.
What will the classroom look like?	All instructional spaces have been measured for 'work stations' that are spaced six feet apart. All students and each educator has their own 'work station' in their classroom. It is large enough to accommodate all the student's learning materials. Materials get packed up at the end of the day for cleaning. When cohorts switch, the student's materials are stowed in a designated space other than the work station and the work stations are thoroughly cleaned. Guidance advises against commonly touched objects and be in close proximity where possible. To this end, centers and kidney beans tables for small group instruction have been removed from classrooms. Classrooms will have signage for health precautions such as washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing, and covering one's cough. Teachers will attempt to make the classrooms as welcoming as possible despite the restrictions inherent with implementing guidelines for health and safety.

What will the hallways look like?	The layout of CTS is not conducive to loops; therefore, it is not feasible to designate one-way hallways. There will, however, be floor spots marking six feet distancing on both the left and right side of hallways. Hallways will have signage for health precautions such as wearing masks, social distancing, and covering one's cough.
What will the schedule be on a 4-hour in-person day?	On abbreviated 4-hour days, students receive instruction in the four main disciplines: language arts, math, science and social studies. Students receive computer-based instruction for specials when they are not attending in-person.
Will students go outside for recess?	The 4-hour school day does not include recess. Since it is not feasible to disinfect playground equipment between student use, the playground is closed. When full days resume, the plan calls for classes to go outside for recess in designated areas for safe activities that promote physical movement while maintaining social distance. Teachers may take their classes outside for brain intervals (aka brain breaks) and/or for academic reasons.
Will students change classrooms?	Students will stay in their homerooms. The goal is to minimize movement around the building as much as possible in order to minimize possible transmission.
Why are PK, K and some special education students attending as "4 + 1" instead of "2 + 3"?	Initial data indicated the possibility of providing a "4 + 1" for all PK-5 students. While staffing issues and lacking definitive numbers for virtual school made this a risky proposal to implement, the "4 + 1" model remained a feasible proposal for homerooms that already have fewer students - which is our PK, K and self-contained special education homerooms. Coincidentally, these students' needs are best met with less reliance on computer-based instruction.
Can my PK or K student attend just two days?	Compulsory education which requires regular attendance starts at age six. The district recommends regular attendance to ensure academic consistency. The district understands the special circumstances/child care issues related to COVID-19 and will work with families on a case-by-case basis.
What might students be doing under computer-based learning?	It depends on the teacher and the student's grade level, but generally speaking the following learning activities should be expected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group instruction • Individualized instruction • Flipped classroom content study • Specials classes
Virtual School	
What should students expect with Virtual School? Will it be flexible like it was last spring?	The guidance from the NJDOE is clear that there needs to be more accountability with this next iteration of virtual instruction. The guidance also states that students are to receive an equivalent educational experience as their in-person peers. Given that, students in Virtual School will be required to virtually attend for synchronous instruction, so there will not be the same level of flexibility as there was in the spring. The flexibility for Virtual School comes with the asynchronous component.
Can students opt into Virtual School at any	Yes, a parent/guardian can initiate the process to enroll the student into Virtual School at any time during the school year. Parents/guardians should be prepared to

time?	commit for the marking period when choosing Virtual School and allow the district up to a week to complete the enrollment process.
Can students return to "2 + 3" in-person school at any time?	In order to ensure program continuity, students can switch to in-person school at the end of a marking period.
What will be the balance between synchronous and asynchronous learning?	The NJDOE guidance requires that Virtual School match the in-person cohort experience. Students in Virtual School should anticipate 8 hours a week of synchronous instruction where they must "virtually attend" the virtual classroom at a specific time. This schedule is TBD as it hinges on staffing and parent survey feedback for enrollment. The schedule will be shared as soon as possible. The remainder of the learning will be more flexible through asynchronous assignments/assessments.

Food, Transportation, & Child care	
What's the status of water fountains? Can students bring water bottles?	Water fountains have been replaced with water filling stations to prevent transmission of the virus. Students may bring in a water bottle. Students will be trained (and supervised as indicated) to use the station according to health and safety guidelines.
What is the plan for breakfast?	When students arrive to their respective classrooms, the routine is to wash hands and take a "Grab and Go" bagged breakfast to their work station. While students are eating with a 6 foot social distance in place, meal time provides an opportunity for the community building component in social emotional learning. Breakfast will be a 'working breakfast' as students building-wide will engage in a focused attention practice and some type of community building activity.
What is the plan for lunch?	For a 4-hour school day, students who ride the bus will take a "Grab and Go" bagged lunch as they get off the bus. Student who get picked up will take a "Grab and Go" bagged lunch as they leave the building when their ride arrives. When a full day is resumed, students will eat lunch in the classroom.
How will students get meals on days they are not physically present?	CTSD anticipates reinstating the bus route food distribution system used in the spring. Deliveries of breakfast and lunch meals will likely be made in the afternoons. A pick-up window at CTS may be provided for those who cannot meet their delivery bus.
How will students be seated on the bus?	Students must wear a face covering on the bus. Students in the same household are seated together. Otherwise, students sit on separate seats to assist with the contact tracing process if necessary. As much as possible students will be assigned seats to accommodate their developmental level (i.e. a young student with no siblings would be seated in the front) and to minimize contact (i.e. back to front order).
Will buses be cleaned between runs?	Yes, our drivers will be trained on the proper procedure to apply the cleaning agent and the "dwell time" required for the product to be effective has been factored into the run schedule. At this time, two runs are expected in both the morning and

	afternoon. Students in the same household will have the same stop times.
What child care options are available for parents/guardians?	CTSD recognizes that the hybrid schedule may create a hardship for families. The director of the YMCA is a member of the reopening committee, and there are plans for two programs to assist families challenged by this hardship: <u>Before/After School</u> - This child care program has been offered to families as either before school, after school, or both before/after school. This program will continue to run following the same protocols in place during the school day (i.e. face coverings, social distancing). The program will run out of the gymnasium. Students may attend this child care program on days the students attend in person. <u>All-Day @ PNS</u> - With the "2 + 3" program, there are three days when families may be in need of all-day care. The YMCA is in the process of establishing an all-day child care program at the PNS. More information on this new offering is forthcoming.

General Instructional Info.	
What is meant by synchronous and asynchronous learning?	<i>Synchronous</i> learning happens at the same time or in real time. Examples of synchronous learning include: traditional in-person learning, video conference meetings, teleconferences, e-chatting, office hours, interactive webinars, or a live stream. With synchronous learning, learners and educators need to be in the same place at the same time. <i>Asynchronous</i> learning does not require that interactions happen at the same time. Examples of asynchronous learning include: e-mail, using Website links, viewing content posted in Google Classroom or SeeSaw, blogs, forums, viewing a pre-recorded video. With asynchronous learning, educators provide the materials/resources, assignments, and assessments for students to complete within a flexible time frame but by a specific due date.
What is meant by cohort?	A cohort is a group that travels together. In the CTSD reopening plan, there are four cohort groups: Cohort A - attend in-person on Mondays/Tuesdays Cohort B - attend in-person on Wednesdays/Thursdays Cohort C - attend in-person Mondays-Thursday Cohort V - does not attend in-person; all virtual
What is the difference between Virtual School and the "2 + 3"/"4 + 1" hybrid model?	In Virtual School, students never come to the brick and mortar school. Instead, all learning is conducted through computer-based platforms in both synchronous and asynchronous formats. Conversely, the "2 + 3"/"4 + 1" program involves students reporting to the brick and mortar school on their cohort days. Students fulfill most of their synchronous learning experience in-person. Both programs offer synchronous and asynchronous learning.
Is the district live streaming classes?	No, at this time the district is not using a live stream to allow others to virtually attend a classroom where a teacher is working with a cohort of in-person students.
If I have a HS student, is it possible for all my students to attend on the same days?	The reopening committee based the cohort days of M/T and W/R based on popular feedback, and the decision was made before Millville committed to their schedule. Both districts have a M/T cohort. CTSD will make every effort to accommodate families with students in both districts to have the same cohort

	days. The same applies to families with students who attend other area high schools.
Will teachers have office hours?	Yes, every teacher will have posted, consistent office hours when they are available to students through a virtual platform.
Will the same teachers teach in-person and Virtual?	Ideally, no. At this time, it is anticipated that most elementary staff will be assigned to either teach "2 + 3"/"4 + 1" or Virtual School. At the middle school level, this may not be possible because of certification issues.
Will the 'hold harmless' grading approach applied to the 4th marking period last spring apply again?	The reason for the district electing to adjust grading last spring was to provide grace during an unexpected, sudden shift. The 2020-21 school year is starting with a different circumstance. Students and parents have the ability to choose a program that suits them. There is also some familiarity with expectations and the non-traditional format because of the spring experience. The grading approach applied to last year's 4th marking period will not be applied to this school year. Students will be graded as they traditionally have been prior to COVID-19.
Will students need their own dedicated device this year or will one shared computer suffice?	Students in grades 1-8 will need their own dedicated device this school as both programs have a computer-based component. While well intended, sharing devices creates learning challenges. Any student in grade 1-8 who needs to borrow a district-issued device will be able to do so at the beginning of the 20-21 school year. Students and parents/guardians will need to sign their consent to agree to the district's terms for borrowing devices. If a household is in need of connectivity assistance, the district is poised to consult with those families on a case-by-case basis as indicated.