

SEAFORD UFSD
REOPENING PLAN
2020-2021

FAQ



Published August 28, 2020

This FAQ does not address every topic concerning each school's reopening procedures. It represents information pertaining to frequently asked questions only. For additional information, please access the School Reopening Plans posted on our website at <https://www.seaford.k12.ny.us/>, or refer to each building principal's reopening of school letter distributed to every household.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is the District's Reopening Plan? How was it Developed?

On May 27, 2020, the Seaford School District Board of Education approved the formation of the **Seaford UFSD Reopening of Schools Task Force**. This ad hoc committee was charged with the task for developing building plans for reopening schools that ensures: 1) a safe learning environment for all students and employees 2) meaningful and continuous instruction for all students in an equitable manner and 3) the ability to toggle back and forth between in-person and remote instruction.

The committee was comprised of various community stakeholders including Board of Education trustees, Central Office administrators, building administrators, teachers, parents, the supervising security aide and the nurse coordinator (see Task Force members on page two). Participation was open to all parents and faculty. Selection of members was done through an application process. The goal was to include individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests. In order to explore various components of the reopening process, the following subcommittees were established:

1. Instructional Organization/Teaching and Learning
2. Busing and Transportation
3. Physical and Mental Health/Safety
4. Remote Learning and Instructional Technology Training
5. Facilities
6. Non-Instructional School Operations

The Task Force met weekly and the subcommittees met more often to construct recommendations for the Seaford Reopening of Schools Plans. This FAQ summarizes our current reopening plans as a result of the collective efforts of stakeholders throughout our school community. A sincere thank you is extended to the task force members who selflessly devoted countless hours to researching best practices for reopening schools in this pandemic environment and to writing components of our building plans. In addition, all building administrators worked arduously on refining and updating the building specific plans as guidelines shifted.

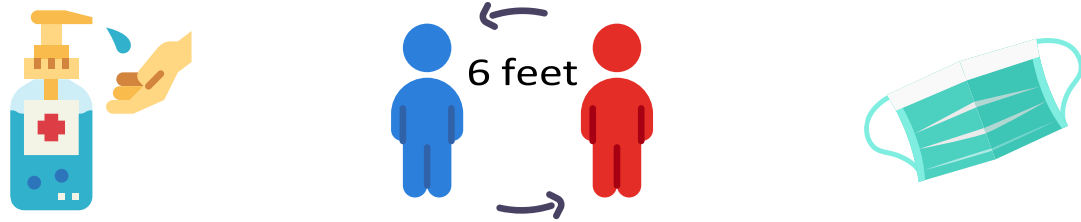
Our reopening plans were submitted to the State and the Department of Health on July 31, 2020, as mandated by Governor Cuomo. The Seaford Reopening Task Force will remain in place throughout the year to adjust plans as a result of any newly received guidance and/or health-related updates. NYSED guidance indicates we must consider plans evolving and to view them as *living documents*.

Seaford UFSD 2Reopening of School Task Force Members 2020-21

Name	Community Member
Andrea Parisi	Board of Education Trustee
Natalie Pedisich	Board of Education Trustee
Adele Pecora	Superintendent of Schools
John Striffolino	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, and Personnel
Rhonda Meserole	Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
Thomas Lynch	Executive Director for Instructional Technology and STEM
Charles Leone	Executive Director for Humanities
Mary Catherine Culella-Sun	SASA – Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Scott Bersin	SASA – High School Principal
Daniel Smith	SASA -Middle School Principal
Debra Emmerich	SASA – Seaford Manor Principal
Thomas Burke	SASA – Seaford Harbor Principal
Russell Costa	SASA - Director of Facilities
Kevin Witt	SASA – Athletics
Lorraine Burke	Nurse Coordinator
Margaret Cervini	Transportation Director
Donald Barto	Security Manager
Daniel Krueger	Manor Teacher
Christine Donnelly	Harbor Teacher
Michael Burns	Middle School Teacher
Tania Cintorino	High School Teacher
Stacey Ranzie	Middle School Guidance Counselor
Anthony Romeo	K-12 Lead Teacher for Music
Curtis Tripoli	K-12 Lead Teacher for Art
Margaret Glancy	Elementary Special Education Teacher
Cristina Capasso	Secondary Special Education Teacher
Matt Adler	High School Teacher (UTS President)
Kerry Hansen	Harbor Teacher
Maureen Erickson	Manor Parent
Amanda Sagnelli	Manor Parent
Linda Rogdakis	Harbor Parent
Teresa Tannazzo	Harbor Parent
Michael Spinella	Middle School Parent
Sarina Sarter	Middle School Parent
Sergio Weber	High School Parent
Hank Saulpaugh	High School Parent
David Saleta	Manor School Parent

Where can I find the most up-to-date information regarding the reopening plans?

A section of the District website is dedicated to providing information on the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year can be found here: <https://www.seaford.k12.ny.us/>



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GENERAL HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

What are the requirements for face coverings?

All students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings. Please know that masks with respirators and neck gators are not permitted to be worn in our schools. The District has and will maintain an inventory of disposable face masks for students, staff, and visitors that arrive without one.

Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school, so scheduling mask breaks is important. Throughout the day, “masks breaks” will be part of the daily routine. In addition, face coverings will not be placed on:

- Students where such covering would significantly impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a significant challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Students and staff may use alternate PPE (i.e., face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g., speech therapy). These alternate coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g., hearing impaired) who benefit from being able to see more of the face of the staff member.

To maximize the safety of students and staff, we will initially reopen with this conservative mask protocol. The mask policy will be reevaluated based on any mask-related updates to CDC or NYSDOH guidance.

If a child is sitting behind a desktop barrier, can they remove their mask?

We have created a system of redundant physical protections for students. We are aiming to have all three of the recommended safety precautions (social distance, masks, and physical barriers) in place at any given time whenever possible. Students will be given brief mask breaks when socially distanced with the desktop barrier in place. The NYS DOH [defines](#) a 10-minute exposure to an infected individual as a “close contact”, so mask breaks will be of lesser duration than 10 minutes.

Do students and staff have to maintain a 6-foot distance from others at all times?

Social or physical distancing means keeping at least six feet between yourself and other people while outside your home, and avoidance of gathering in groups, crowded places and mass gatherings. The goal of social distancing is to limit physical contact to decrease viral spread among people in community settings, such as schools.

Students, staff, and visitors will be required to maintain a social distance of 6 feet to the fullest extent possible.

All classrooms have been measured to determine the capacity of each room based on social distancing guidelines. The number of students in each room varies based on total square footage, layout of the room (i.e. doorways, built-in cabinetry, etc.), and furnishings.

- All instructional spaces have been redesigned so that students can maintain a social distance of six-feet from one another wherever possible.
- Furniture placement in the classrooms has been adjusted accordingly.
- Changes to foot-traffic flow through buildings have been identified to limit the amount of close contact between students in high-traffic situations.
- Desk partitions (barriers) will be used as an additional social-distancing precaution.
- Multiple entry/exit points will be utilized rather than funneling all students through the same space.
- Bathroom usage may be monitored by staff to ensure social distancing.
- Signage, floor markings and visual aids (e.g., tape, stickers, posters, cones etc.) will be used to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing indoors and outdoors.
- Size of groups/cohorts of students will be determined by the number of students who can be in each classroom while maintaining 6 feet of social distance where possible.

In classroom settings where social distancing is not possible, such as employees working with students with disabilities, additional personal protective equipment will be provided.

Can time spent outdoors be increased so that students have the opportunity to move around and get fresh air?

The District will maximize opportunities for students to go outside during the school day. To a greater extent, K-12 Physical Education classes will be conducted outdoors, weather permitting.

What is being done to encourage hand washing?

Students and staff will be trained on proper hand-washing techniques. Signage throughout the buildings will remind students and staff to wash their hands regularly.

Elementary: Students will wash hands as needed, as well as before lunch, upon return from recess, and any time students move to a new classroom and return to their original room. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.

Secondary: Regular hand-washing will be expected, especially before lunch. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.

Are health checks being conducted before admission to a school building?

Before entering any school building, all students, staff, and visitors must complete a Daily Health Screening Questionnaire via the website, health screening tickets, or upon arrival, by scanning the QR Codes available at each entrance and completing the questionnaire to confirm that:

- they are not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19,
- they have not had a positive COVID-19 test within the past 14 days and they have taken their temperature and it was less than 100.0° F. (alternatively, they will be temperature checked at arrival using an infrared (IR) non-touch temperature screening device
- they have not had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of a suspected COVID-19 case within the past 14 days,
- they are not awaiting results from a COVID test for themselves or an immediate family member, and,
- that they have not traveled internationally or from state to state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the [New York State Travel Advisory](#) within the last 14 days.

For all students in grades K-8, parents must take their child's temperature prior to sending the child to school or the bus stop and complete the Seaford School District Health Screening Ticket (students must present the tickets upon entry to school, and students in grades 9-12 will use the COVID-19 Screening App. All high school students will have their temperatures checked upon entering the school.

- No student with a temperature of 100.0° F or greater should come to school or ride the bus.
- If a student must be temperature checked in school and present with a temperature of 100.0° F or greater, they will be escorted and/or directed to the nurse's office and isolated in a separate space. A parent or guardian will be called to immediately pick the child up from school.
- Students may return to school consistent with the protocol in the [NYS DOH Regulations](#).

What if my child has a health condition that causes a symptom, such as a headache, that is also a symptom of COVID? Will my student have to stay home?

Our school nurses will assess individuals that are sent to the health office. Based on guidance from NYSDOH and the CDC, the nurse will isolate and dismiss any student or staff member who has a fever **OR** any other symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by a chronic health condition or non-COVID related illness.

COVIS-19 Symptoms:

- Fever 100.0 or greater
- New onset of loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New or worsening cough
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Congestion/runny nose
- Chills
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Anyone sent home with COVID-19 symptoms **MUST be seen by a healthcare provider (M.D., D.O., N.P.) and have resolution of the symptoms for 24 hours prior to returning. The student/staff member must also have a negative COVID-19 test and a clearance note from their doctor OR a note from their healthcare provider stating that the student's/staff member's health condition is NOT COVID-related, and that they are cleared to return to school. The note must be presented to the school nurse prior to the student/staff member riding the school bus and/or entering a school building.**

What if a student in grades K-8 does not have the Seaford School District Health Screening Ticket?

The student will be screened by building personnel, which includes a temperature check.

What will be the protocol if a faculty/staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19?

If a student or staff member reports having tested positive for COVID-19, school personnel will notify the local health department to determine what steps are needed for the school community.

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home.

What will be the protocol for a faculty/staff member or student to be cleared to return to school following illness or diagnosis of confirmed cases of COVID-19?

- It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms.
- It has been at least twenty-four hours since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine).
- It has been at least twenty-four hours since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

What if someone doesn't report their positive test result to the School District?

All health care providers and testing laboratories are required to report any positive test result to the County department of health (DOH). The DOH will then commence a contact tracing process that will result in the school district being notified. The school district will then support the DOH's contact tracing protocol by providing class lists and/or student schedules, for example.

By law, the DOH must keep medical information confidential, so contact tracing could potentially occur without the District being informed of who the individual was who tested positive. Even if the District is aware of the individual's identity, it also must keep confidential any health-related information it obtains whether from an individual who self-reports, or through the course of supporting a DOH-led contact-tracing effort. No such information will be disclosed to any member of the general public. However, if it is determined through the contact tracing process that you or your child were potentially exposed to an individual with COVID, you will be notified and given direction on next steps to take.

What happens if a student or faculty/ staff member starts showing symptoms during the school day?

School buildings have a room to isolate students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 identified during the school day.

- Students or staff will be moved safely, discreetly, and in accordance with applicable privacy laws or regulations, to the isolation room for evaluation.
- The individual will be provided a mask if they are able to use one, and students will be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least 6' of distance where possible and uses appropriate PPE.
- Parents/guardians of the sick student will be contacted and asked to come pick the child up from school immediately.
- Nassau and Suffolk Counties' Department of Health (DOH) Guidelines will be followed if a student or staff member tests positive. Specific DOH guidance can be found here: https://www.mtsinai.k12.ny.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_197925/File/Our%20District/District%20I

How will health and safety protocols be enforced? Will there be consequences for those who do not follow the guidelines?

There will be ongoing communication with students, parents, and staff to ensure all are aware of the protocols. Enforcement will be handled by the school administration on an individual basis consistent with the Code of Conduct.

Are COVID tests required throughout the school year?

School districts are not required to test asymptomatic individuals. Such a process is infeasible at this time (currently 70,000-80,000 tests are conducted daily statewide; it would take over a month to test every student in NY once, even if every test in the state was dedicated to the effort). Information regarding COVID testing is available on the district website <https://www.seaford.k12.ny.us/>.

CLEANING DISINFECTING & AIR QUALITY

How often will classrooms, hallways, bathrooms be cleaned?

In addition to their daily cleaning requirements, the custodial team will increase the frequency of disinfecting surfaces, such as high-touch surfaces in common areas and in all classrooms and athletic areas.

Elementary school level:

- Several times during the school day, custodial workers will clean and disinfect high touch points and surfaces (door knobs, light switches, push bars, stairwell handrails, ledges), hallway and nurses office bathrooms.
- As needed, periodic cleaning of classroom chairs, desks and polycarbonate barriers during the school day using a multi-surface cleaner or alcohol wipes.
- Nightly, the custodial staff will spot mop, dust mop, clean and disinfect each classroom, classroom bathroom, nurse office, offices, gymnasium, multi-purpose room and high touch points with one of the District's disinfectant products ([Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution](https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf), <https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf>) using the appropriate applicator and also Hillyard QT Plus, as well as the CDC recommended bleach and water solution.
- The custodial staff will clean, disinfect and apply these products on classroom, bathroom and other surfaces as per the manufacturer's recommendations for safe and clean surfaces in each school.
- The District has also purchased electrostatic sprayers to streamline the disinfecting of surfaces.
- After school disinfecting will consist of; mopping of all floors with approved EPA registered disinfectants [Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution](https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf), <https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf> and/or a diluted bleach solution. Bathrooms will be disinfected with the use of sprayers on all surfaces; rugs and/or mats will be cleaned with vacuums using HEPA filtration. Desktops will be disinfected with the use of the method of sprayers utilizing EPA registered disinfectants.

- The use of job/task sign sheets will be posted in each slop sink to monitor the frequency of cleaning/disinfecting.

Middle and High School:

- Several times during the school day, custodial workers will clean and disinfect high touch points and surfaces (door knobs, light switches, push bars, stairwell handrails, ledges), hallway and nurses office bathrooms.
- As needed, periodic cleaning of classroom chairs, desks and polycarbonate barriers during the school day using a multi-surface cleaner or alcohol wipes.
- Nightly, the custodial staff will spot mop, dust mop, clean and disinfect each classroom, classroom bathroom, nurse office, offices, gymnasium, multi-purpose room and high touch points with one of the District’s disinfectant products ([Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution](https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf), <https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf>) using the appropriate applicator and also Hillyard QT Plus, as well as the CDC recommended bleach and water solution.
- The custodial staff will clean, disinfect and apply these products on classroom, bathroom and other surfaces as per the manufacturer’s recommendations for safe and clean surfaces in each school.
- The District has also purchased electrostatic sprayers to streamline the disinfecting of surfaces.
- Afterschool disinfecting will consist of; mopping of all floors with approved EPA registered disinfectants [Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution](https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf), <https://www.hillyard.com/images/ProductData/HIL00824.pdf> and or a diluted bleach solution. Bathrooms will be disinfecting with the use of sprayers on all surfaces; rugs and or mats will be cleaned with vacuums using HEPA filtration. Desktops will be disinfecting with the use of the method of sprayers utilizing EPA registered disinfectants.
- The use of job/task sign sheets will be posted in each slop sink to monitor the frequency of cleaning/disinfecting.

Will all classrooms be air conditioned, as it will be difficult to wear masks if it is hot in the classroom?

The District has purchased and installed an additional 26 classroom air conditioning unit this summer. Nearly all classrooms will have window air conditioning by the start of the school year. Windows will remain open whenever possible, and hallway doors will remain open to enhance air circulation where possible.

Is there appropriate ventilation in each classroom and office in the schools?

The District reviewed every building’s air filtration and ventilation systems. An important aspect of that work is reviewing the air filters that are installed in our building HVAC systems with the goal of upgrading filters wherever possible. The chart below indicates some preliminary work of the engineers. In the first column list the type of air filtration system, the second column indicates the filters used in 2019-2020, and the column on the right indicates the upgraded filters that are presently installed.

For example, the first entry shows that roof top unit (RTUs) air filters have been upgraded to MERV 11 filters. MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. MERV ratings are on a scale from 1 to 16 depending on the size of the particles a filter can be expected to capture. The higher the MERV rating, the more effective it is at trapping smaller particles. **Filters in unit ventilators and other mechanical ventilation systems will be upgraded to the highest MERV filters allowable based on recommendations of architects/engineers and manufacturer’s recommendations for the individual units.**

Air Filtration	Past	Present
Roof Top Units (RTU)	MERV 7	MERV 11
Classroom Univentilators	MERV 4	MERV 8
Central Heating & Ventilation Units	MERV 4	MERV 11

MOVEMENT & TRAFFIC FLOW IN BUILDINGS

Will visitors be allowed in the buildings?

Outside visitors will be severely curtailed. Currently building visitors are limited to those participating in essential and/or necessary functions only, such as picking up a child.

- All parent meetings will be held via videoconference.
- All visitors will need to complete the QR Code screening and have their temperatures taken upon entering.
- All visitors will be required to wear face coverings/masks and maintain social distancing at all times.

How will student arrival and dismissal be handled while still maintaining proper social distancing guidelines? Will drop-off and dismissal times be staggered?

Additional entry/exit points will be utilized throughout school buildings. Adjustments have been made to the flow of foot traffic. Signage, floor markings and visual aids (e.g., tape, stickers, posters, cones etc.) will be used to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing. It is possible that arrival and dismissal times will be staggered. Specific information for each school building has been sent to all households by each school’s administrative team—continued updates and information will be provided via ShoutPoint, email, and website updates.

How will social distancing be maintained when secondary students are accessing their lockers?

At this time, we are not planning on permitting students to utilize lockers, as proper social distancing would not be possible.

Will facilities be available for outside use after school?

At this time, we are not planning on permitting outside organizations to use District facilities during the evenings or on weekends, unfortunately.

TEACHING & LEARNING

What will in-person instruction look like at the elementary level?

All students attend in-person Monday through Friday with normal school day hours.

- Instruction is delivered in-person, in appropriate class sizes.
- The number of students in a classroom will reflect the need to ensure that students' desks/seats are positioned no less than six feet apart where possible.
- Many spaces within each building have been repurposed as instructional space for our cohort of Remote Educators for students K-5 whose families have opted for the remote learning option.
- All students will remain with their cohort (homeroom class) throughout the day. Special area teachers (Art, Music, and Library) will follow a push-in model. This means the students stay in their classroom and the special area teacher will come to them. Physical Education classes will take place outdoors more frequently when weather allows and will be modified for in-class classroom instruction when that is not possible. Lunch will take place in classrooms.
- The student schedule will allow for breaks and recess opportunities.
- At this time, assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities will not be scheduled.

What will the in-person instruction look like at the middle school?

All students attend in-person Monday through Friday with normal school day hours, on the typical 9-period schedule.

- Instruction is delivered in-person, in class sizes appropriate for each individual space.
- Students remain in one cohort throughout the day, except for AIS services and World Language instruction. Students will be assigned exploratory classes.
- Each space in the building has been evaluated for appropriate social distancing.
- Several spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space.
- Students remain in their homeroom space, and teachers rotate into the classroom to the extent practicable.
- Lunch will be eaten in classrooms. Whenever possible, students will utilize outside space for physical education instruction and recess.
- At this time, assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities will not be scheduled.

What will the in-person instruction look like at the high school?

The in-person instruction at the high school is an A.M./P.M. Hybrid Model, where students engage in a combination of in-person learning and remote instruction each day, thus limiting the number of students in a school building at any one time. Overwhelmingly, the Task Force members recommended this instructional model based upon parental feedback requesting that students receive in-person instruction.

When students are attending remotely in either the A.M. or P.M., their classes will be live-streamed, and they will be participating from home. They will be participating in their regularly scheduled classes and be involved in all class activities as determined by the teacher.

- Teachers will take attendance every period via the Microsoft Teams platform and students must keep their cameras engaged.
- All classroom guidelines and practices, including grading, will remain in place regardless of attending school in-person or virtually.
- Students will attend each session with their alphabetic cohorts (e.g. A-K or L-Z), so that any siblings in the same building can travel and be scheduled for in-person or remote instruction at the same time.

Plan for Seaford High School

Hybrid Learning Model

- Students are divided into two groups
- Attend school alternating between AM and PM

Period	A1	A2	B1	B2
Periods 1 – 4	Group 1 – In School Group 2 – Remote	Group 1 – Remote Group 2 – In School	Group 1 – In School Group 2 – Remote	Group 1 – Remote Group 2 – In School
Periods 5 - 9	Group 1 – Remote Group 2 – In School	Group 1 – In School Group 2 – Remote	Group 1 – Remote Group 2 – In School	Group 1 – In School Group 2 – Remote

- Social distancing will occur to the extent practicable
- Students will utilize mobile desk barriers and wear face masks
- Students not attending school will receive instruction through live-streaming with their assigned teacher and follow the [Etiquette Policy](#)
- All teachers will utilize the Microsoft Teams platform for live-streaming

The high school bell schedule has been modified for the 2020-2021 school year as indicated below:

SEAFORD HIGH SCHOOL
2020-21 BELL SCHEDULE

Period	Start Time	End Time
1	7:25	8:01
2	8:04	8:40
3	8:43	9:19
4	9:22	9:58
5	10:58	11:34
6	11:37	12:13
7	12:16	12:52
8	12:55	1:31
9	1:34	2:20

What will instruction look like for those opting in to the fully remote/virtual model at the elementary level?

Elementary students opting to attend virtually will be attending our **Elementary Remote Learning Center** and instructed by certified elementary teachers referred to as *Remote Educators*. Parents/guardians will

have a two-week window within which to elect to return to in-school instruction—and vice-versa. Parents who elect to be removed from in-person instruction and attend the Remote Learning Center also have the same two-week window to make that decision. All decisions must be finalized by Tuesday, September 22, 2020. After this date, all students must remain in the setting of choice for the remainder of the trimester report period. All changes and requests must be directed to the building principal of each school, as well as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Personnel, Mr. John Strifolino at jstrifolino@seaford.k12.ny.us. Students who attend the Remote Learning Center will be part of a combined District-wide class, with peers on their same grade level from both the Harbor and Manor Elementary Schools.

Students will experience a combination of virtual whole group, small group instruction, and independent work as assigned by the teacher. In addition, a full complement of special area classes, special education, and ENL services will be provided.

What will instruction look like for those opting in to the fully remote/virtual model at the middle school level?

Middle School students opting to attend school virtually will remain connected to their home school and assigned teachers following their regularly assigned 9-period school day. All instruction will be streamed to students' devices.

Students will be provided with parallel learning experiences to their in-school peers. Some adjustments to online special area courses may be necessary.

Students learning at home will be supported with the same mental health, counseling, and other resources as students learning at school. All school district expectations for student attendance, grading, participation, and conduct apply.

What will instruction look like for those opting in to the fully remote/virtual model at the high school?

High school students opting to attend school virtually will be expected to attend every class, every day, for which they are regularly scheduled. All classes will be live streamed to students' devices at home. They will be attending the same class virtually with their peers, as if they were attending in-person instruction and following the 2020-2021 modified high school schedule above.

Students must log in to all their classes, be an active participant in the class, and complete all assignments in a timely manner, the same as if they were in-person. All of the classroom guidelines and practices, including grading, will remain in place regardless of attending school in-person or virtually.

Faculty and staff will be available to support all aspects of student learning and will be providing extra help virtually, as posted and distributed by each teacher. Teachers will provide daily live instruction, Monday through Friday. Students learning at home will be supported with the same mental health, counseling, and other resources as students learning at school.

If I opt into an all-virtual learning experience for my child, but conditions change, will I be able to change my decision?

Should circumstances change that necessitate a student's return to in-person instruction, a request may be made at specific points throughout the school year.

To request a return to in-person instruction for their child, a parent/guardian must submit a letter of request to the school building principal and also to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Personnel, Mr. John Strifolino at jstrifolino@seaford.k12.ny.us.

- Parent/Guardian requests for an elementary student (grades K-5) to re-enter for in-person instruction will be honored at the beginning of either the second or third trimester. Elementary letters of request will need to be submitted no later than December 1, 2020 or March 11, 2021.
- Parent/Guardian requests for a secondary student (grades 6-12) to re-enter in-person instruction will be honored at the beginning of the second, third, or the fourth marking quarters. Middle School letters of request will need to be submitted no later than November 13, 2020, January 29, 2021 or April 16, 2021. High School letters of request will need to be submitted no later than November 6, 2020, January 29, 2021 or April 9, 2021.

If I opt for virtual instruction for my child but conditions change, why do I have to wait until specified times to request a switch to in-person instruction?

Parents/guardians of students enrolled in the remote/virtual model will be able to request a switch to in-person instruction at the beginning of each quarter (at the secondary level) and at the beginning of each trimester (at the elementary level).

If my child returns to school in-person but conditions change and/or they are uncomfortable in the new environment, can we immediately switch to virtual instruction?

There is a one-time only grace period during the first two weeks of school. The deadline for adding or dropping remote learning placement is **Tuesday, September 22, 2020 by 3:00 p.m.**

Do I have to make the same decision on the fully virtual model vs in-person instruction for all my children? Or can I make an individual decision for each child?

The decision to opt-in to virtual instruction is made on an individual student level. Siblings are not required to make the same decision.

Will my elementary level student have a different teacher if they start the school year in person, but request to change to the fully virtual model?

If a parent chooses virtual instruction, the student will be assigned the Remote Learning Educator assigned to your child's grade level and who is teaching the virtual classes in the Remote Learning Center. The class would also include students from both elementary schools.

In the high school instructional model, will both my high school children be able to attend in person on the same A.M./P.M. schedule?

Yes, siblings will be placed on the same schedule.

If a child switches between in-person and virtual instruction, will they have a different teacher?

At the high school and middle school levels, the student who moves from in-person to all virtual instruction will remain with his or her teacher and their schedule would remain the same.

At the elementary level, a student who moves from in-person to all virtual instruction will be assigned a different teacher in the Remote Learning Center who is fully certified and referred to as the Remote Educator. Students will be assigned to classes with students from their home school, as well as from our other elementary school.

If a student is enrolled in in-person instruction but is absent due to a quarantine, can that student engage in virtual instruction?

Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

What will be done to address the needs of students with IEP's and special services?

The provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to eligible students identified by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) remains within the school reopening plan. Special education programs, related services, and supplemental aids/services are provided to students as listed in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) to the greatest extent possible to consistently protect the health/safety of students with disabilities and those providing the services. All accommodations, modifications, supplemental aids/services and assistive technology interventions are provided to students to the greatest extent possible. This would include the provision of mainstreaming opportunities within the general education program as identified in a student's IEP.

- Parent procedural safeguards remain in place.
- Student referrals to CSE continue to be accepted.
- CPSE/CSE, 504, and teacher meetings will be held remotely.

Will a student with an accommodation to take exams still be able to do so?

Yes, testing accommodations will be provided to students keeping with all health/safety protocols.

What will the class size be for both virtual and in-person instruction?

Many spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space with a focus on small group instruction when possible. For in-person instruction, the number of students in each room is dependent on six-foot social distancing requirements where possible and varies based on total square footage, layout of the room (i.e. doorways, built-in cabinetry, etc.), and furnishings. Virtual classes will vary in size due to the number of students on grade level at elementary or course at secondary that request the virtual learning option.

How will English language learners and their families be supported in in-person and virtual environments?

The ENL instructional and language needs remain the same in either environment. ENL students in person will be provided instruction remotely from the ENL teacher within the building. The students number of units of instruction, as designated by their proficiency levels, will be provided. Modifications and adaptations may need to be considered and implemented as a result of COVID safety guidelines.

Communication and translation to families will continue to access the transcription and translation services as used in the past.

What improvements have been made to the virtual model that was implemented in the spring?

Building upon what we learned and the platforms we utilized in the spring, the virtual learning platforms that will be used are: Seesaw and Zoom (grades K-2), TEAMS and Zoom (grades 3-12). TEAMS has been significantly advanced and will provide an improved experience for students, staff and families.

- Feedback from parents and faculty on the virtual learning program implemented this spring has been incorporated into the plans for the fall.
- Investments have been made in online lessons and resources so teachers can focus more of their attention on instruction and students.
- The TEAMS platform streamlines assignments, schedules, and communication to families for all students and teachers.

How will students be assessed in the fully virtual model?

Students will be assessed using the digital tools our teachers have been trained on and began to utilize in the spring.

Will there be a consistent organizational structure for accessing assignments and class information?

The Seesaw, Zoom, and TEAMS platforms will streamline assignments, schedules, and communication for all students and teachers.

Can you provide a visual example of what a classroom will look like?

Desks will be placed to allow for social distancing of at least six feet between students with plastic shields on top to interrupt air circulation.



Will there be any additional SEL supports in place for students?

The District recognizes that many students have experienced loss, financial instability, or the disruption of social isolation. We know, after this prolonged closure, many of our students will require social-emotional support to help them re-engage and re-enter school. Nurturing the social-emotional and mental well-being of students will be essential to resuming a life in school.

We are committed to maintaining an emotionally and physically safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment to promote all students' social and emotional well-being and development. The District will

provide the following resources to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional support for both students and staff:

- General social-emotional learning/mental health resources are provided on the District website to all families, students, and staff.
- Referrals are facilitated through our PPS personnel in each building, as well as our school counselors for mental health, behavioral health, and emotional support services. Resources provided to families through MTSS will be curated based on family/student needs.
- Counselors, Social Workers, BCBA's, and Psychologists are available to support in-district and to assist in making referrals.
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) supports, including the *Lion's Quest* curriculum K-12 will be provided to all students to not only offer SEL skill-building, but also provide an opportunity for staff to have proactive check-ins with students to identify student SEL and mental health needs.
- Referrals are made to community agencies, clinics, hospitals, private psychiatrists and therapists, community groups. Referrals are culturally appropriate and are made depending on the families financial/insurance needs.
- McKinney-Vento supports are in place remotely and in school, supporting families while maintaining confidentiality.

What is the District doing to ensure consistency among grade levels and buildings? Are teachers being offered professional development to ensure the same level of proficiency with the online learning tools?

Professional development is available to teachers and remote educators, including a comprehensive teacher support platform of digital resources and professional development activities related to online classes. Professional development has taken place over the summer and will be continued through New Teacher Orientations, Superintendent's Conference Days, and into the school year itself. Building principals meet frequently to collaborate, strategize and plan at a District level.

Will standardized testing still be taking place this year?

The administration of New York State standardized testing for Grades 3-8 and Regents examination will be determined later in the year per federal and state guidelines. As the year unfolds, we should receive further guidance on whether these assessments will be taking place. Nevertheless, our instructional expectations and the expectations of the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards will continue to be the District's guide for all in-person, as well as virtual instruction.

We will continue to administer our in-district computer adaptive, interim assessments in reading and math to support the instruction of our teachers and students. These tests help our teachers to address students' individual needs and to differentiate instruction; they are not included as a part of any report card grade and are not a part of a student's record in any way. This will be the first year that we will be moving away from using the STAR assessment as our interim assessment and moving to administering the *Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)* through the *Northwestern Evaluation Association (NWEA)*. The MAP assessments are typically administered to students in the early fall, winter, and spring.

Standardized testing for the identification of students in need of special education services will remain available.

Will clubs be offered this year? Can they be offered virtually?

Extracurricular activities are an important part of the rich breadth of educational opportunities offered in Seaford. In September, a limited number of clubs will be available. These clubs will meet virtually whenever possible. As we are able, additional activities will be considered as the school year moves forward.

Will SCOPE still be available?

At this time, the District is finalizing a plan with SCOPE for before- and after-school childcare for elementary level students.

Will field trips be available this year?

At this time, all field trips and large group events have been cancelled until further notice.

How will music curriculum classes (band and chorus) be taught under social distancing practices?

Administrators and the District's Lead Teacher will be meeting to assess the ability to accommodate these activities, classes, and lessons. At present, due to the increased expulsion of aerosols, guidance indicates that student singing, and student use of certain instruments requires a 12-foot distance from student to student—making the holding full classes, rehearsals, and lessons challenging. We hope to be able to accommodate our students and programs as soon as possible.

FOOD SERVICES

Will lunch be available for purchase?

The District will continue to provide all students access to school meals each day whether the students are in-school or learning remotely. An on-line system is being put in place this year which will require the ordering of student lunches a week and a half in advance (no exchange of money will be permitted). Information explaining the process in detail will be sent home to all households and posted on the District website shortly. In all cases, the District will encourage hand-washing before and after eating. All meals will be compliant with NYSED Child Nutrition meal pattern requirements. Students can of course bring their own lunches to school.

Where will students eat lunch?

All students, K-8 will eat lunch in their classrooms. At the high school students leaving the building between periods 4 and 5 to return home for remote instruction will be able to take a grab-and-go lunch, if ordered in advance, to be eaten at home. High school students arriving for their in-person P.M. classes may pick up their pre-ordered lunch and eat it in their classrooms.

What precautions are in place during lunch time?

Protocols for Elementary and Middle School lunch service:

- Students will eat in their classrooms.
- The District is purchasing desk guards to provide an additional protective measure when students remove their masks to eat.

- The pre-order menu system will be available. Pre-ordered meals must be ordered a week and a half in advance and will be delivered to school classrooms.

Protocols for High School lunch service:

- Students will be served a limited-menu in a grab-and-go style.
- Students will pre-select their choices in advance.
- Elementary and middle school lunches will be delivered to classrooms on a cart.

What precautions are food servers taking?

The District's food service provider, Aramark, is implementing COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols and safety training, including the following:

- PPE Protocols;
- Employee Health Monitoring;
- Increased sanitation measures:
 - More frequent cleaning of all surfaces;
 - CDC hospital grade disinfectants;
- Health & Respiratory Hygiene Training;
- Social Distancing.

With all students eating in the classroom, what precautions will be taken for students with food allergies?

School nurses will identify students with food allergies to staff working with these students. Particular attention will be paid to ensure that students are maintaining separation from identified food allergens during lunch in the classroom. Social distancing and the use of desk partitions will mitigate the spread of allergens. Moreover, the established room cleaning protocol will ensure that any surface area which may potentially retain food allergens will be thoroughly disinfected. The exception would be students with severe allergies who will need to eat their lunch in a separately designated location. They will be allowed to bring a buddy with them. Kindly note that, if a student has an EpiPen it will also be kept in the classroom. Teachers are already trained in EpiPen usage. Parents who have students with severe allergies should be sure to consult with their physicians.

Will meals still be available to students who are remote learning?

Yes. At this time, we are planning for meals to be available for pick-up at the High School and available to the P.M. remote high school cohort as they leave the building to return home.

TRANSPORTATION

How often will buses be cleaned?

- Students will be required to wear masks on the bus (a supply of masks will be given to all drivers should students arrive at the bus without a mask).
- Our Bus Vendors, Educational Bus Transportation (**EBT**) for Regular Home to School Transportation and other vendors for private and parochial school transport, will provide the assurances that all buses will be disinfected daily after the AM bus runs and then again after the PM Bus runs. The

chemicals used to disinfect are green products. Additionally, windows may be left open in nice weather and where the temperature is 45 degrees or higher.

Will students be required to maintain social distance on buses?

Students will be maintaining social distancing at bus stops and when boarding and leaving the bus. However, 6-foot distancing may not always be possible on school buses. Siblings should sit together as they travel on buses.

Will students be required to wear masks on buses?

- Students will be required to wear masks on the bus (a supply of masks will be given to all drivers should students arrive at the bus without a mask).
- School bus drivers, monitors and attendants are required to wear face masks and any drivers, monitors and attendants that have direct physical contact with a child will wear gloves.
- Mask wearing will be monitored using cameras installed on each bus. Where students are concerned, bus privileges may be lost if the same individual refuses to abide by this rule (“repeat offenders”), especially where social distancing is not possible.

What if my child is unable to medically tolerate wearing a face covering on a bus?

Face coverings will not be required for students where such covering would impair their health or mental health.

Will bus drivers be screened for COVID-19?

Upon arrival to work each morning and afternoon, all transportation employees are screened for symptoms of COVID-19. This screening includes verbal verification that the employee is not suffering from the CDC identified symptoms, and a scan of their body temperature using a touch free temperature scanner.

RECESS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

How will physical education classes take place if gyms will be used for other purposes?

Gyms and multi-purpose rooms will be used for overflow rooms or for illness relocation purposes. An increased number of K-12 Physical Education classes will hold classes outdoors weather permitting. Social distancing will be maintained for all Physical Education classes and handwashing will be encouraged after each session. Students will not be using locker rooms to change.

Will there be any middle school and high school sports?

Please be advised that based on an abundance of caution, Section VIII has decided to delay the start of all fall sports and is planning to implement a model where the three sports seasons would begin in January. It is anticipated that fall sports would take place in January and February, winter sports in March and April, and spring sports in May and June. Should this situation change, students and parents will be notified.