Parent/Guardian Questions regarding Reopening Schools in 2020-21

Frequently Asked Questions
(Updated on August 20, 2020)

Updated responses begin on page 36. Many questions were not included, but an administrator is reaching out to the parent to address specific student concerns.

Please note:

● Liberties were taken to make questions from parent/guardian clearer for other stakeholders and the District removed any personal or identifiable information.
● If a parent submitted a question and it is not included, please contact the District Office.
● Additions to this FAQ will be included in coming weeks. It will be updated on the District website.

1. How will students be able to practice social distancing if all students are in class five days a week? How will the school follow the restrictions on numbers for an indoor gathering?

   Answer: We are not able to practice social distancing if all students or the majority of students were attending school 5 days per week. This is why the District has opted to open in a hybrid setting at this time. The Governor has placed restrictions on indoor gatherings, but this does not apply to classrooms, busses, or lunch rooms in schools per PDE. It does apply, however, to assemblies. We are able to accomplish social distancing in all settings by only having approximately half of our students attending on any given day.

2. If we were to register for the cyber school this year for kindergarten, do we have to continue with cyber school next year? I am starting to consider signing my daughter up for cyber school for this year, but don't want her to miss out on attending “in class school” for 1st grade. Thank you for all that you do, especially during these unpredictable times. It is greatly appreciated!

   Answer: The District will be flexible in when it is best for any student to return to classrooms. At any time during this school year, or in following years, students can return to typical classrooms.

3. I feel completely lost at what is going on here on how to enroll my child for online classes. Or if she attends school how many days a week and times. I have not received any information regarding this. I don’t know if letters were sent out because I did not receive one.

   Answer: On July 20, the HASD board voted to begin school in a hybrid setting, meaning half of the students would be in class on any given day and the opposite group would
be doing remote learning. Teachers will post lessons online for students to view on their remote days. All students will receive a device. Students with a last name beginning A-K would attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays and alternating Mondays. Students with last name L-Z would attend on Wednesdays and Fridays and alternating Mondays. If this does not work for your family and you would prefer the other group, please email your child’s principal. The alternating Mondays are listed in the second page of the school calendar. A letter was sent to parents at the beginning of July. If you did not receive this letter, please contact the school. Another letter will be forthcoming.

4. When will the first day of school be officially?

Answer: The new start date for students is Tuesday, September 8.

5. Please do not reopen...Think of the kids please. Parents needing school as daycare should not be a priority in considering the well-being of our community.

Answer: We will continue to monitor the cases in Beaver County as well as review the District’s ability to abide by all school guidelines and requirements.

6. I have a concern around the lack of AC in Hopewell Elementary. with all of the students wearing masks it could become very difficult to breathe in in the fall and spring high temperatures. What is the plan to make students comfortable and easier to breathe when the temperatures rise?

Answer: In a hybrid setting, students will be able to socially distance the required 6 feet. Because of this, students will be able to have mask breaks throughout the day, especially on warmer days. When students are not able to socially distance, the District will require all students to wear facial coverings to be in compliance with the Governor’s order.

7. Even if the state is in the "GREEN" phase, it is still expected that we wear masks and social distance. Will the class sizes be adjusted to allow for social distancing?

Answer: Regardless of the “color” that the school, County, or Commonwealth is in, the District will have to follow the Governor’s orders on facial coverings. In a hybrid setting, the expected class size will be approximately 10-15. Students will be able to socially distance the required 6 feet with these numbers.

8. What is the plan to minimize students in the hallways between classes and keeping social distancing during this time and lunch?
Answer: Hallways have been divided either as one direction or divided to indicate direction on either side of the hallway. In grades K-6, very little student movement will occur. In grades 7-12, staggered dismissals will assist in social distancing in addition to the reduced number of students in the building and hallways due to the hybrid schedule. Additionally, the cafeteria in the hybrid setting allows for students to be six feet apart while they eat their lunch. Elementary buildings have added one additional lunch period and the Junior High has added two lunch periods. The additional lunch periods also provide fewer students in each lunch and greater physical distancing.

9. If we decide to go with the Cyber option or schools close again, will there be live, virtual instructor led learning?

Answer: There are four options that the District is preparing for:

1. Green: all students attend school in person;
2. Yellow/Hybrid: Students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously or asynchronously to support and continue student learning;
3. Red/Remote: All students at home due to school closure. A student’s teacher(s) will provide lessons and instruction in a combined synchronous and asynchronous manner; and
4. Cyber: Students in any of the above phases can stay at home and learn through our cyber program. Instruction is done through research-based asynchronous self-paced lessons. An HASD teacher will provide support, assess the student, and provide check-ins with the student/parents to make sure the student is on track and finding success. If a parent chooses the cyber option, but would like to join the classroom setting at any time, the District will support the transition.

10. What is the plan to sanitize school supplies and prevent students, especially the younger students from sharing supplies?

Answer: Students in the elementary and Junior High will be asked to bring in personal school supplies. The District will support any student who does not have supplies. Most shared supplies occur with manipulatives, technology, and art supplies. Disinfectants will be provided in each classroom for teachers to clean after use.

11. What about additional medical staff?
Answer: The District has a school nurse in each building. Additionally, with half of the students in the building, the ratio of school nurse to student is greatly reduced.

12. Will there be hand sanitizer stations around the school or in each classroom?

Answer: Hand sanitizer will be available in each learning space, cafeteria, and school building entrance.

13. Is the school providing PPE for students?

Answer: The District is asking parents to provide a facial covering for their children. In the event of an emergency, the District will support the needs of the students.

14. Are Temperature checks being performed for students entering the building?

Answer: Per PDE and DoH, temperature checks should be done by parents before the child enters the school or goes to a bus stop.

15. If a student appears sick when they arrive at school, Will the student be sent home?

Answer: The school nurse will immediately conduct a health assessment on the student and determine necessary actions.

16. I did put in an application for my sons for kindergarten and 2nd grade When do we get feedback from the application submitted? Thank you

Answer: Dr. Maslyk, Assistant Superintendent, is in the process of reaching out to all K-6 families regarding their child’s enrollment in HASD’s cyber program. If she has not reached out to you yet, expect communication during the week of August 3.

17. Since there will be a mix of in person and online, how structured will the online portion be? Is it live and interactive or more of the same as it was during the end of the year? If the students have to self teach on their "off days," what recourse do we as parents have with the district when our kids struggle as much as they did online at the end of the previous school year? My child struggled with self teaching subjects and will not do well having no structure. What about those kids?"

Answer: Teachers will be instructing the other group of students while remote learning is occurring for the opposite group. We are, however, trying to block off times for students/parents to connect with teachers on remote learning days. When students are in class, teachers will provide direction and guidance to students for their remote learning days. Additionally, teachers will either connect with students synchronously or asynchronously on remote days when new content is
being delivered. By having an “every other day” schedule, teachers can work with students in person if they are falling behind and struggling with new content. By structuring remote learning days in this way, the expectation is that many of the student struggles identified during the spring with remote learning will not be repeated.

18. Would love it if the kids could go back to school but will understand if they need to continue with the online/homeschooling.

Answer: The District wants every student back in our buildings, but is placing safety of students and staff as the primary factor in when this can happen.

19. If you do open, you should at least consider starting in your yellow phase plan not just opening at full capacity and see what happens. If that goes well, then after mid point or first nine weeks revisit for full opening. I understand there is no set plan for everyone but everything opened and rates went up and it seems less likely we will go back to yellow and red phase but that doesn’t mean we can’t be responsible enough to realize the current situation is not great. You should start the school year cautiously and then see what happens nine weeks into then adjust from there if needed. My child is too young for cyber school and can’t do certain things on his own so I don’t believe that to be an option for us. Maybe K-3 you have a different option like start in yellow for children that can’t do cyber or aren’t going to fully understand/cooperate with the social distancing plans you have. You can’t say most children under 8 are the same as older children as far as following and understanding set rules that you put in place.

Answer: The District is preparing plans for all phases: students attend full-time, students attend in a hybrid setting, and students are home and learning remotely. The District is able to monitor and move to any of these at any time if the context necessitates movement.

20. Is school re opening or cyber? face mark requirement. Start DATE?

Answer: There are four options that the District is preparing for (see below), however, the District is planning to open on September 8 in the hybrid setting. This could change, if necessary. Further, our HASD cyber program is an option for any student at any time.

1. Green: all students attend school in person
2. Yellow/Hybrid: Students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously or asynchronously to support and continue student learning.
3. **Red/Remote:** All students at home due to school closure. A student’s teacher(s) will provide lessons and instruction in a combined synchronous and asynchronous manner.

4. **Cyber:** Students in any of the above phases can stay at home and learn through our cyber program. Instruction is done through research-based asynchronous self-paced lessons. A HASD teacher will provide support, assess the student, and provide check-ins with the student/parents to make sure the student is on track and finding success. If a parent chooses the cyber option, but would like to join the classroom setting at any time, the District will support the transition.

21. How do you plan on having kindergarteners wear masks for 8 hours a day?

*Answer:* In a hybrid setting, students will be able to socially distance the required 6 feet. Because of this, students will be able to have mask breaks throughout the day, especially on warmer days. When students are not able to socially distance, the District will require all students to wear facial coverings to be in compliance with the Governor’s order.

22. Open the school, kids need education!

*Answer:* The District wants every student back in our buildings, but is placing safety of students and staff as the primary factor in when this happens.

23. If the district does not go to all remote learning to begin the year, will my children have the opportunity to still take the electives they had already chosen for this year with the cyberlearning option? (Art II, French I & French II, Animation).

*Answer:* Students in the high school will be able to take all of their scheduled electives in the green, yellow, or red phases.

24. I don’t think the school should be open.

*Answer:* The District wants every student back in our buildings, but is placing safety of students and staff as the primary factor in when this happens. If a parent feels that school is unsafe for his or her child to return, our HASD Cyber Program provides parents an alternative.

25. Has there been any discussions concerning winter sports, swimming in particular? I will be the President of the Parents Boosters for Varsity Swimming the 2020-2021 season and would like to give the parents an update on coaches and if there is a plan for a season. Thank you.
PIAA and WPIAL have provided guidance regarding fall sports over the past week, but nothing for winter or spring sports. The Governor has also provided restrictions and guidance on K-12 athletics. We will continue to work with our coaches and Booster groups as we learn more. Unfortunately, there is very little about winter or spring sports; the focus has been on fall sports.

26. What kind and how many Advanced Placement courses are offered in the cyber program? I don’t see a Physics 1 offered, any languages or other courses. How will you address students wanting to take classes that are not offered on the cyber program but are offered in person?

Answer: Please contact Mr. Dean Nelson, our Cyber Coordinator at the high school at nelsond@hopewellarea.org. He will be able to provide you options that will meet your child’s particular needs.

27. Information on Cyber Options

Answer: HASD’s cyber program information was posted on the website on Monday, July 27. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Maslyk for students in grades K-8 and Mr. Nelson for students in grades 9-12.

28. Wouldn’t it be more beneficial to have group A go Tuesday/Wednesday and have group B go Thursday/Friday so you have the same group of kids going to school for 2 straight days and wouldn’t need to sanitize as much because it’s the same group of kids coming the next day? Instead of heavily sanitizing every single day because a different set of kids are coming every single day into buildings and on buses.

Answer: The District did consider your proposed option, but the continuity of instruction will be greater on the hybrid schedule as Board approved. The classrooms will be sanitized and disinfected each night for the next group of students.

29. Try to keep kids in one room all day and only have teachers move around. I know this may be difficult due to each child’s learning/teaching capabilities.

Answer: We will be limiting movement in grades K-6, with few exceptions. The District will be staggering dismissal and hallway movement in grades 7-12 to the maximum extent possible.

30. Open the schools the full 5 days.

Answer: The District wants every student back in our buildings, but is placing safety of students and staff as the primary factor in when this happens. If a parent feels
that school is unsafe for his or her child to return, our HASD Cyber Program provides parents an alternative.

31. I am absolutely fine with the plan for yellow to start the school, except for the lunchroom plan. Can my child eat in her car, or can she not schedule lunch?

Answer: Please contact your child’s building principal as any exceptions for lunch would need to be addressed at the building level. We will work with you.

31. Will teachers be available for questions to those students who are home on their days of the week? Example - A-K Students will be home on Wednesday & Friday, will their teacher answer their questions? This is a concern since the last nine weeks we only had a teacher available from 10-2 and caused issues!

Answer: Teachers will be teaching the other group of students while remote learning is occurring for the opposite group. We are, however, trying to block off times for students/parents to connect with teachers on remote learning days. We hope to be able to answer your question in the coming week.

32. I just pre-enrolled my daughter in the cyber program. Is there limited spots or is it that anyone who signs up is in the program? My husband and I want our daughter to be in the cyber program because we feel it's not safe for in-school learning.

Answer: There is no current limit, but we need to ensure adequate staffing for our cyber program. Once the date of August 7 passes, we may delay the start and confirmation for students until we have staff identified, but we will be able to support all students wanting the cyber program at the start of the school year.

33. I am concerned with the quality of the cyber education offering (compared to in-school) and the quantity of course offerings. Please elaborate. Are Honors and AP classes going to be offered?

Answer: HASD’s cyber program information was posted on the website on Monday, July 27. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Maslyk for students in grades K-8 and Mr. Nelson for students in grades 9-12.

34. I think the yellow restart phase needs to be re-evaluated. I am concerned with the children's education. I will have a kindergartner and a third grader. First off my husband and I both work, so during “cyber days” the children will have to do their school work after 5PM. I can't expect my babysitter to teach my children. If there are “live” videos they won't see them. Hopefully this doesn't take hours or it won't get done before bedtime. I am not concerned with childcare - I have a sitter whether they attend school or not. I don't see this being an effective way to educate the children. If we are
concerned with social distancing - what is the difference between 5 days versus 2 or 3 days a week. They are still being exposed to other children. I believe you should be open 5 days a week, teachers should teach the same lessons whether online or in class. Parents have the options to send the children to school or cyber school at home. I know during the meeting last night it was stated not to compare to other schools, BUT South Side and Central Valley are both allowing parents to choose whether they go every day or cyber. I am extremely frustrated with this knowing my children will be behind those students in other districts. I am sure state testing in the spring will show this. We can't expect them to learn from an iPad or Chromebook while other students have the privilege of being taught in person everyday. If going to school 2/3 days a week was effective, this would have been done long before this pandemic.

Answer: There are four options that the District is preparing for (see below), however, the District is planning to open on September 8 in the hybrid setting. This could change if necessary. Further, our HASD cyber program is an option for any student at any time.

1. Green: All students attend school in person. Although this is what we want to do, recent social distancing requirements have made this phase not possible in our District at this time. If all students were to return (or even two-thirds), we are unable to distance students in the classroom or cafeteria by 6 feet which would then prevent any facial covering breaks throughout the day.

2. Yellow/Hybrid: Students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously and/or asynchronously to support and continue student learning. Many families want “live” instruction, but many working families want asynchronous learning opportunities. We will try to accommodate parents as best as possible.

3. Red/Remote: All students at home due to school closure. A student’s teacher(s) will provide lessons and instruction in a combined synchronous and asynchronous manner.

4. Cyber: Students in any of the above phases can stay at home and learn through our cyber program. Instruction is done through research-based asynchronous self-paced lessons. A HASD teacher will provide support, assess the student, and provide check-ins with the student/parents to make sure the student is on track and finding success. If a parent chooses the cyber option, but would like to join the classroom setting at any time, the District will support the transition.

36. You asked parents to complete multiple surveys. Almost 69% responded to open schools every day - yet this wasn't listened to. Why are we taking these surveys if we aren't heard?
**Answer:** The District was planning to open the school year in “green” with all students attending school until PDE, DoH, and the Governor, in late June/early July, placed requirements that the District is unable to implement in green. These mainly included requirements for facial coverings and social distancing. All of the survey data from parents and staff has been at the core of plans, yet guidance from PDE, DoH, CDC, and Governor’s orders have had to be incorporated into the District’s plans.

37. You are hurting the children with these decisions. If given the chance to choose where to send my children without cost, I would not be sending them to a cyber or hybrid school.

**Answer:** We know that these are difficult times and we worry about the well-being of our students. Should you have specific concerns about your children, please feel free to reach out to the building principal. We will do our best to address your concerns and provide any available resources to support the physical, mental, social, and academic well-being and growth of your children.

38. Will Speech Therapy and Title 1 Reading support still be provided? IEP’s will have the option to go everyday, how will 504’s be handled? What support will they have? Thank you.

**Answer:** Students who qualify for Speech and Title I will have access to these services regardless of what phase the district is in or if students are enrolled in cyber. Students with an IEP may attend every day and the District is evaluating our ability to provide the same for students with a 504. This decision should be made within the coming week. Even if students with a 504 can’t come every day, supports will be available to ensure that they are maximizing their learning.

39. Will all children who choose virtual learning be provided a mobile device?

**Answer:** Yes. Students in grades 3-12 will be provided a Chromebook and students in K-2 will be provided an iPad in the yellow or red phase.

40. My question is: my son will be going every day because of his IEP. What if he has to miss because of not feeling well. #1 will he be penalized for missing school? #2 instead of coming that day will he be able to do the virtual instead so he isn’t penalized? Also, if my child is sent home because of exposure or possible infection, can he plug into virtual during that time so he isn’t penalized? Thank you.

**Answer:** Remote learning during the “yellow” and “red” phase for students who are not well, quarantined, or isolated are able to connect to the teacher’s learning platform so that he or she does not fall behind in learning.
41. What is the plan for Kindergarten?

Answer: Mrs. Kane, our elementary principal, will be sending information regarding kindergarten assignments orientation in the coming week.

42. If we do have to do cyber school on certain days, can we make it like teacher recorded lessons or teacher teaching in real time?

Answer: There are four options that the District is preparing for (see below), however, the District is planning to open on September 8 in the hybrid setting. This could change if necessary. Further, our HASD cyber program is an option for any student at any time.

1. Green: all students attend school in person.
2. Yellow/Hybrid: Students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously and/or asynchronously to support and continue student learning.
3. Red/Remote: All students at home due to school closure. A student’s teacher(s) will provide lessons and instruction in a combined synchronous and asynchronous manner.
4. Cyber: Students in any of the above phases can stay at home and learn through our cyber program. Instruction is done through research-based asynchronous self-paced lessons. A HASD teacher will provide support, assess the student, and provide check-ins with the student/parents to make sure the student is on track and finding success. If a parent chooses the cyber option, but would like to join the classroom setting at any time, the District will support the transition.

43. Can I obtain information regarding possibly sending my child (9th grade) to Ambridge School District full-time to be enrolled in their ROTC program? Also I will need information regarding my 12th grader to attend school 5 days a week in compliance with his GIEP.

Answer: Please contact Mr. Allison, high school principal, for information regarding ROTC and your child’s GIEP implementation.

44. I understand gym being outside whenever possible, but how is conducting gym class in the classroom a better alternative than in the larger gym space?

Answer: Physical Education will occur in the gymnasiuems in grades 5-12. In grades K-4, the gymnasiuems also are shared spaces for lunch. Due to additional
lunch periods and the need for the space, we have identified the cafeterias for only food service at the start of the school year. This will be revisited as the year unfolds. Additionally, our elementary physical education instructors have been extremely creative in finding personal fitness challenges that students can do in the classroom when the weather does not cooperate.

45. I read the guidelines could change. This question was still not answered as to what will the school do if a parent refuses to have their child wear a mask especially all day in school? Let me explain, I’m ok with it being worn coming into school in the morning, in the hallways when changing classes or going to the restroom and leaving school at the end of the day but during class time especially with no AC I’m not permitting my child to wear a mask, not during athletics, not during recess and not during lunch. This is not a legislative law and Wolf cannot make anyone wear a mask. There are already lawsuits against him because of these masks and him trying to make people do things that are against their constitutional rights. Shouldn't the school year start in its hybrid phase as a safety precaution and adjust as necessary if all goes well? Beaver County is currently green, but cases are still on the rise. Isn't the “better safe than sorry” approach warranted here? Do we have the option to pull any/all of our children during the year and switch to online learning through the district?

*Answer:* The District is required to uphold the Governor’s order regarding facial coverings to be worn when social distancing cannot occur. The District will build in as many facial covering breaks as possible. The District is planning, at this time, to start the year in a hybrid setting, but can change this due to decisions made at the local or state level or due to the Department of Health. And parents can request HASD’s cyber program at any time.

46. Hello, I read through the slides outlining the various plans for green/yellow/red, but am still unsure what the plan is for the first nine weeks? If we are green, will we return 5days a week? I know it is 7 weeks away still, but I keep hearing rumors that we are starting in hybrid no matter if we are green or not?

*Answer:* The District is planning, at this time, to start the year in a hybrid setting, but can change this due to decisions made at the local or state level or due to the Department of Health.

47. My kids are in the Wednesday/Friday group. What do we do for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8th? (My kids are going to be in 1st, 4th, and 6th). Thanks!

*Answer:* Information regarding the first day for students in remote learning will be provided by principals in the coming weeks.

48. What if the days for last names don’t work for me I would need to switch them?
49. My daughter's last name falls on Wednesday/Friday class schedule. I would need to have this switched to the Tuesday/Thursday class schedule please. If there is another way of requesting this, please let me know. Thank you

Answer: Please contact your child's principal via email. We will switch this for you.

50. Besides temp checks at home, will they be checked at school at any point throughout the day. If so, what is the protocol going to look like for any child that has a high temp...if they rode the bus, sibling, classmates?

Answer: The school nurse will check students identified as medically fragile throughout the school day. In addition, our school nurses will check any student who exhibits any symptom or concern throughout the school day, just as they always have done. The District will contact all District parents when there are confirmed cases in any building of staff or students. The District won't communicate presumptive cases until a staff or student is tested and is found to be a confirmed case. Busses and rooms are cleaned each day and if a student is sent home by the school nurse for any reason, the daylight custodian will clean the desk of the student and adjacent to the student desks, along with other high touch areas in the classroom.

51. Also, if a student has to leave school due to an illness which is later identified as something not Covid related (ear infection, strep), are they able to return to school the next day with a doctor's note/prescription proof?

Answer: Yes, the nurses will work with families regarding the necessary protocols to return to school. This has been outlined by the Department of Education and PDE. The District will follow their guidance.

52. Are kids able to take masks off while seated in their classroom? (PLEASE NOTE- THIS HAS CHANGED WITH NEW REQUIREMENTS)

Answer: The District is required to uphold the Governor's order regarding facial coverings to be worn when social distancing cannot occur. The District will build in as many facial covering breaks as possible. The District is planning, at this time, to start the year in a hybrid setting, but can change this due to decisions made at the local or state level or due to the Department of Health. And parents can request HASD's cyber program at any time.
53. What will protocol be if a student goes on vacation during the school year?

   Answer: The District will work with parents regarding any family vacations or trips. The Department of Health has recommendations regarding quarantine after traveling to hotspots. We will work with families to identify whether quarantine is necessary.

54. What happens to parents that both work full time when children are staying home two days one week and three days the next? Will the Educators be available at their discretion, should they need help? The Educators will be working with the students in school. I certainly can't go to my boss and tell him I need two days a week off and every other Monday? I would lose my job.

   Answer: The District recognizes that childcare in a hybrid or remote setting is a concern and hardship for your family. We are truly hoping that all of this can pass quickly so that we can bring all of our students back to school and families can count on schools to support them five days a week during the school year. We remain hopeful, but each day, school guidance and requirements seems to be even more restrictive.

   On the days that students are in the classroom, the teacher will assign work to be done the following day. Students will have a device with personalized software as part of their instruction, if appropriate. Also, teachers will post asynchronous lessons on the students’ remote days or will provide times for students to engage in synchronous learning.

55. What about holidays that fall during the week? Will those students that are not scheduled to attend that day, get their assignments prior to the holiday or will they receive double the work when they return?

   Answer: The District chose the alternating day of “Monday” to keep as much consistency as possible for families. It is not the District’s expectation to change days for students during the hybrid phase. We will work with teachers so that students receive the content and skill instruction without having “double work”.

56. I understand this is all new to everyone, unfortunately, the parents will need to prepare for this venture just as much as the Educators at this point.

   Answer: Agreed and thank you. This is new for everyone and the District will try to support students, parents, and staff as best as possible under the requirements that school districts must follow.
57. I have concerns regarding the Reopening of Schools. My concern is that I work a full time job M-F and do not have the option to work from home. Please enlighten me on any suggestions or resources you may have to offer on the days he will be scheduled to be doing distance learning.

Answer: The District recognizes that childcare in a hybrid or remote setting is a concern and hardship for your family. We are truly hoping that all of this can pass quickly so that we can bring all of our students back to school and families can count on schools to support them five days a week during the school year. We remain hopeful, but each day, school guidance and requirements seems to be even more restrictive.

58. There is still an unclear understanding as to why the children are not attending school 5 days a week. Please list the reasons and why accommodations can not be made for each problem that is stated. I believe masks and social distancing are to be done to the best extent possible, but not a true necessity in every situation. Also, what changes need to occur to move into "Hopewell's green phase" and when will these be done to get the kids back in school 5 days a week. Again, a clear list with explanation would be appreciated. Thank you.

Answer: On July 13, the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health published new guidelines that school districts have to follow. In addition to the facial covering guidelines becoming even more restrictive, social distancing and transportation requirements also became more restrictive. The previous guidance was that we were to have six feet of social distance to the maximum extent possible. We now must have the 6 feet and this is especially true in cafeteria settings. If students aren’t six feet apart, they can’t take off their facial covering and therefore, can’t eat or drink. We are unable to bring all students into buildings and abide by the guidelines required of us by PDE and DOH. Additionally, transportation is expected to sit one student per seat. Even with the current number of students indicating that they wish to enroll in cyber, it is still not feasible under the current requirements. It isn’t even possible to follow the guidelines to bring even 2/3 of our student body into buildings. Whereas other school buildings might have more space, rooms, etc…, we do not.

59. If a student is playing a fall sport, and does not attend school on the game day, (its their remote learning day) is the child still eligible to play? What about transportation to away games? Can the parent/child drive to the game?

Answer: Students in remote learning (in hybrid phase), will need to sign in for attendance purposes on remote days. This will provide eligibility for games/practices for athletics. We are still working through details of transportation for practices, games and events. PIAA and WPIAL just
provided guidance last week, but it did not address transportation in detail. We hope to work through these issues at the District level in the coming weeks.

60. Is Hopewell Junior and Senior High reopening or doing remote learning?

Answer: At this time, the District is planning to reopen on September 8 in a hybrid setting.

61. How many hours of school will the kids go each day? My kids have issues with wearing masks due to asthma and headaches. How will this work if the classes will be scheduled at normal times?

Answer: Students will attend during their regularly scheduled hours. Students will have many opportunities to take off their masks during the day, especially in the elementary grades where students are still becoming accustomed to this.

62. Also when pick-up from school, how will they all social distances with each other?

Answer: Building principals will provide this information with back to school information as many of our drop-off and pick-up procedures have changed. In working with the Hopewell Township Police, we feel that we have addressed the safety of students, parents, and residents. Principals will share this information soon.

63. If kids are going to have to wear masks for a full day, how will that work for ADHD kids that can not keep the mask on for an extended period of time?

Answer: Students will have many opportunities throughout the day to take “mask breaks” including time outside and during independent work time at their desks when socially distant.

64. I live 6 minutes from the school and my first grader had a almost 2 hour bus ride everyday. Completely unacceptable to begin with. I want to send my child to school on the bus and I don’t mind him wearing a mask. The problem is wearing a mask on a hot bus for 2 hours. Is there any way the bus ride could be more efficient? It causes strain on the entire day. I also am wondering if air conditioning will be installed in the schools. THAT should be a priority with mask wearing. The children already are overheated in the rooms, one was 92 degrees for days and the kids couldn't even learn. Our area tends to have higher allergen and decreased air quality already on top of the heat. Faculty and students need this for mask wearing so they have an optimal learning environment and compliance with health safety. The kids need to be educated. I feel bad for our children. Could you imagine going through this as a child? They need every resource available! All I've been seeing is things being taken away from the school
district, classes, teachers, etc. Where is all of the money going? How does a school district spend all of the money and nothing has changed. We need answers!

Answer: We reviewed your child’s bus route from last year and the average times that your child was on the bus each direction, as this was the first time we heard of a concern with your child’s bus. We strive to keep our bus routes as efficient and short as possible, especially for our littlest Vikings. Currently, the requirement from PDE and DoH is that all students and drivers wear facial coverings while on a bus. Also, in a hybrid setting, students will be able to socially distance the required 6 feet. Because of this, students will be able to have mask breaks throughout the day, especially on warmer days. When students are not able to socially distance, the District will require all students to wear facial coverings to be in compliance with the Governor’s order. The school calendar was adjusted with a start date of September 8 to limit the number of summer weather days due to heat in the buildings.

65. What happens when I refuse to do online learning like we did the last couple months of school? Because I will not be participating in that.

Answer: The learning plans for the fall will look very differently than the instruction that was provided in the spring. In the “yellow phase” our teachers will be providing videos of online instruction on the days that students are at home. This will be in combination with online personalized learning pathways. If we move into the “red phase”, remote learning will consist of live instruction with the child’s teachers on a regular basis.

66. My kids need to go tues/thurs every other Monday due to child care and work schedules. Whom do I address this with?

Answer: Please contact your child’s building principal and we can make that change for you.

67. How will the specials schedule, 6 day and 7 day rotations, work with the hybrid calendar? Specifically for the elementary and junior high.

Answer: Elementary and Junior High principals will be addressing this in communication in the coming weeks.

68. Please send me information on the cyber options for my daughter who will be in 2nd grade this year. Also a copy of the school board meeting that was just held yesterday. Thank you
**Answer:** Please contact Dr. Maslyk or submit your child’s name on the District’s website under the Cyber Pre-enrollment Form. Information can be forwarded to you. The video of the July 20 board meeting is posted along with the presentation on the website.

69. If you open under the yellow model, what will the days that kids aren’t in class look like? Will they be watching the live class instruction? Will someone be teaching them? Freckle and Lexia do not teach and are terrible substitutes for live teaching. I feel my son learned next to nothing the last 3 months of school due to Lexia and Freckle almost being used exclusively.

**Answer:** On the days that students are in the classroom, the teacher will assign work to be done the following day. Students will have a device with personalized software as part of their instruction, if appropriate. Also, teachers will post asynchronous lessons on the students’ remote days or will provide times for students to engage in synchronous learning. The experience on remote days will not mirror the learning or teaching that occurred, in most cases, in the spring.

70. If students start in the yellow model, what will instruction look like on the days they are not physically in class? Also, will the upcoming year be graded or will it be pass/fail? It really should be graded and teachers need to teach. Will students be placed in honors classes, and if so, what will be used to determine this since PSSA tests were not taken.

**Answer:** On the days that students are in the classroom, the teacher will assign work to be done the following day. Students will have a device with personalized software as part of their instruction, if appropriate. Also, teachers will post asynchronous lessons on the students’ remote days or will provide times for students to engage in synchronous learning. The experience on remote days will not mirror the learning or teaching that occurred, in most cases, in the spring, and the students’ work will be graded. Students will have access to all of the levels of courses they typically would be engaged in during a typical year. The principals and teachers are using the data that is available from last year, pre-school closure, for placement.

71. I completed the transportation survey, can my children be on opposite days due to transportation.

**Answer:** Yes. If this hasn’t already been done, please contact the building principal to make this change.

72. My son has asthma. He will not be able to wear a mask. Is there another alternative?
Answer: The Governor’s order allows for a variety of facial coverings. Please refer to the facial covering information that your building principal will provide to families in the coming week. Also, feel free to contact the school nurse regarding your son’s medical condition.

73. How do we register for online school?

Answer: If you would like to enroll in HASD’s cyber program, please complete the pre-enrollment form on the District’s website.

74. So if the child decides to do the cyber program this year, do they have to continue doing it until they graduate?

Answer: No, our cyber program is an option that we are making available as an option for families. You may choose to return your child to a traditional school model at any time.

75. Will the cyber program consist of taking more classes that would be similar to the edgenuity anatomy class that my daughter took last year; or would it be more structured with daily lessons and plans and actual interaction with a teacher?

Answer: We will be using the same Edgenuity platform that your daughter is familiar with. We will also be adding an additional layer of teacher support. Teachers who are assigned to cyber will provide regular check-ins with students as well as live tutoring when students are in need of 1:1 or small group support.

76. If we choose the cyber option and it is not working out for us as far as keeping my daughter on track, would she be able to transition back to on site schooling?

Answer: The district wants to provide as much flexibility as possible for families. While we would encourage you to commit to an instructional model for at least 9 weeks, we understand that selecting a different model may be needed for families.

77. I, as a health care worker who has worked on the front lines throughout this pandemic, understand more than most the challenges associated with the virus and resuming education. I need assurance that the education provided if we choose cyber will be of a much higher quality than what was provided at the end of this past year. I do not blame the district or educators at all as we are all working under novel and extreme circumstances, but I need to know that she will be given a stringent curriculum that demands the same knowledge and participation as if she attended in person.
Answer: In all of the three phases (green, yellow/hybrid, and red/remote), the District will provide HASD’s curriculum. All of the standards and skills that would typically be taught are expected to be mastered this coming school year. Students will also be assessed on these skills or content. Students and parents should expect remote learning to be very different this school year. If a parent chooses cyber, the standards are the same for each grade level or course, but may be delivered in a different order.

78. I have two children and one has asthma. I was wondering about mask restrictions for her.

Answer: In a hybrid setting, students will be able to socially distance the required 6 feet. Because of this, students will be able to have mask breaks throughout the day, especially on warmer days. When students are not able to socially distance, the District will require all students to wear facial coverings to be in compliance with the Governor’s order. Please contact the school nurse to share your concerns and medical needs of your daughter.

79. So if I decide to keep my child home and online, what will happen to her electives? Will her whole schedule change, being that she’s schooling online like she did in the spring? Thank you

Answer: Electives will remain the same for students. Schedules are not expected to change since we are able to plan, in advance, for the different phases.

80. How will the specials schedule, 6 day and 7 day rotations, work with the hybrid calendar? Specifically for the elementary and junior high.

Answer: The building principals will be sharing this information in the coming week(s) with their back to school information.

81. I will have children at Hopewell Elementary and the Jr High. In order to prepare for the impact the hybrid schedule will have on my work schedule can you please tell me what the online learning process will look like for the days they are home? Also, may I have more information on the cyber program?

Answer: The district will be using the Edgenuity platform for students in grades K-12. (This program is called Compass Learning at the K-6 level.) This is a self-paced learning platform that allows students to learn at their own speed and at the time that works for them. We are including additional teacher support that includes regular check-ins with their Hopewell Cyber teachers, as well as live tutoring sessions when the student is in need of support, reteaching, or feedback.
82. I completed the transportation survey that I need AM transportation for my daughter to the high school. However I do plan on driving her to school when I’m able to.

Answer: Thank you for sharing. We are planning for students to be on the bus unless parents said they will transport 100% of the time. She will have a seat on the bus that is socially distanced because of how you responded.

83. We see from the news that the decision has been made to be in the yellow phase to start the year. When and how will more information go out to parents? Particularly as to whether our child is Group A or B.

Answer: On July 20, the HASD board voted to begin school in a hybrid setting, meaning half of the students would be in class on any given day and the opposite group would be doing remote learning. Teachers will post lessons online for students to view on their remote days. All students will receive a device. Students with a last name beginning A-K would attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays and alternating Mondays. Students with last name L-Z would attend on Wednesdays and Fridays and alternating Mondays. If this does not work for your family and you would prefer the other group, please email your child’s principal. The alternating Mondays are listed in the second page of the school calendar. A letter was sent to parents at the beginning of July. If you did not receive this letter, please contact the school. Another letter will be forthcoming.

84. Also, what is the reasoning for starting in yellow? It is my understanding that as far as the state we are in green. If the state status is not determining what phase we are opening in (as the letter we received implied), then what is? And what would allow us to be in green?"

Answer: On July 13, the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health published new guidelines that school districts have to follow. In addition to the facial covering guidelines becoming even more restrictive, social distancing and transportation requirements also became more restrictive. The previous guidance was that we were to have six feet of social distance to the maximum extent possible. We now must have the 6 feet and this is especially true in cafeteria settings. If students aren’t six feet apart, they can’t take off their facial covering and therefore, can’t eat or drink. We are unable to bring all students into buildings and abide by the guidelines required of us by PDE and DoH. Additionally, transportation is expected to sit one student per seat. Even with the current number of students indicating that they wish to enroll in cyber, it is still not feasible under the current requirements. It isn’t even possible to follow the guidelines to bring even 2/3 of our student body into buildings. Whereas other school buildings might have more space, rooms, etc…., we do not. The
District may move from one of the phases to another based on local need (i.e. enough staff to instruct students), Department of Health orders (i.e. move to red for 14 days due to multiple cases), or per the Governor (i.e. mandate to close schools).

85. Will there be a Freshman orientation before school starts?

Answer: Yes; Mr. Allison will be sharing plans with students and freshmen in the coming weeks.

86. If we aren’t comfortable sending our child(ren) back to school right now, is it possible to start the year online and transition to in-person when the threat of COVID-19 has passed?

Answer: Yes, please complete the pre-enrollment form on the District’s website. By completing this, we will provide you information and enroll your children in our HASD cyber program.

87. What if parents don’t want to send their kids because of family members being at risk?

Answer: HASD is proud to offer our K-12 Cyber Program. Our cyber program provides instruction to any student in grades K-12 with HASD teachers assessing and supporting their learning.

88. I would like information regarding my son attending the BCCTC welding program that he is enrolled in. Is this only on the W/F alt Mondays as per his scheduled Hopewell days?

Answer: On July 30, BCCTC announced that their plans for the BCCTC will be virtual for the first 9 weeks. The District will work with our CTC students to address instructional and transportation needs. Please contact Mr. Allison for details in the coming weeks, as we will be addressing this with all of our CTC students.

89. I definitely want masks worn on the bus at all times with only one child per seat with empty seats between kids in order to keep kids from exposure to Covid.

Answer: We are following the guidance of PDE and DoH regarding transportation that requires masks and allows for one student per seat, unless siblings.

90. Will there be onsite COVID testing done by the nurses if someone is suspected of having it, student or staff?

Answer: School nurses are not able to provide COVID testing. This would have to be done at a state approved testing site.
91. Will we be able to switch hybrid days if our work schedules don’t permit? We’re assigned Tues/Thurs, but I work 12 hour shifts Mon/Wed/Fri so it would be better for us to dedicate Tues/Thurs to online learning.

Answer: Yes, please contact your building principal to make this switch.

92. What will online learning look like? I’d prefer online learning to be at a minimum, we are busy enough as it is.

Answer: There are four options that the District is preparing for (see below), however, the District is planning to open on September 8 in the hybrid setting. This could change if necessary. Further, our HASD cyber program is an option for any student at any time.

1. **Green**: all students attend school in person
2. **Yellow/Hybrid**: Students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously or asynchronously to support and continue student learning.
3. **Red/Remote**: All students at home due to school closure. A student’s teacher(s) will provide lessons and instruction in a combined synchronous and asynchronous manner.
4. **Cyber**: Students in any of the above phases can stay at home and learn through our cyber program. Instruction is done through research-based asynchronous self-paced lessons. A HASD teacher will provide support, assess the student, and provide check-ins with the student/parents to make sure the student is on track and finding success. If a parent chooses the cyber option, but would like to join the classroom setting at any time, the District will support the transition.

93. When and where can I drop off my homeschooler’s Letter of Intent to Homeschool?

Answer: You can drop off home school affidavits at District Office, 2354 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, 15001.

94. I understand that the students will be going back to school on Sept 8th on a hybrid schedule. Could you please advise what measures will happen should any student that is attending school contract Covid-19? Will the entire school quarantine, will the classes that had that particular student quarantine?

Answer: The district will operate under guidance from the CDC and Department of Health (DoH). If we experience a confirmed case within the district, the DoH
will notify the district. They will begin the contact tracing process and will provide the district with direction regarding the potential quarantining or closures that are required.

95. I feel very lost - my daughter will be starting at the Junior High for the first time and we have no info on what happens. Will we receive a packet in the mail on more info for starting Junior High? For example: Will she get a tour to know where to go for classes, locker, teachers, etc.

Answer: New student orientations will be shared by building principals. Any new student or a student transition to a new building will have the opportunity to visit the school. Information will be shared with parents via the district website, as well as through our school messaging system.

96. What time does school start/end - is it different from the elementary school? Are we supposed to pack a lunch or will there be lunch at the school since covid?

Answer: All building start and end times are listed on our website. Students will continue to have the option to pack a lunch or buy one at school. The cafeterias will be using increased safety protocols including providing more limited choice in lunch selections and full service meals (as opposed to students picking and selecting items by hand.)

97. Are the school's providing the tablets as a result of the new schedule?

Answer: The district approved our 1:1 technology plan, called Viking Connect, earlier this year. All students in grades 3-12 will be provided Chromebooks. Families in grades K-2 will receive iPads. These tools will help students to access instructional materials during both the yellow and red phases of our reopening plan.

98. If we want to request full time brick and mortar education, how does that request need to be sent?

Answer: Students with IEPs are eligible for in-school instruction 5 days a week. Families will meet with their IEP team to discuss the needs of the child and determine the plan that will best serve the student.

99. I have a child at Hopewell Elementary as well as a child at the Junior High. Please be advised my children will not be participating in the virtual learning. They do not engage or learn this way and will participate in the face to face learning only. Additionally my husband and I are essential workers and will not be available to teach during the day.
Answer: The building principals will reach out to you to address your family’s particular needs and how the District can continue supporting your children’s learning.

100. At this time, we would like a combination of cyber and in school classes. We have done cyber before, but foreign languages were not available and PE cyber is an oxymoron. Is it possible to get these classes for in school and the rest as cyber courses?

Answer: We will work with any family to address student needs. Please reach out to Dr. Maslyk for students in grades K-8 and Mr. Nelson for students in grades 9-12 and discuss the logistics of a combined cyber/in school option.

101. If our child attends in-school learning, what will be the hours for the Junior High? Drop-off and pick-up times?

Answer: Drop-off and pick-up times have been revised and are posted on our website. While the general school hours have not changed, we have a new traffic pattern for parents driving students to school.

102. How do you expect working parents to have children get an entire day’s school work in on their “cyber days” on top of after school activities and life in general? I fear my son will fall even further behind.

Answer: During students’ in class days, the teacher will provide information and direction for students for the following day as well as post instruction when appropriate during the remote learning days. We are hoping to provide maximum flexibility for those parents wanting students to engage in learning during the typical school day as well as those who want maximum flexibility. The building principal will reach out to you to address your family’s particular needs and how the District can continue supporting your children’s learning.

103. When will the 2020/2021 school year start?

Answer: The school year will begin on September 8th.

104. Can we start school remotely then transition back when we get the official “all clear”? 
Answer: Families may choose cyber learning to start the year and then transition to in-school instruction whenever possible.

105. How can the kids possibly socially distance with so many kids in a classroom? I understand the alphabetic breakdown, but it just doesn’t seem possible to guarantee a 6’ radius around each child.

Answer: Our classrooms are currently set up in a way that provides social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Desks will be facing in one direction with approximately 6 feet of distance. With a smaller number of students entering our classrooms, we are better able to provide the recommended distance to keep students and staff safe.

106. Applications have been submitted. What is the next thing to do as a parent? Especially since the schools are closed? Are we expecting a letter for when school resumes and how to go about with the new school?

Answer: If families have selected the hybrid model, they will receive correspondence from the building principal mid-August. If they have selected the cyber option, correspondence will be sent out in the coming weeks.

107. Do you still plan to do guided reading this year and how will you group kids, given that there will be a small amount in each class?

Answer: In the Elementary, we are still prepared to provide guided reading, but the actual physical structure of guided reading will look different. Plexiglass dividers are being ordered for small group instruction in areas where social distancing cannot occur.
108. What will the remote learning days look like? Will we utilize Google classroom? Will it be more like “homework?”

Answer: Students in grades K-2 will have iPads and will work on SeeSaw platform. Students in grades 3-8 will have Chromebooks and will work on Google Classroom platform. Students in grades 9-12 will have Chromebooks and will work in the Schoology platform. Remote learning days may include completing assignments, application and practice from the previous day’s lesson or may include watching a live or videoed lesson to continue learning on a topic. Some teachers are planning to “flip” their classroom where lecture and instruction occur on remote days and practice and application occur on in class days. The format of remote days will depend on the level of independence of the s learner, the content and skills being taught, and the most effective manner to provide instruction during a hybrid approach to learning.

109. Will you include a synchronous learning option either within the cyber option or as a third option? This is an important component in my opinion. I understand teacher concern for cameras in classrooms but it seems plausible that many parents would choose this option and you could arrange to have staff dedicated to this option.

Answer: In Yellow/Hybrid, students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously and/or asynchronously to support and continue student learning. Many families want “live” instruction, but many working families want asynchronous learning opportunities. We will try to accommodate parents as best as possible.

110. My daughter will be a senior and attended vo-tech last year. If we choose the cyber option, will she still be able to attend vo-tech? Also if the cyber option is chosen, will she graduate with the rest of the 2021 class and be allowed to walk for the graduation ceremony? Lastly if the school year changes to 5 days a week will she have the option to change and attend in school classes?

Answer: A student can choose to attend the BCCTC and complete his or her courses via cyber. Please contact Mr. Nelson to enroll in HASD’s cyber program. As long as your daughter meets all graduation requirements and expectations, she would be able to graduate with her class and participate in commencement. At any time, a family can choose to move from cyber to in class instruction.
111. Does Cyber school include Honors classes and can my son still participate in the gifted program?

*Answer:* Students who have a GIEP may still receive Gifted support if he or she is enrolled in cyber. Please contact Mr. Nelson to discuss the courses that your child may wish to enroll in.

112. My daughter will be starting fifth grade. Will there be any kind of orientation so she will be able to see the school and know where she is going?

*Answer:* Yes. The principals will be providing orientation information in the coming weeks.

113. Will there be elective options like German 3 or 4 and Honor classes offered online or will they only be "in person" classes?

*Answer:* Please contact Mr. Nelson to discuss the courses that your child may wish to enroll in.

114. What software will they need? What is better, an iPad or laptop?

*Answer:* The district will provide devices to all students. Chromebooks will be deployed to students in grades 3-12 and iPads for families in grades K-2. We do not require the purchasing of any specialized software. The district will provide you with any and all digital tools needed. If you are opting to purchase a device on your own, the technology department can provide a list of recommending devices to meet the needs of your child based on their grade level and course load.

115. This is all new to me, even the Junior High. Do I still need to buy the supplies like the calculator?

*Answer:* Recommended supplies lists will be distributed by grade level. These should be posted on the district webpage by mid-August.

116. My question is, can my students attend class Tuesday/Thursday rather than Wed/Fri?

*Answer:* Any family needing to switch days can do so by contacting their building principal.

117. How will the students be divided? By grade, by alphabet? When will we know which days our children will be attending in person?
Answer: Students with the last names A-K will attend on Tuesday/Thursday and students L-Z will attend on Wednesday/Friday.

118. I want my children, who have different last names, to go to school on the same days. Who do I contact to make sure this happens?

Answer: Any family needing to switch days can do so by contacting their building principal.

119. I am worried about the summer heat in the building while everyone has to wear masks. Will there be extra fans or something to assist with cooling?

Answer: The District is required to uphold the Governor’s order regarding facial coverings to be worn when social distancing cannot occur. The District will build in as many facial covering breaks as possible. Due to heat concerns, the District’s start date was moved to September 8. Fans are not being considered as they have been discouraged due to increased spread of COVIS19.

120. Can a student return to traditional schooling partway through the year? What if my child has a GIEP? What if my child has a 504 Plan? Are there any foreign languages offered? Are there any Honors courses offered (or is that the "Academic" designation)?

Answer: Students who have a GIEP may still receive Gifted support if he or she is enrolled in cyber or attends in person. Students with a GIEP are able to attend 5 days a week in order to receive these supports. We are still reviewing students with 504s and should be able to provide parents of students with 504s more information in the coming week. Regarding Honors Cyber courses, please contact Mr. Nelson to discuss the courses that your child may wish to enroll in.

121. I'm looking for the cyber curriculum for 8th grade and can't find it. Can you please point me to it? Also, I have a senior who is scheduled for honors and AP classes. There don't appear to be any higher level courses available for honors students -- all of the classes are under ones she has already taken (with the exception of an elective). Are there any plans to expand the cyber curriculum so that honors and AP classes will be offered?

Answer: Please visit our website for the most up to date cyber information. HASD’s cyber program information was posted on the website on Monday, July 27. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr.
Maslyk for students in grades K-8 and Mr. Nelson for students in grades 9-12.

I have major concerns about the proposed Hopewell cyber option vs. the possibility of offering a synchronous option. I would like to know why it is not possible to have an option where students can zoom in to class and participate as if they were in the classroom. There would be minimal extra effort on part of the teacher (will this not be the method of education if the school has to go completely virtual at some time during the school year?). This option provides the students with a chance to interact with their teacher and classmates while the teacher is presenting the lesson rather than having to depend on a pre-recorded video of a cyber teacher that is not available to answer questions. I fear the current asynchronous option will make it very difficult for students to transition back to the classroom later in the year if they so choose (or transition from in class to cyber). The current options in person at Hopewell or asynchronous cyber are forcing me to choose between the best education for my son and the health of my son and family. We as parents should not have to make this choice. The current COVID positivity rate within Beaver County is the highest in PA, currently at 8.6%, a rate that far exceeds that considered safe to bring children back to school. Additionally, studies out of Europe where they have opened schools indicate that while young children (under 10) can contract SARS-CoV2, they do not appear to spread the virus easily. However, children older than 10 can spread the virus as effectively as adults. Due to these studies, and others, I have major concerns about sending my son to school even part time. However, my son is currently scheduled to be in honors language arts, honors science, honors social studies, and algebra I. I am concerned that he will not be getting a quality education learning online vs. in class. I have talked with many other parents who have the same thoughts about the current cyber option. Have you thought about the fact that if you offered a synchronous option many families would opt for that and the schools would be naturally de-densified to the point where you might be able to offer families safe full time in person schooling for those who need it?

Answer: The District is providing our HASD cyber program for those who feel that it is in their child’s best interest to remain at home. Please view the HASD Cyber program and pre-enrollment form that was posted on the District’s website on Monday, July 27. Also, in hybrid, teachers will be able to deliver new content or instruction synchronously or asynchronously. Many parents are asking for synchronous learning, whereas others want asynchronous lessons to provide their family greater flexibility in completing assignments. We will be working with teachers in the coming weeks to help them prepare for both.
I have several concerns about sending my son to school.

a. poor ventilation in the schools. How do you plan to ensure proper air circulation with enough fresh outside air?

b. lunch (for both students and teachers). Restaurants are considered one of the riskiest places to frequent since masks are off and people are talking - same goes for the lunch rooms. Despite the distancing that you propose, the poor ventilation in the lunch areas still makes this a high risk situation. What other options are available to minimize the risk during lunch? Can all students be facing the same direction? Can plexiglass dividers be installed between each student/eating station?

c. Proposed mask breaks. I would like more information on mask breaks. Even if children are 6 ft apart, removing masks while indoors is still a risk. There is now concern that SARS-CoV2 can spread through aerosols which stay in the air much longer than larger respiratory droplets. Removing masks and talking indoors will increase the potential of spread via aerosols.

d. Masking. Masks are mandatory, but are only effective if worn properly. How will masking be enforced?

e. Hybrid option. What exactly will the students be doing on the days they are at home? If they are only in class 2-3 days a week, will they only be learning half the material this year? Will teachers be teaching the same thing twice a week now and sending the students home with a lot of homework? If so, couldn't students zoom in to class on their 'at home days' so it would be more like a normal school week?

Answer: Please see the following responses to inquiries:

1. The District has changed all filters and all air units are circulating the maximum amount of fresh air in classrooms. The District is working with air quality experts to determine if additional interventions can be added to our existing system. More information will be forthcoming after additional options are reviewed.

2. Lunch will take place in the cafeterias and students will sit six feet apart and face in the same direction. The District has added lunches in the Elementary and Junior High in order to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any given time.

3. The District is required to uphold the Governor’s order regarding facial coverings to be worn when social distancing cannot occur. The District will build in as many facial covering breaks as possible, but will only do so when students are socially distanced. A parent can always request that their child not remove their facial covering. Facial Shields are
great alternatives to masks for parents who wish their child to have a facial covering on at all times throughout the day.

4. Facial coverings will be required of all staff and students. Staff and/or administration will address students not complying with the Governor's order and District expectation.

5. In Yellow/Hybrid, students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously and/or asynchronously to support and continue student learning. The expectation is that a student will learn all of the material, content, skills, and standards that would typically be learned during a “typical” school year. Many parents want a synchronous option during these days, but others want more flexibility and have requested asynchronous learning opportunities due to family needs. We will try to support all families to the greatest extent possible.

124. Will there be face-to-face classes or will students continue to take classes online?

Answer: There are four options that the District is preparing for (see below), however, the District is planning to open on September 8 in the hybrid setting. This could change if necessary. Further, our HASD cyber program is an option for any student at any time.

1. Green: all students attend school in person
2. Yellow/Hybrid: Students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously or asynchronously to support and continue student learning.
3. Red/Remote: All students at home due to school closure. A student’s teacher(s) will provide lessons and instruction in a combined synchronous and asynchronous manner.
4. Cyber: Students in any of the above phases can stay at home and learn through our cyber program. Instruction is done through research-based asynchronous self-paced lessons. An HASD teacher will provide support, assess the student, and provide check-ins with the student/parents to make sure the student is on track and finding success. If a parent chooses the cyber option, but would like to join the classroom setting at any time, the District will support the transition.

125. If we decide to do online school, is it possible to switch to in person learning after the first semester or vice versa?

Answer: Absolutely. You can switch at any time.
126. Will there be help with internet? I am out in the country and internet availability is not up to speed for home schooling and I don't know what to do.

   Answer: Please reach out to your child's principal for assistance.

127. I am Parent of a student who is going to be in 5th grade this year. Is she going to be automatically enrolled? When will school start and how she will attend classes?

   Answer: Your daughter is automatically enrolled in 5th grade. School starts on September 8. At this time, we are planning to begin school in “yellow” which is a hybrid (2 days per week and alternating Mondays).

128. Are they going everyday or when are they going?

   Answer: The district is beginning the year in the yellow phase which means a hybrid schedule. (See yellow phase plans). If the district transitions to the green phase, students will return to school 5 days per week.

129. What time will the drop off and pick up be for students who are driven to school at Independence, Jr, High, and High school?

   Answer: Principals at each level will share arrival and dismissal procedures by mid-August. This will include some changes to procedures and traffic patterns at each school.

130. How will students be socially distanced during these times while waiting to go to their classroom in the morning and to their car in the afternoon?

   Answer: Each building has adjusted their arrival and dismissal procedures to allow for student safety. This may include dismissing from a different location and/or staggered dismissal times. Principals will post this information in mid-August.

131. What is the best option for a child that needs special education services?

   Answer: Your child’s IEP team will be happy to discuss the needs and services with your family. We recognize that each child has individualized needs and that each student may need something different. Your team and the special education department will work with you to make a plan that works best for your child.
132. If we decide to do remote learning through the school and our work tells us to go back to our offices, can we then have our child go back to school and not do remote learning anymore?

*Answer:* The district will continue to offer a hybrid option which includes two days of in-school instruction. Should you need to transition your students to this model, you can contact your building principal. The District will assist to make any transitions as smooth as possible.

133. Will it be teacher/student interactive video...online

*Answer:* In Yellow/Hybrid, students attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. When students are not in school, their teacher will provide lessons synchronously and/or asynchronously to support and continue student learning. In red/remote learning, there will be much more interaction and synchronous learning. In HASD’s cyber program, students in grades K-6 will learn from the curriculum that is a combination of video, games, and activities. A Hopewell teacher can connect via check-ins to address and learning concerns.

134. First, I wanted to thank you for having a plan that will get the kids in the building as much as possible. I also appreciate that this plan will have the kids in masks as little as possible. I know the goal is being able to move to green as quickly as possible. Thank you for understanding that not every student will be given the same educational opportunity at home. The privileged families that have a stay at home family member or even a job that affords them to work from home are going to be given a better education if we have to move to "red" again. I do worry, as I'm sure you do, that the longer this goes on the greater the disparity will be between "the haves" and "the haves not". I know that there are those pushing for an all virtual start. They understand that it would affect their family slightly, but don't seem to understand what it would do to others.. Thank you for not giving in to the vocal minority and sacrificing the education of those students at risk. ESPECIALLY for a vocal minority that could easily do online school for their children instead of dictating what everyone else must do.

*Answer:* We will continue to try to build in flexibility to any plan and support both students and families to the greatest extent possible. We are focused on safety as our priority, but ensuring that student learning continues and that each student continues to grow as a learner.

135. A lot of schools including, for example, Central Valley are opening 5 days a week and also providing online and Cyber. Why can't Hopewell do this? Wolf said this past week he is NOT closing schools and he never said they can not be open 5 days a
I really feel children need that interaction with peers and teachers. It’s a win-win honestly. Kids, who should have an opinion in all this and their parents who feel it’s more important for their child to be in school can be in school just like normal 5 days and parents/kids who would prefer to stay home have 2 other options to do so, virtual or cyber. Mask should also be an option in school for kids and teachers/staff. Who wants to wear it can and who doesn’t should just be told they have to come in and out of the school, changing classes or using the restroom. I was informed that masks will NOT have to be worn all day just when social distancing is not preventable but majority of the day they should be able to NOT have it on. Also, to eliminate masks most of the time schools can put a plexiglass barrier around the desk for kids. Has that been discussed?

Also, looking for an updated school supply list and when the other questions from the website questionnaire and board meeting will be addressed and how they will be addressed?

Answer: I can’t speak to all of the other schools’ details, but we do not have room to even support two-thirds or three-fourths of the students and still socially distance students as required by the state. Additionally, we are unable to provide lunch for this many students under the new regulations from the state regarding lunch and social distancing requirements. At the end of June, the new requirements for facial coverings and social distancing created even greater obstacles for our district.

We are purchasing plexiglass for key places in the school such as office counters, cafeteria lines, small group instruction areas, etc…website last Monday. We will be focusing this week on answering all of the questions that have

As for masks, we will follow the Governor’s order and students and staff will have to wear masks. We will allow for facial covering breaks in situations where students are able to socially distance. By going hybrid, this will allow for the maximum time students may take off their facial coverings.

The questions from the board meeting were answered in the last board meeting visitor section, in the presentation or were published last week with the HASD cyber information posted on the been submitted on our website.
136. Do I need to enroll my child in school each year? My son attended and completed third grade last year. I was unsure if I needed to register him for the fourth grade.

Answer: Your son will automatically be enrolled at Hopewell for the following school year.

137. Will there be new logins for the google classroom platform in 5th grade. Last few months last year my daughter had to use her laptop and she already has google classroom on there registered to her from 4th. Will there be tech support on hand when issues arise at home for logins and so on?

Answer: Login will be the same but she will receive a new class code for Google classroom. When she logs in after her teachers add her to her class, she will accept/join all of the Google classrooms that appear on her homepage. This will likely occur after September 1.

We will provide as much support as possible. Most teachers can assist with log-in information or can assist students until they come into school and can get help on-site.

138. Also is there any before and after care program this year?

Answer: YMCA has a before and after school program located at the Junior High.

139. With the split schedule what does online learning look like on the days he is at home? Also is there any before and after care program this year? How will the days my children will not be at school look using virtual learning? Any idea if cyber school/virtual vs assignments on iPad like before? The August 10, 2020 parent letter, from Dr. Miller, did not specifically indicate that live streaming of classrooms during "home" days would be an option. Could you please clarify, is this being considered? Is the Online class system continuing this academia year? Will the online class system continue this year?

Answer: Hybrid: Learning Platforms and Blended Learning
During hybrid, students may be working remotely for 2-3 days each week from home. Principals and teachers will be providing specific expectations for students on these days, but in general, students should expect to engage in the learning provided by their teacher on the instructional platform assigned to his or her grades level: SeeSaw in grades K-2, Google Classroom for grades 3-8, and Schoology for grades 9-12. More information on how students and parents can log-in to these platforms is forthcoming.

On remote learning days, during hybrid, students should expect a blended approach to learning. When appropriate, students have the same learning experience while in class as they experience at home. Teachers will determine the best manner to teach students based on content and needs of students, so
there may be synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities throughout the year.

For example, a student’s day of learning may include some or all of the following:
- Application of learned material from the previous face-to-face classroom day (i.e. assignments or activities),
- Watching a video or presentation from a Hopewell teacher instructing on a new skill,
- Reading an article, novel, text, book and completing accompanying assignments,
- Connecting live at a specific time with a Hopewell teacher to view instruction or to “check-in” over a specific topic,
- Watch a video from a school nurse, counselor, or principal to share information or to view specific instruction on a topic, and/or
- Engage in personalized learning software to remediate, advance, or enrich specific learning skills.

140. I'm confused as to what format we will be returning to school in September. Is it yellow with the modified school or green? And if yellow when will we know if they are group a or b? Also, when will we know what days are in the classroom & what days aren’t so we can plan for childcare accordingly? Will they be doing online and in school? What day(s) will my children be going to school? What day will my children be in school? Are they still planning to do half in school and half online? are they def starting sept 8th? and do we need to sign them up for online schooling? just seeing a lot of back and forth information and nothing that is concrete. What's the plan? I haven’t heard any plans or dates yet. Is there an e-learning option still available?

Answer: On July 20, the HASD board voted to begin school in a hybrid setting, meaning half of the students would be in class on any given day and the opposite group would be doing remote learning. Teachers will post lessons online for students to view on their remote days. All students will receive a device. Students with a last name beginning A-K would attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays and alternating Mondays. Students with last name L-Z would attend on Wednesdays and Fridays and alternating Mondays. If this does not work for your family and you would prefer the other group, please email your child’s principal. The alternating Mondays are listed in the second page of the school calendar. The school year begins on September 8. If interested in Hopewell’s cyber program, please contact the Dr. Jacie Maslyk, Assistant Superintendent at maslykj@hopewellarea.org
142. Is gym class going to be mandatory if a mask needs to be worn? I feel as though only the basic and important classes should be taken at this time.

Answer: Physical Education will be planned with consideration of the facial covering requirements. There will be more health oriented lessons and individual activities that will not cause problems for students while wearing a facial covering. Physical Education is a course that is a state requirement.

143. Will the children go back to school 5 days a week? Children need to go to school. We do this every year for the flu. I know we are very cautious.

Answer: It is our hope that all of our students will be able to attend school five days a week, but at this time, we are starting the school year in a hybrid setting.

144. Is Cyber school under the Hopewell School District or PA Cyber?

Answer: Hopewell’s cyber program is under the Hopewell Area School District; it is not PA Cyber nor affiliated with PA Cyber.

145. What will happen if someone in the school was in contact with someone with Covid?

Answer:

1. A positive COVID case is shared with an administrator or school nurse. The District will accept verbal notification of a positive COVID case from a parent or from DOH.

2. The nurse and/or administrator will inform the Superintendent (or designee) of the positive case.

3. The Superintendent (or designee) will determine the number of cases with either employee name and position or student’s name, grade level, building assignment, and classroom assignment/schedule.

4. The secretary will contact the Buildings and Grounds Department to schedule a Bactronix application for all learning spaces that the individual was last in.

5. The Superintendent (or designee) will communicate the positive case(s) to employees and parents as follows:

   a. Email to Staff (this email should not be forwarded to parents or others)

   b. Secretaries will post email communication in work rooms for custodians, cafeteria, and transportation department.

   c. A letter to parents will be emailed and posted on the website.

   d. A phone blast will be sent to parents to alert them of the letter on the website and in their email.
All contact tracing will be done by the Department of Health.

146. What are the guidelines going to be regarding this school year and what is expected out of the students?

Answer: Principals will be sharing guidelines at the start of the school year. You can also check out the Orientation presentations located on the website.

147. What do the students do if their home does not have internet? Will packets be sent home in place of online learning? We live in an area where internet service is slow and unreliable. What are we going to do?

Answer: Please contact your child’s building principal; the District will provide support for those who need assistance.

148. Will the kids have to wear a mask for the entire day when in school? Will the clear plastic face shield be allowed instead of a mask?

Answer: “Face covering” refers to a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face, and can be either factory, hand-made, or improvised from household items such as scarves, bandanas, or t-shirts. Plastic facial shields are acceptable.

Student expectations:

1. Facial coverings can be a mask, facial shield or any other approved facial covering from the Department of Health. It should cover the nose and mouth.

2. Facial coverings will need to be provided by families, as well as laundered or cleaned. We require that masks adhere to the dress code policy (i.e. graphics or language that would not be permitted on clothing).

3. Facial coverings must be worn at all times on busses and in all common areas of the building (halls, office, restrooms, lunch lines, etc…).

4. Facial coverings can be removed in classrooms during “mask breaks”, under the teacher’s supervision.
   a. NEW: Facial covering breaks in a classroom may not exceed 10 minutes at a time.

5. If students are socially distanced and six feet away from others, they are permitted to remove their facial covering in the classroom, under the teacher’s supervision.
   a. NEW: Facial covering breaks are ONLY permitted when students are 6 feet
A student may be asked to wear a facial covering in a classroom, even if socially distanced, if another individual’s health is compromised. Breaks will be afforded in these settings, when needed.

Facial coverings will be able to be removed while seated for lunch.

a. NEW: Facial coverings will be able to be removed while seated for lunch, breakfast or snack provided that students are 6 feet apart.

A student may continue wearing his or her facial covering at any time, even if breaks are provided.

149. Will the school district offer both online & in school instruction jointly as an option for students?

Answer: Parents have the option of hybrid (blend on remote and in-class) or HASD cyber program. Currently, we are assessing rosters for cyber and have new enrollment on a waiting list until all other students are assigned to teachers and we assess the need for additional staff.

150. After reading the FAQs and understanding the options in place for the upcoming school year, there seems to be a priority placed on the education of the in-school students. For example – during the yellow phase, many parents of the in-person students have asked about the plans for their children’s at-home days, and the district’s responses have indicated a willingness to connect students and parents to their teachers on the at-home days. Additionally, during red phase, the in-person learners will have live instruction. On the contrary- the cyber students haven’t been offered ANY option for live instruction. Can teachers be assigned to the cyber students to form classes and conduct live instruction the same way teachers are assigned to in-person students? This would create a community and would connect these students to their peers and teachers. Social and emotional well-being is important for ALL kids. Please consider that many of the district’s future cyber students have been largely isolated since schools closed in March – because many of the families choosing the cyber option have family and health situations that put them at risk. The education and socialization of the cyber students should not be diminished because we made a different choice for our family. I know the district strives to create an equal learning opportunity for all students, so I hope this oversight is simply because the cyber option isn’t as developed as the plan for in-person students.

Answer: Each K-6 cyber student will have one Hopewell teacher assigned to support and facilitate their learning. The curriculum is already created and is virtual, so all instruction will be provided by Compass or Edgenuity. The Hopewell teacher will be assessing the students and will assist them in accessing or learning if there are concerns. The teachers will also schedule “check-ins” which will be done over Teams.
152. When is the first day of school?

Answer: September 8, 2020

153. When are senior pictures due to be turned in for the yearbook?

Answers: Seniors are usually asked to turn them in by Christmas Break.

154. What am I supposed to do when I work full time and no one to be with my kids when they are homeschooling 2 days. Is there an option for 5 days a week in school?

Answer: The District recognizes that childcare in a hybrid or remote setting is a concern and hardship for families. We are truly hoping that all of this can pass quickly so that we can bring all of our students back to school and families can count on schools to support them five days a week during the school year. We remain hopeful, but each day, school guidance and requirements seems to be even more restrictive.

155. How will the kindergarten program be set up in this area?

Answer: Please view the kindergarten orientation presentation on the District website and be sure to attend Meet the Teacher!

156. My son will be attending 9th grade this year. Could you provide me with the "student supply list" of what he will need for school?

Answer: The high school does not provide supply lists because the students’ classes are so diverse. Teachers will share any requirements during the first days of school.

157. If I have my son start in school but schools get shut down again will they have the option to register for the cyber program?

Answer: As long as there are open seats, we will allow enrollment for any student.

158. Where are the forms to fill out for a chrome book for my children? Where is the link on the Hopewell Area School District site to get the required forms for Chromebook pickup as stated in the mass voicemail sent out today?

Answer: Go to our website: www.hopewellarea.org and scroll under District News. Under Viking CONNECT, click on the areas that says “Click Here: Viking Connect Equipment Forms and Payments”

159. Will class syllabi be available, prior to the start of school, for parent/student review to determine if any changes should be made to current scheduled courses because of the hybrid model.

Answer: Teachers will provide syllabi at the beginning of the school year in grades 9-12.
160. I am not available the week that pick up is being done. Will there be alternate days? Is there before and after school child care and child care offered on days that the kids are not in school? What time do the school doors open and close?

*Answer:* There will be additional days to pick up devices in the next two weeks. Please visit the District website next week to see the new days and times. There is no childcare provided by the District before or after school, but there are local daycare providers who may support this need. Please look at the website for the virtual orientations for each building. These will have the times when students are able to be in buildings.

161. I was wondering if the district has any idea about what employers are to do in these situations. Are they supposed to make work from home available if possible or is this just something we have to deal with as parents. Working all day and then coming home to attempt proper meals and school work. During the beginning of the pandemic my employer made work from home available and allowed me to work from home until school was out and then we returned to work, but now they are trying to say they are an essential business and it is not viable for them to have people working from home anymore. I work for a cell phone accessory company called Cell Helmet. They worked their way into being "essential" by creating a product for cleaning germs off your cell phones, but business as usual at the building. Only doing the "essential" product from time to time. Any info that can help me would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Also I was wondering, if I sign my child up for the Hopewell cyber classes and it asks if my child has an IEP, but we don't have one yet, but are working towards it, what should I put down as an answer?

*Answer:* Unfortunately, the district can't speak for other employers. As for your child's learning needs, I would reach out to your building principal as he or she would be able to guide you as to the process to assess for an IEP.

162. We live in an area where internet service is slow and unreliable. What are we going to do?

*Answer:* Please contact your child's building principal to discuss options.

163. Will we be able to follow her on the day/s they have homework on the parent portal just like other years so we know what is going on?

*Answer:* Students will be using the following platforms: SeeSaw in grades K-2, Google Classroom for grades 3-8, and Schoology for grades 9-12. More information on how students and parents can log-in to these platforms is forthcoming. Parents who log on to these platforms will be able to see all student work and assignments.
165. Last year I had no clue what she was doing on the internet on Google except when she had a question but I don't know a lot about the math and some other things they do different from when I went to school so we need to know if they are having problems or not so her grades don't decline a simple p or did not a proper grade like last semester school year

Answer: We will have office hours for remote learners to connect with teachers if they need assistance. If a student is struggling, we have time set aside each day for teachers to connect to remote learners to provide direction or assistance. Also, by having the students in a hybrid setting, teachers will be able support students to address their needs in the class as well as during remote learning days.

**Student dismissal times and Teacher Office Hours**

**High School: 2:00 PM**  
Remote learners will be able to connect with teachers from approx. 2:05-2:55 PM

**Junior High: 2:35 PM**  
Remote learners will be able to connect with teachers from approx. 2:40-3:10 PM

**Elementary: 3:05 PM**  
Remote learners will be able to connect with teachers from approx. 3:15-3:55 PM

166. Is there going to be a way to get teacher specific apps on the offered devices by the school district? We used 3 tablets for 3 different grades/teachers last year. Only one tablet had one of the apps actually downloaded to the tablet (freckle). All the other apps we had to use their www. link to access, such as google classroom, dojo, and epic. With three children and three different teachers with 5 different apps used daily per kid it's nearly impossible for the kids to access them independently and it's not very efficient for the parents.

Answer: Thank you for this feedback. We will discuss this with our Tech team and Administration to see how we can best meet parent and student needs.

167. Will school be remote learning only with NO in person classes?

Answer: We are prepared to go 100% remote if we have the need to close schools temporarily due to positive Covid cases or if the District is directed or the Board chooses to go “virtual”.