

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

## *Instructional Questions*

1. How are band, gym, sports, and extra curriculums going to work?
  - a. Sports are being postponed until 9/21. There is a real chance that we will not have fall sports. Sports and extracurricular activities will follow the same guidelines. As we know more, we will update and communicate through various methods.
  - b. Once schedules are done for courses like gym, chorus, band, and other large group classes, we are looking to move them to bigger rooms like the auditorium. We will continue to provide lessons remotely as well to fully remote kids.
  - c. Gym classes will be moved outside when able to allow students to spread out when they can. They won't be doing team based sports but focus on more individual things like yoga and personal skill development.
  - d. Kids at home will have physical education as well, independent projects and alternative options.
2. For hybrid students, how will tech be provided?
  - a. We have hotspots available for those who need them. Devices and mifis will be passed out before school starts on August 26th, 27th, and September 1st. We will offer tech support as needed. Information will be on the website.
3. What if my kids are in cohort A but the babysitter's kids are in cohort B?
  - a. We are trying to do our best to put them together. Please call Mr. Carter if you have questions or concerns. We can't guarantee we will be able to meet all requests, but we will try.
4. Will speech be in person or remote?
  - a. They could be both. It all depends on the situation and what services are required but it will likely be a mix.
5. Will kids need to bring home all of their materials and equipment home when remote?
  - a. Most likely as they will need their materials to learn for each subject, but so much is moving to digital and there will likely be less to move back and forth between home and school. If accommodations are needed, please reach out to your child's teacher to work out a solution that fits for you.
6. How can we slowly increase in person instruction in the fall? What would make this happen?
  - a. We have to make sure we can manage all instruction along with transportation and other logistics. We have to monitor and ensure what is possible and what isn't. If we have the ability to add more days of in-person instruction and stay

within the guidelines, we will. The hope is by the end of September, students could be in school 4 days a week. But, we have to follow the guidelines. We will reach out to the community if changes can be made.

7. How will science labs for kids look like at home?
  - a. Virtual labs are an option if we need to and we will likely send things home and have them synchronously do the lab with those in-person. Some labs may be different for those who are remote vs. those who attend in person due to safety and materials used, but all will provide learning in the required standard areas for each required subject.
8. School Supplies for kids at home.
  - a. The number one thing is for students to have access to the internet and a device to access the internet. All supply lists are posted to the website for in-person instruction and many could apply to fully remote instruction as well depending on your specific situation.
  - b. Elementary lists are posted on the website now. The only major change might be with art supplies.
  - c. HS lists are also posted on the website now but remember that lots of what we do is moving to a more digital format.
9. What is social interaction going to look like?
  - a. We know how important this is. We still need to social distance and wear masks, but we recognize this is important. Kids will still be able to talk and converse but it will be in an appropriate manner with the guidelines in place.
10. Are there extra middle school classrooms? Why aren't we using them?
  - a. We are using a lot of the rooms. When there are extra rooms, we need more people to supervise them. We don't have those people. We also will need to keep various rooms available in case a class needs to move due to an ill child or the like.
11. Can we have better communication between teacher and parent in the fall and how will this look?
  - a. Check out Google Classroom as that will be where all instructional content and communication will be housed. We will also work on increasing communication to families as much as we can. Generally we need to make sure parent emails and phone numbers are correct so make sure to reach out to your student's teachers and ensure they have the best way to reach you.
  - b. We will increase the amount of information and how to access each teacher's Google Classrooms on the district web page.
12. What will school hours be?
  - a. They are staying the same. However, there will be no 10th period so all students will go home at 2:30 which is the regular end to the school day.
13. High School class schedule and student movement?
  - a. Students will be moving classes, teachers don't. We will have floors taped so everyone knows how to move throughout the building in a safe and socially distanced manner.

14. What happens if our transportation needs change?
  - a. If you need to add transportation at a later date, it will depend on the numbers as we have limits on what we can fit on a bus. This can become restrictive because of the guidelines. We are trying to be flexible around this but know that we might not be able to make it happen immediately because of logistics.
15. Can students change from remote to hybrid or vice versa?
  - a. Remote to in-person will depend on if we can still meet guidelines and we can logistically make it work with all of the restrictions in place. If we can we will but it may take time.
  - b. Moving from in-person to remote can happen right away.
16. If a student starts school fully remote, does he/she have to commit to a certain date?
  - a. As of right now we are trying to be as flexible as we can and not have anyone commit to certain dates for one type of learning over another. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to immediately change students from one model to another as logistics like transportation or class size limitations may prevent a change from happening immediately. We will certainly try to accommodate the best we can.
17. Is there a plan to come back to full in person?
  - a. We are always going to be monitoring and looking into this option. We need to stay within the guidelines and make sure we can increase daily in-person instruction safely for this to happen. If we can make it work and be safe with adding more days we certainly will.
18. Why are some districts going 5 days a week and we aren't?
  - a. We have to follow the guidelines and the available resources and constraints we have in the District have dictated what we can do at this time. Other districts have different set ups and structures and may be able to do things differently than we do.
19. Will bus drivers have masks to give to kids?
  - a. We will provide them to the transportation company and will not deny a student transportation if they do not have a mask before getting on a bus.
20. Are kids changing for physical education?
  - a. Not at the start of school. However this may change as the school year progresses.
21. What about lockers - why do 5th and 6th grade have lockers but need to carry everything with them - it is too much, why not keep them in a backpack; in High School they can go back and forth to lockers at any time.
  - a. There is not an answer about the 5th and 6th grade at this time, but it will be discussed with the teachers and we will provide an answer when we can. Traffic related to locker use at the HS level is different than what is expected at the 5th/6th levels. This will be monitored once school begins and if we are able to adjust processes safely, we will do so.

22. For remote learning, how long of a school day will that be?
  - a. It will vary by grade level and subject area. This is why it will be very important to continually monitor Google Classroom for your students so you know what needs to be done each day and week.
23. If transportation is the biggest issue, how can we add days?
  - a. Guidelines might change, numbers of students who are full remote may change, or other factors may change that allow us to add in-person days.
24. What happens if we have to shut down?
  - a. We have a remote learning plan in place and we will immediately shift to follow that method of instruction for whatever time is required.
25. Will they need to be carrying devices back and forth?
  - a. They might have to do so, as much of the work will be digital in nature and students will need to access Google Classroom.
26. Can they meet the teacher before school starts?
  - a. Ideally yes, but we can't guarantee that. We will be having a 'Hello Parade' on 9/2 where you can drive up and say hi to your new teacher. More information will be coming out soon about that.
27. Will teachers be held accountable for posting and putting everything online?
  - a. If you have any issues with information online, please reach out to your teacher first before contacting Mr. Carter. We do not foresee this as an issue but if it arises will address each situation with teachers individually.
28. What are the grading guidelines?
  - a. They are specific to Barker. There is nothing required from the state. We will be continuing with numerical grades for the upper levels as was done before the shut down. Elementary is moving, as previously planned before the pandemic, to a trimester, standards based grading system.
29. Kids getting in on Zoom classes have seen inappropriate language and behavior. How will that be addressed?
  - a. We have reinforced safety nets in place with the programs we use so that should that not happen. If it's a Barker student, there would be a code of conduct consequence followed. Parents of affected students will receive communication if it happens.
30. What will Zooming in for remote students look like?
  - a. We've increased our bandwidth to handle the Zooming and other video conferencing. Students participating in videoconferencing might be on the Cleartouch board or on individual teacher Chromebooks, it depends on the lesson and the teacher.
31. What happens when a student at a babysitter can't get on the Zoom?
  - a. This is where asynchronous learning happens. If there are issues, the student and/or parent should contact the teacher and work out how work will be completed.

32. If the students are fully remote, will they be required to log in to Zoom?
  - a. Yes, per teacher schedules. The assumption is that you are able to get on during the school day. If there are tech issues or needs, please reach out to the school and we can provide you with tech to ensure work is completed.
33. For those who are hybrid are they logged in all day?
  - a. They don't need to be logged in all day. There could be times for full days they aren't in. Could be synchronous or asynchronous depending on the teacher and course. Students will not be online for the full 6 hours. Make sure to follow the Google Classroom schedule for each teacher and class.
34. Will there be swimming?
  - a. We have to see how things are going but it may be possible later in the year- just not at the start.
35. Will they be allowed to take out books from the library?
  - a. Yes, we will be following a revised process for this as we move forward.
36. What will office hours look like?
  - a. On Wednesdays of each week, times will be set by teachers for students to use video conferencing with teachers for students to ask questions, catch up, or get other assistance. It all depends on the need of the student. This could be done individually or even in a large group.
37. Will bus times change?
  - a. Likely but we are still working on that and final information will be sent home once new routes and times are finalized.
38. Will some busses have aides on them?
  - a. Some busses will and some will not. It is all dependent upon student needs on each particular bus.
39. How will the busses will be loaded?
  - a. We are going to do the best we can by loading from the back to the front of the bus. However, if there are young students alone, they will be placed up front. As a result, there will be some passing by students as the busses are loaded but we are doing our best to address this based on the guidelines and restrictions we must work with. This will be the same as when students are passing in the halls.
  - b. Buses will have assigned seating based on household and the household members will be sitting together. The transportation guidelines are very restrictive. All students will be required to wear facemasks the entire time they are on the bus as per guidelines. Every grade level will have an assigned entrance to the building which they will be required to walk in after exiting the bus.
  - c. Student drivers will be parking in the back gym area and they will come in an assigned entry way door and go to their classroom.
40. How are we deciding the cohorts?
  - a. Based on all the survey data, transportation information, course/scheduling needs, and family situations. We started with the largest households first and

then worked down from there to distribute students across bus runs and classes to ensure we had even numbers in cohorts and classes.

41. If we go to full time, will the remote option still be available?
  - a. We are hoping yes. The state will make the determination if needed but we will certainly make it work if we are allowed.
42. What about IEPs?
  - a. IEPs will be followed. For those with tests read they will still be able to get it read. Related services will be a mix of in-person and remote. Teachers will be reaching out to families with more information as the school year gets started.
43. Is attendance going to be taken?
  - a. Yes and there are several ways that we will be doing this as we are really measuring attendance and engagement/work completion. Days students are physically here would be traditional attendance taking. For days when remote, attendance could be taken via participation in the Zoom/Meet but could also be based on assignment completion and other measures. No matter what, students and families must be prepared to complete all work as that will be an important factor.
44. Are all school days going to count toward what is required by the State?
  - a. Yes. Every day will count towards the 180, no matter if they are remote or in person as instruction is being delivered.
45. Is transportation being provided for students who attend BOCES programs?
  - a. Students will need to get to school on days they aren't physically here as transportation is provided from school to BOCES. On days they are present in school per their cohort, they can get to school via their regular mode of transportation and then they will ride a bus to BOCES. Wednesdays we will provide door to door pick up from home to BOCES. This provides at least 3 days of door to door transportation to all students attending BOCES.
46. What if mifis don't work?
  - a. We understand that may be a problem for some families. Please notify the teacher and we will try to work with you and figure out an appropriate solution.
47. Could the parent/student receive a hard copy of the materials being covered if they have issues using a computer?
  - a. That is something the school will be able to help you with. The key is to reach out to the teacher so that we can help you.
48. Will there be help for parents/students that are not familiar with using a computer or programs?
  - a. At the beginning of the year there will be training by the teachers to walk the students through how Google Classroom works and the type of technology they need to be familiar with so they are as prepared as possible if the school is forced to shut down again and they need to return to remote learning. This training will be by grade level and/or class as applicable.
  - b. The District is trying to ensure the students/parents are as adepted as possible with regard to technology should this happen. There will be opportunities/training

provided at the beginning of the year for parents to help them navigate online learning tools/programs so they know how to log on and how to do certain things...etc.

- c. We are working on trying to limit the number of software programs compared to when we closed in March, depending on the subject, so there is consistency for the families and understanding of all programs used.
- d. We understand too that there will be families that will have technology needs and we will have another equipment pickup for them on August 26, August 27 and September 1. Information about the pickup will be forthcoming.
- e. If you have issues, please contact Dr. Kramer.

## ***Building Procedure Questions***

- 49. How is it going to work if the child is coming in late or getting picked up early?
  - a. Individuals picking up students before the day officially ends should ring the buzzer, someone will confirm who you are through the video phone. A staff member will bring the student to the door. Visitors of any kind will be significantly limited in the building, so students will be brought directly to you at the door.
- 50. Will kids be able to mingle and make friends?
  - a. There will still be a level of normalcy where kids can interact. We will still have partner work/group work as in the past, but now it just has to be from a distance. If anything comes up, please call us.
- 51. As far as lunches go, is the District still providing?
  - a. If you are not eligible for free or reduced price lunches, it will operate as normal and lunches can be purchased while at school. Meals will not be provided while at home for these students, as they were in the spring. For those who are free or reduced price eligible, it will work like normal when in the building and we will also provide meals for while remote.
  - b. We are working on how to get them home as we are trying to find a way to deliver them. If we are able to make this work, deliveries will likely be on Wednesdays for all students who can get meals.
- 52. Do we have only one school nurse?
  - a. Yes, but she is centralized. We have sub nurses we can bring in if needed.
- 53. Will there still be school picture day?
  - a. We will have a plan in place to do this but it will likely look very different than it has in the past. More info will come out once it is known.
- 54. How do we handle treats for birthdays?
  - a. Store bought will continue to be okay. There must not be food sharing so this will be more closely monitored.

55. Are students still allowed to carry water bottles?
- Yes. This is highly encouraged. The district has also purchased 3 more bottle filling stations for the buildings and they will be installed throughout all of the buildings for equal access at every level.
56. How is after school release working for elementary pick up?
- Will now be in the 1911 lot at the same place as drop off in the morning. We are working on the final logistics of this and it will be put out to families soon.
57. Will the kids in the High School be allowed to sit where they want in the cafeteria.
- At the High School level we would like them to be able to let them pick where they want as they are all six feet apart. There have been times in the past at the High School which we did assign seating. In the Elementary, we will currently be assigning by grade level.
  - Lunch will look extremely different. Students will not be able to sit together as in the past, and will now be sitting at individual desks, six feet apart, and facing the same direction in order to maintain social distancing requirements. This will be a time they can take their mask off to eat. Overflow will be in the Jr. High gym and elementary cafeteria. Breakfast will continue to be served and there will be a process for this and we will inform you.
58. How will restrooms be monitored?
- They will be self-regulated at the High School level and highly regulated and instructed at the Elementary level. Adult monitoring will occur throughout the day to ensure social distancing is happening.

## ***Health and Safety Questions***

59. If my student has any symptoms, should we not send them that day (like a runny nose for the day)?
- That's up to you as a parent. But if they come to school and are sent home by the nurse, then they will need to follow the posted return to school protocol before being allowed back in to school. Parents should be very careful with this as the process to return may take longer than if they are kept home for a day. If we get updated guidance on that, we will let you know and will post to the website.
60. How do you separate kids in the isolation room?
- There are very specific guidelines for this room that we have to follow. They will be socially distanced and if we need to move to other rooms, we will. Our school Nurse will have the room set up and staffed per guidelines.
61. What do you do with kids who can't keep masks on?



- a. There will be some masks breaks, but everyone does need to keep the masks on. There will obviously be flexibility depending on the age of the student, and each case will be dealt with in an appropriate manner per each situation.
  - b. For severe cases where kids refuse to wear the mask, it is considered insubordination and consequences will follow the code of conduct.
  - c. There are medical exceptions to the rule. There needs to be a medical note from the doctor. Those students will be allowed in the room with everyone else and will be required to maintain social distancing.
62. If able to take off masks in restaurants and bars can you do it in the school?
- a. There will be breaks for masks but the guidance is clear as to how we have to do it in a school as it is not the same as in other places such as restaurants or the public in general.
63. If someone gets sent home, what is the protocol from there? Is anyone else going to be notified or quarantined?
- a. We follow the department of health guidelines. Need a note from a medical provider and a negative test along with symptom resolution. As of right now, all three are required to return. The DOH will get notification of positive results and will tell the school. We have to provide DOH with the names of all students we think had contact with that student. We are not allowed as a school district to let families know who tested positive. We can say someone in your class and general notification will be provided if there is a positive case. We are working directly with DOH regarding quarantining. Those students who are quarantined can't come back without a letter of release from the DOH.
64. Are there certain masks they have to wear?
- a. Masks will not be allowed to be shared. We have masks that were provided by the department of health. Surgical masks are okay as are cloth masks or like material. Masks must cover nose and mouth at the same time (bandanas work).
  - b. Face shields do not replace the face mask. They can wear it in addition but can't replace the mask.
65. How will staff know the proper usage of masks and handwashing protocols?
- a. One thing the District is required to do is train. On September 1st the school nurse will be retraining staff on how to wash hands properly, how to put on and remove masks and ensure they fit properly as well as providing staff training on how to spot symptoms of COVID in students, among other information.
66. We have multiple kids at a home: If one gets sent home will another child in the home have to be tested?
- a. It all depends on the outcome of the diagnosis and testing. We will continue to clean and disinfect the spaces per guidelines to ensure the safety of all. However, it is possible that students who were in close proximity may be quarantined if a student tests positive. It all depends on the Department of Health, medical providers and COVID testing.
67. If we decide to carpool, who fills out the temperature form?

- a. The parent of each child needs to fill out the form.
68. How do we fill out the temperature form?
- a. Specific form that will be sent home to parents before the school year starts and we will also provide copies for students to take home each week. The form will be posted on the website as well if you can print off.
69. What if a family travels to a listed state of quarantine?
- a. If a family goes to a quarantine state they need to let us know immediately and then they will be required to remote learn for at least 2 weeks until they are able to return to school.
  - b. If families don't inform us and we find out, we have to contact DOH and the DOH will enforce quarantining.
70. If I don't get a COVID test for my child who is sent home, would I send the rest of the students in my house to school?
- a. The one student sent home can't come back until all required documents and assurances are met, but the other students in the house could return as long as they are not exhibiting symptoms or directly prohibited from returning by the DOH.
71. Mask wearing. What about my kids who can't? What about public shaming?
- a. Kids with a note from a medical provider don't need to wear one. Any issues with pressure or bullying will follow the Code of Conduct.
72. Can they be temperature checked on the bus?
- a. The guidance says it should be done at home before getting on a bus and the best practice is to do it at home with periodic verification to ensure it was really done. The state has set very specific guidelines for what PPE must be worn by those taking temps. It's not reasonable for a bus driver or aide on a bus to do that.
73. What about kids who are sent to school even when sick?
- a. We can't control that. Have to hope and rely on parents to be honest and do what is right. If they begin to have a fever or exhibit symptoms during the day, they will be sent to the nurse and this could end up resulting in longer times out of school than if the child was kept home for a day.
74. If there are different classes coming into the same area, will there be disinfecting between?
- a. We will be following all the protocols and guidance of the CDC on cleaning and disinfecting. CDC guidance says it only needs to happen at least once a day but we will be going beyond that and doing more than is required. If there are shared things we will be ideally having cleaners/disinfectors do this between classes and addressing high touch areas on a more frequent schedule. We are also trying to factor this into the scheduling of classes. We are in the process of hiring more staff to clean/disinfect.
75. Is there a set number of cases as to when the school would be shut down?

- a. As of right now, we have not set a specific number of staff or students being out that would require us to shut down. Barker will follow the guidelines of the Department of Health. We will monitor this every single day and be in contact regularly with the Department of Health. The entire community would be informed if a shut down is necessary. This is a real possibility so the community should be ready for this if we have an increase in the number of positive cases.
76. If there is a positive test will we know who is infected?
- a. If there is a positive test, the Department of Health will tell us who it is. What will happen is the Department of Health will do contact tracing. For this we will have to provide the names of all students in contact with the person who tested positive. This could be all students in a class and many others who they would be in contact with throughout their day. As it is a medical issue, the name of the person will not be disclosed to the community under HIPAA law. We will provide a letter to the community that there was a positive test so you are aware and can watch your students closely for symptoms. The Department of Health would also reach out to those at higher risk after their review of the contact tracing.
77. In the past we have brought tissues in and shared them, should they now have their own tissues so they are not touching the same box?
- a. Yes you can send them in for their personal use and you are more than welcome to donate tissues. However, we will still have boxes of tissues for all to use.