

Oneida City School District

Frequently Asked Questions

Reopening Information Sheet

August 10, 2020

If you choose the remote learning option, can students return to in-person instruction at some point?

Yes. By enrolling, you are agreeing that your children will remain in the 100% remote learning model for the first five weeks, at which point you will be able to choose whether you wish to continue. We will continue to revisit remote learning every five weeks with parents who chose remote learning.

Why can't parents choose to have their children attend school all five days of the week?

An in-person everyday option was considered but ruled out because it is not feasible given social distancing requirements in classrooms and on school buses. We could not have accommodated those requests and remained within the reopening perimeters outlined by New York State.

Will parents be able to change the days students attend school?

We recognize that any student grouping will be imperfect and some families will need to change their days. Our goal is to keep families together and accommodate childcare needs. As such, all families living in one household can request to change their children's days. Additionally, we will be providing a day change request for families to complete. All requests will be considered on a space available basis. You can only request to move from Group 1 to Group 2 or vice versa.

Which special education students will be assigned to Group 3 and return to school five days a week?

Special education students enrolled in self-contained (separate) classrooms will be assigned to Group 3 and all families of identified students will be notified by the CSE office. All remaining special education students (those enrolled in general education classrooms) will be placed in either Group 1 or Group 2. Regardless of your child's group placement, special education supports and services will be delivered to all students with an IEP and all students with Section 504. If you have questions regarding your child's IEP needs, please contact the CSE office at 315-363-2550- press "6"

What happens if a staff member or student is suspected of having COVID-19?

School nurses will have systems in place to screen students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. Those individuals will be kept in a room separate from the nurse's office that is designated for isolation. If their symptoms require further evaluation they will need to leave the building. If the school district is notified that a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19, the District will work with the Madison County Health Department to ensure all protocols relative to contact tracing and notification are followed. A flow chart of responses for various situations will be added to our plan documents.

Will schools only be cleaned on Wednesdays?

No. Schools will be cleaned every day and high-use surfaces like desks, door handles and bus seats will be cleaned multiple times per day. Deep cleanings performed on Wednesdays and over the weekend will be more extensive and include areas that students and staff don't routinely touch.

Can my child still bring lunch?

Student will still have lunch options including bringing their own lunch or purchasing a meal. Additionally, the process for free and reduced lunches has not changed.

How will social distancing impact lunches?

Students do not need to wear face coverings when seated and eating but must practice social distancing. To allow for required social distancing, students will eat meals in a combination of spaces (e.g., cafeteria, classrooms) as designated by the building principal.

How many students will be riding each bus?

Members of the same household and children who attend the same in-home childcare center will be permitted to share a seat on the school bus. Student riders will be socially distanced to sit one student per seat.

Do students have to wear masks all day?

For in-person instruction, students are required to wear face coverings at all times. Buildings will provide face covering breaks throughout the day. Students and staff must be prepared to don a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot social distance. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. It should be noted that some individuals, however, have authorized accommodations for documented medical necessity to not wear a face covering.

What is the policy if students are in class and not social distancing and/or not wearing a mask?

Staff members will remind students about the expectations for the health guidelines. As a school, it is our primary responsibility to teach children the facts about wearing face coverings, the reason for the requirement, and the proper wear of face coverings. A student refusal is considered insubordination which is addressed in the Code of Conduct.

**The district will continue to update this document as we receive questions. Please visit our website frequently for updates: