FAQs

Why are my child’s classes only 21 minutes?

In the elementary schools, classes in ELA and Math are at least 2 blocks of scheduled time for a total of 42 minutes minimum. In the middle school, ELA and Math are in 2 periods of 21 minutes each. In the high school, most math and science classes have lab periods every other day so students will receive 42 minutes of instruction on those days.

How can the buildings be cleaned and sanitized in such a short period of time between groups?

Custodial staff will be assigned specific areas to clean and sanitize within their buildings. They will be equipped an ionizing machine in which creates a mist of non-toxic sanitizing solution. This machine is able to sanitize classrooms in under a minute. The same process will be used in the hallways, restrooms and lunch area. Custodians will be using sanitizing solution by hand in areas as necessary.

Why is this model different from the original hybrid model of two full days a week?

The new model provides an opportunity for 2.5 days of face to face learning. It provides students the opportunity to be in school for 4 continuous days to reacclimate to in-person learning. It also eliminates the need for asynchronous learning for days out of school by providing a remote option for grades K-5. If a student in grades 6-12 choose the Steel Valley Cyber option, they have the opportunity for live support multiple times weekly from a Steel Valley teacher.

The previously discussed hybrid model involved 2 in-person days and 3 asynchronous remote days. Our new hybrid plan provides more face to face instruction and allows for safety measures, such as social distancing, to be in place.

Why can’t we bring all students back in the buildings 5 days a week?

As a district, we believe that a phased approach to in-person learning is the safest for all students and staff. This approach will be reviewed every 15 school days to gauge the effectiveness of the plan and to see if adding more in-person instruction is feasible. Our goal is to bring students back in the building for full days of instruction at that time.

Will remote be live?

Students choosing the remote option in grades K-5 will receive live instruction each day (Monday-Thursday) via Zoom lessons. Students will attend in either the morning or the afternoon according together Maroon or Gold grouping. On Fridays, all remote students will attend the session in the morning. Each grade will have an assigned teacher for these sessions.
Who will my child’s remote teacher be?

Each grade will be assigned a remote teacher. This may or may not be your child’s current teacher, however the teacher assigned will have experience in the grade being taught. Students in each grade (K-5) across the district will attend the remote sessions together according to the Maroon or Gold groups.

Will students be served breakfast or lunch?

Yes. All students will have the opportunity to receive breakfast and lunch should they choose to do so.

Will Employees and Students be Screened for COVID-19 Symptoms?

Employees and students should not come to school and are to notify school officials if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or are exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or to someone with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.

All employees and students are to daily self-assess at home for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to reporting to school.

What are the District’s Physical Distance Plans for the Schools?

The schedule for each building will be designed to maximize space, including outdoor space, to the greatest extent feasible; 6’ of physical distancing will be accomplished where feasible.

Will Face Coverings be Required?

Face coverings are required to be worn by students and employees in accordance with the Order of the Secretary of the PA Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings and the Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools.

All students are expected to wear face coverings per Governor Wolf’s state mandate, unless the nurse has an order from the student’s licensed healthcare provider.

The use of face coverings is one of the important ways to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly affected but does not have symptoms. Face coverings are not Personal Protective Equipment.