

Staff Questions

There has been talk that teacher desks will be removed from elementary and middle school classrooms - is this true, and, if so, will there be time for us to go in and get items from our desks before they are moved somewhere that we can't access?

what will gym, art, and music, library look like?

How will using the computer labs for instruction impact the lab aide position?

In the lower primary classrooms, we have a lot of manipulatives. Can we put those manipulatives into plastic bags, and then put them on the shelves on top of the closets? or do we have to bring all those things home? Will all tables and bookcases be taken out of the room?

Will teachers at risk be able to work remotely with students who opt out of in person sessions?

What type of protection will you offer vulnerable support staff staff who work with students regularly, not just teachers or students?

Research shows the severity of illness is dependent on the dose of virus. Both teachers and students in a class together will be potentially exposed over and over again if someone is infected. How is this being addressed?

There is not one bathroom at HSE with a window or any kind of ventilation. Again, given that the virus can linger in the hours, especially in a confined space for hours, how can anyone be safe using a bathroom at HSE?

Could you provide us with specific information regarding the cleaning spray used in our classrooms?

Will teachers be asked to do any cleaning?

Will hands-free sinks, soap dispensers, and paper towel dispensers be installed in every bathroom?

Will you provide a forehead thermometer to each classroom teacher to check temps when little ones say they don't feel well to try and lessen trips to see the nurse.

Given that all the latest scientific research shows that the virus can linger in the air for hours and infect people, shouldn't students wear masks at all times, especially during instruction when they are in the same room for long periods of time?

How is mask-wearing going to be enforced when staff does not comply?

If students are not wearing masks at their desks but teachers circulate through class to help students, especially at lower levels, they are closer than 6ft - aren't masks required?

Is the district going to provide staff with appropriate plastic mask gear/proper medical masks each day to provide safety?

Will home-made masks be prohibited since many of them do not work properly?

Being we had to shift to a different report card form midstream last spring...is the district using the same alternative report card format in case we need to switch on a dime? It is good to see what is required instead of the wait and see format.

What if a child or teacher doesn't feel safe coming back to school?

If students or teachers present any symptoms will they be required to take a test and receive results before returning to school?

Are teachers and staff protected from lawsuits if a student gets sick?

Will the presentation be available so that teachers can click on the links (for example, the guidance on grading)? That would be very useful.

In the event schools close and we have complete remote teaching, will teachers have the option to still use their classroom as their teaching space? Some homes are not conducive for teaching from home due to lack of quiet/private space and having young children at home.

If the need arises to go to virtual learning, will the time guidelines for the week be the same as in the spring?

Will bathrooms be cleaned after each use?

How do we go about obtaining adequate PPE materials needed to keep staff safe when working with children who will not keep masks on/ when we cannot maintain social distance (ISD program) with students and other staff?

Can students in families all be on the same A/B group schedule to maximize driving convenience and parental work management? asking for a friend.

Will homework be required? We can not expect the social-emotional struggles of students experiencing all of this to be able to turn in homework.

I type this as Ron A. speaks, that student experience piece is critical. We have to recognize the reduction of productivity by the entire Shen community (students, staff, parents) AND that has to be OKAY. We can strive for excellence, but the excellence in this time needs to be about holding each other up, keeping us safe, and secure and

building a community of togetherness. We can't do all of it with strict APPR, homework, grading, etc.

When students or staff need a break, they need to have time to do that.

What is the plan for AIS at the elementary level? Will we be able to pull students from their classrooms or will all elementary AIS need to be push-in? Or will AIS teachers instead be used to teach a cohort of students while they are not in their homeroom?

In regards to the overflow class, will they be receiving instruction remotely? Will they be working asynchronously? When will teachers have time to plan assignments remotely if we are traditionally teaching? How will those students be circulated into classrooms and out and be determined to be in overflow class?

If there are no small groups in elementary, how will we be dealing with differentiation and learning styles? Are we being observed this year especially seeing as much of our possible instruction will be asynchronously?

How many stakeholders represent each grade/area? Will this meeting be livestreamed?

Are all welcome?

If the meeting is done through Googlemeet, can all simply join and comment in the chat box?

Is there a list of teachers that are serving on these Friday meetings? Elementary is what i'm interested in.

Hi there - could you speak to the additional classrooms? Where are the children who are not in the 18 per class going? And who will be teaching them? Does this relate to the "incidental teaching outside of tenure area" section on the first few slides?

How will we hold emergency drills (shelter-in-place, fire drills?)

Second Session:

What jobs will the librarians and computer labs aids going to be doing? Since their rooms will be repurposed.

The daily health screening forms and temperature checks cannot pick up symptom-free carriers...will we have to wait till people get sick before those carriers get identified?

Is it possible to supply travel size hand sanitizer, that maybe we can attach to our ID lanyards. We sometimes deal with more than one child at a time, such as when we walk to the bus or even working between kids in the classroom, where it would be more practical to use hand sanitizer, instead of running to wash our hands or even change our gloves then wash our hands per glove removal protocol?

What type and when will training be held to help teachers prepare for a new block schedule?

Will the start of school for students be delayed so teachers and adequately prepare for this new paradigm?

Will teachers be paid for this necessary training if held before the school year?

Will teachers be able to have input into this new grading rubric?

Will there be training on teaching live and virtual at the same time?

Will teachers meet with students for both days of the 2 day on and 2 day off schedule? So, will we be meeting with students everyday even in this block schedule scenario?

Block schedule is a perfect fit for station /student led activities, but these activities require physical resources to be hands on.... with the loss of cabinets, bookcases, etc, where do teachers put these materials?

The teachers will need to spend a lot of time working on modifying curriculum to meet the new needs and requirements. Will there be extra time built into the schedule for this purpose?

What is the written District protocol for accommodations for teachers who are at high risk or live with a person for high risk?

Why are we not requiring high school students to wear masks when teaching is going on, when we already have data that wearing masks COMBINED with social distancing is the best protection in an indoor environment? The longer someone is near someone increases exposure risk, along with being indoors in a room with others.

What are the consequences or recommended teacher actions if a student refuses to wear a mask or adhere to distancing and other safety protocols?

It has become customary for people to wear masks when near other people in indoor spaces. I would not feel safe teaching students in a classroom if not everyone is wearing a mask. When is it acceptable for a student to take off their mask?

Would the District please require high school students to wear a face covering at all times, especially during instruction and especially if there is block scheduling? NYS allows the district to do so.

I genuinely wonder this, no snark intended. Why are you all remote if it's safe to open schools and have teachers be in classrooms for 80 minutes, with 15+ kids without masks?

Are classrooms being equipped with cameras or other equipment for online synchronous learning for A/B group learning?

Can raw survey data be made available to teachers?

For 6th grade: The example of 12-18 students in a physical classroom will this be the size of a given section or will there be a satellite group elsewhere that the teacher will also be responsible for instruction?

Every sub I have spoken to so far has said they will not be working at Shen until there is a safe vaccine. What is the district's response to addressing the anticipated lack of subs?

Will sign in processes be digital so as to avoid use of common papers/pens?

Guidance recommends teaching classes outside where possible. Is Shen looking at this option for academic subjects (not just gym)?

I'm curious about outdoor/indoor activities for recess. Will the children have an opportunity to have that break and get those wiggles out? What would that look like?

Given the 4 block model, will the hours of the school day change? Will 6th graders attend unified arts classes?

I was wondering how sharing of classrooms will work? Will study halls be held in classrooms this year?

Would you please specify how the Shen school ventilation systems meet or exceed the requirements outlined by the state? In my experience, quite a few offices and small room instructional spaces do not have adequate ventilation. This is a concern, especially given the fact that masks will not be worn at all times.

Any thoughts on immunocompromised staff and also those who are responsible for taking care of immunocompromised family members/elderly parents?

I'm wondering if there is a plan if Teachers are unable to return in person, or if they have to quarantine for two weeks in the middle of the year. What happens in their classroom?

It seems like the (early) research is showing that children >10 spread Covid a bit more readily than younger students. Is there a possibility where a preliminary and part transition to distance learning for grades 6-12 could happen before the governors hard cutoff of in-person school based on the virus rates?

Is the district taking into consideration traveling teachers in terms of scheduling? Especially teachers who travel between buildings with different daily schedules

What does this mean for Monitors? Will you have a need for them?

Please clarify the Aug 1 deadline for home instruction..early slide...

Would you consider dropping honors ELA and ss 7-8 for the year to make balancing cohorts easier?

Is the district looking to change the master schedule regarding holidays/days off given the 7-12 cohort groupings? (so it doesn't impact lots of Mondays off, etc)

How will high school science classes work? Will we have more time than regular classes or just A/B days?

Are we following ABABCD^D using the 4 block schedule proposed last year?

Can 3 science teachers share 2 rooms with that schedule?

So 2 days in school (ex mon & Tues) - 2 days home virtually (wed & thurs) then off friday r group A goes Fri & Mon?

Will the fifth day of the instructional week be used for cleaning or will the fifth day be the start of the next block of students?

Will after school care be allowed in elementary schools by the YMCA?

With secondary education students moving to block scheduling, will special education teachers need to change minutes for services on each of their previous caseload students' IEPs? Or upcoming caseload? For example, all students with resource services listed on their IEP are written as 5 x 40 minutes on their IEPs. Will we need to reopen all IEPs to make appropriate changes for next year's schedules?

How about we use a 9 period every other day hybrid for safety reasons? The real concern about spreading the virus is viral load, which is much more likely to occur in an 80 minute class period in an enclosed space classroom than additional time passing in the hallway for a 9 period day with everyone wearing face coverings.

How will kids participate in extracurriculars if attending opposite days of school?

will teachers be required to clean classrooms between classes?

Am I going to see my students in person 1 time per week unless it is the repeat of Monday to Friday?

Will six grade students still receive reading class? Not a specialized reading class, but sixth grade general reading.

I understand we will have one mask and one face shield per person, as well as my own masks. I work in FSD in HSW. Our classroom is room 26. Next to us, in room 27 will be the Move program. In between those two classrooms is a small, windowless room that we will be using for the personal care of our students.

Is there proper ventilation in that room? May I request disposable masks in that room for one time use as we need them?

Wednesday Questions

Dr. Wood suggested that there will be a uniform template for google classroom. Is there a plan to use the portal to inform parents of pending assignments? I think that it might make more sense for the district to emphasize a uniform approach to using the portal rather than google classroom. Parents understand the portal and it is better suited to "one stop shopping" than google classroom which may have 8+ classes.

Dr. Robinson addressed siblings sitting together on busses. Will siblings attend school on the same days?

Is the Code of Conduct being reconfigured to address non-compliance of public health codes?

What mechanisms are being considered for immediately finding students that are cutting class and might be posing a health risk to themselves or others?

Will there continue to be in school suspension? It seems like a waste of space and potentially dangerous.

How will attendance be recorded for students when they are not physically present at school?

Will we be expected to instruct virtually on snow days?

How do you interpret 'Schools may expand physical footprint' Trailers? Tents? Is there a possibility that we use facilities outside Shen for instruction? ...for example: Clifton Park or Halfmoon Senior Centers, The 'Y'

Would Shen reach into a pool of substitutes Teachers which could include 'Where in good faith other substitutes could not be brought in, the requirement for a substitute can include candidates having attained a High School Diploma.' ?

Other districts are purchasing face shields for their staff instead of face masks. Is this option being considered? If no, why not?

For the students that are home during asynchronous instructionis there any value to having tutors (not necessarily their classroom teacher) available to answer questions or help coach the students towards answers in case they get stuck? (An instructional 'helpdesk' of sorts for remote students)

What new digital tools / policies are being investigated for this new teaching environment? The G-Suite tools are very limiting. SIS is not reliable for communicating with families.

How will the district address overcrowding of staff office space? Can we expect a personal workspace that meets social distancing requirements?

Can Dept. and Faculty meetings remain virtual to minimize teacher traffic in buildings/exposure to the virus?

May a teacher require that students in her/his/their class keep masks on?

How can we be sure parents will remember each day to check each of their kids' temps? I remember many harried mornings when my kids were young, and I can totally see me forgetting this once in a while.

Why are we even relying on parents to check kids temps when a child may be more contagious before they even know they are ill--like when they are coming down with the virus? Some people have it and are asymptomatic as well. Plus one person's "normal" body temp is not the exact same as another's.

I'm grateful you are providing one cloth mask, but truthfully, shouldn't it be changed?

Like when I eat lunch, shouldn't I put a new mask on afterwards? Will very ample supplies of masks be available for students, staff, and teachers?

Can a parent refuse to have their child wear a mask?

What provisions are being made for students and teachers with underlying health conditions?

What number of student, staff, faculty, or administrator injuries or deaths due to COVID-19 is acceptable?

Wouldn't it have been better to have decided earlier to stick with an online model so teachers know what and how to prep? And so all could be safe?

How have the HVAC systems in each building been upgraded to 100% filter out COVID-19?.

Does the District plan to work with STA to adapt the APPR requirements to the reality of the new teaching situation?

With staggered arrival and dismissal, does this mean that students will be in school for a shorter amount of time than in the past? Will teachers be asked to work outside of our contractual hours?

What percentage of students usually use transportation? At 44% stating they would use it, ultimately, what is the percent decrease?

How will we know if parents actually take their child's temp? Many times, in my experience, Parents send their kids to school sick because parents have to work.

What, specifically, is working or not working in the ESY program?

Dr. Robinson is showing a slide that states that face masks must be worn EXCEPT during meals, instruction, short breaks. Does that mean teachers can take them off while teaching as long as we're 6 feet away from students? This would make teaching more effective, especially in World Language classes when students struggle to understand when they can't see our lips.

If students need to be cleared from a room (due to behavior, student sickness, etc), where will students go? If all spaces will be used, will there be empty space to move students to?

Since block scheduling would impose a new burden on teachers already overwhelmed with hybrid scheduling, learning new technology for remote learning, keeping track of students both at school and at home while trying to complete the entire curriculum, completely untrained in block lesson planning and without being able to use a block to do longer group assignments because of social distancing, how about we use a 9 period every other day hybrid model? The 9 period every other day model also would provide twice as much frequency of contact between teachers and students which would enhance the building of relationships and is less disruptive when there are teacher/student absences. The block model also has the disadvantage of greater

possible viral load because of a longer period of time in an enclosed space versus a quick passing in the hallway more times that results from a 9 period day.

How are we going to deal with bathrooms? How will they be cleaned as students use them all day long? What about Faculty staff bathrooms? How will they be cleaned throughout the day?

What will a teacher's schedule look like for special programs? For example, I will be working BESD with 6th graders everyday in person and 7th graders who will be split, all of whom have resource, some of whom have co-teach classes, and some of whom have a special class. The special classes for BESD are mixed grade, so there may be some difficulty in scheduling lessons.

If a student (grade 7 or 8) is in 1 or 2 self contained classes, but mainstreamed the rest of the day, what schedule will they follow?

Who will supervise students in alternate locations during lunch?

How long will the blocks be at the high school level?

Will the district be obtaining N95 masks for PPE instead of cloth masks for staff? Even though cloth provides some protection N95 offers the highest percentage of protection, which is why it is required for medical and first responders.

Clifton Park has hundreds of thousands of square feet of used retail space, might it be feasible to utilize some of this space - which may provide for greater social distancing for alternate on sight learning?

How will students get library books?

Will students be allowed to use the library (given the library will be open for library services) during their study hall period or with classes?

Does 6th grade fit in the elementary category right now? Or Secondary?

Has there been any mention of using the face shields instead of face masks? I know other districts have purchased face shields for all staff

Will families be given the choice of Virtual learning even if some students are on-site? At Saratoga's Parent Forum yesterday we were told that any family can choose virtual

learning from the beginning of the school year if they want. Will Shen allow the same option?

Why does Shen's hybrid learning model not include a hybrid scenario (part in person, part at home) for elementary students to make social distancing easier and reduce exposure for students?

What measures will be taken to protect specials teachers at the elementary level due to the large number of students we teach?

Are employees allowed to bring and wear their own masks (vs. the Shen provided masks)?

Will consultant teacher services continue to be provided in the general education classrooms? How might that impact the maximum of 18 students within a classroom (as there would be an additional adult in that classroom for certain parts of the day).

Will we be allowed at the elementary level to provide co-teaching and consultant teacher services as a general education / special education teacher pair in the same classroom? This is best practice for the students and follows IEP guidelines for services.

Is there any chance we can take temps at school? Nervous about relying on parents to do that? Parents send kids to school all of the time sick