



**Solvay UFSD - Fall 2020 Reopening**  
**Frequently Asked Questions from the Community**  
*Updated August 18, 2020*

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Q. Is the start of the school year being delayed?**

A. The school year is scheduled to begin for students on Wednesday, September 9th. Per the hybrid schedule Wednesdays are a distance learning day for all students. The district will plan some learning activities to support students getting on to their Google Classroom and watch some videos to support the safe return to school. Please note that the first day of in person learning will be Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Thus, cohort B will be the first cohort to start in person learning. Cohort A will begin their in person instruction on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Q. If I have multiple children in the district will they all be in the same cohort?**

A. Yes. Children from the same family and/or residence will be in the same cohort even if they are in different buildings.

**Q. How are cohorts decided and can I select which one I want my child to be?**

A. Several criteria were used to develop cohorts. Students residing in the same residence were placed in the same cohort regardless of grade level. Students entitled to IEP or other related services were placed in cohorts to maximize their access to services. Cohorts were also developed to have a balance in the population between two cohorts.

**Q. Can I request a cohort for my child?**

A. While requests for a cohort, based on student's needs will be considered, the district cannot promise to accommodate all requests due to the multiple aspects that are related to developing the cohorts to maximize students' opportunities.

**Q. When will I know what cohort my child is in?**

A. The district will mail out student cohort information as well as traditional back to school information by Friday, August 21.



**Q. If I select to have my child participate in full distance learning to start the year, can I switch to the hybrid option?**

A. Yes, but only after 10 weeks. However, if you have concerns with the distance learning or hybrid learning your child is receiving, you should reach out to the building principal to discuss your concerns.

**Q. If my student starts the school year with the hybrid, in-person option, can he/she transfer to all distance learning?**

A. Yes.

**Q. What will distance learning look like?**

A. Distance learning will consist of daily learning activities. Google Classroom will be used as the district-wide learning management system. Teachers will provide lessons that are interactive, but it will not be live-streamed synchronized lessons. Teachers will track daily student engagement in learning activities and students will be expected to engage in the learning activities daily. Additionally, teachers will host office hours at least twice per week to provide support to students and answer their questions while they are engaged in distance learning.

**Q. What will my child's daily schedule be for the in-person days?**

A. Students will follow their regular daily schedule for in person-days. However, when possible, especially at the elementary school, student travel within the building during the school day will be minimal. Some classes like PE, art, and music may occur in the student general education classroom rather than the specially designed spaces in the school.

In the middle and high schools, students will follow their daily schedules including changing classrooms. Each hallway is marked to support proper physical distancing and students must wear masks at all times in the hallways. Hallways will be visibly divided in half to support one-way movement within each half of the hallway. Students will be instructed on how to pass between classes in a safe way. It is important to note that the number of students in a building each day will be less than 50% of the enrolled population as a result of the cohort hybrid model and some families electing to have their child engage in full distance learning. The significant decrease in student population on any given day will allow for safe travel in hallways so that 6 feet of physical distancing can be maintained.



**Q. Will there be “meet the teacher nights”, especially for students moving to a new building?**

A. Opportunities for students moving to a new building or coming to Solvay for the first time such as a PreK or K students are being planned. Please keep your eye out for more information coming from each building principal.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Q. Will my child receive services outlined on his/her IEP?**

A. Yes. Each school will be providing IEP services for in-person and distance learning. However, parents will be surveyed to accommodate special education services in conjunction with family needs during distance learning.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Q. How will temperature checks and COVID-19 symptom screening happen?**

A. It is expected that parents and guardians will take their child’s temperature and complete the COVID-19 symptom checklist via electronic means every day before the student gets on the bus or enters a building. In cases where the temperature check and symptom checklist was not completed prior to coming to school, the student will be screened upon entry to the school.

**Q. Will students be required to wear masks all the time?**

A. According to medical experts wearing a mask is one of the single best things that a person or community can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students will be required to wear masks at all times, except when eating. Students will be given regular short mask breaks throughout the day when it can be done safely. All students will be expected to wear a mask unless the district has a note from a doctor indicating a medical condition that prevents them from being able to wear a mask.

**Q. What will happen if a student displays COVID-19 symptoms at school?**

A. If a student exhibits symptoms while in school, he/she will be placed in an isolation room under adult supervision and the school will call the parents to notify them they need to pick their child up immediately.



**Q. If my child gets sent home from school with COVID-19 symptoms, when can they return to school?**

A. According to the NYSDOH a student who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms must have all three of the following:

- documentation of evaluation by a healthcare provider;
- a negative COVID-19 testing, and
- be symptom free.

Students who are sent home with COVID-19 symptoms will be provided distance learning.

**Q. What will cleaning look like?**

A. Custodial staff will continually clean, on a specified schedule, frequently touched surfaces, communal spaces, bathrooms, etc. Every night a thorough deep cleaning of each building will occur. This will include wiping and cleaning all classroom desks, tables, electronics, and other items that may have been touched throughout the day. Additionally, each classroom will be fumigated each evening with a Clorox 360 machine which the EPA identifies as a method to kill the COVID-19 virus. Each classroom will be equipped with cleaning supplies to be used by the staff as needed. Students will not be expected to clean.

**Q. I have heard a lot about the need for proper air flow and wonder what the district is doing with the HVAC system to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.**

A. In all buildings new air filters are being installed prior to the start of school. The air filters will also be changed out on a dedicated schedule throughout the year. Additionally, the HVAC systems in all buildings are being set to maximize intake of air from outside of the building as well as to maximize the exhaust going outside. In short the HVAC system will be set to maximize the circulation of fresh air and minimize the recirculation of air within the building.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**Q. How will the district communicate with families?**

A. The district will continue to use its web page and social media platforms to notify the community. In the coming weeks, the district will be rolling out a new communication platform called [ParentSquare](#). This app or web-based platform will be used as the primary mass communication method from the district. Training for ParentSquare is available [online](#).



**Q. What technology will students need to participate in distance learning?**

A. The district will provide every student with a Chromebook. Students will need access to high-speed internet to engage in distance learning. If connectivity is not available, please reach out to the Director of Technology, Matt Dean for assistance. The district does have a limited number of hotspot devices to loan out.

**Q. How will students get the Chromebooks?**

A. The district will distribute Chromebooks to students beginning the week of August 24. Please watch our website and social media for specific details.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Q. What will my student's bus ride look like?**

A. Students will have to wear masks while on the bus and stay seated. There will be one student per seat (or two if they are from the same family). For morning pick up, students will fill the bus from back to front.

Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each bus run. Bus drivers and attendants will be wearing a mask and possibly a face shield.

**NUTRITION**

**Q. What will breakfast and lunch look like?**

A. Breakfasts and lunches will be available to all students for no charge. All students will eat lunch in the cafeteria, but some students may eat breakfast in a classroom depending on the building. Breakfast and lunch will be grab-n-go style with lunch including a cold and hot option. There will not be any exchange of money or the ability to purchase ala carte items.

When in the cafeteria, students will be seated 6 feet apart and have to stay in their seats once seated. Cafeteria tables/desks will be cleaned after breakfast and each lunch period.

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND ATHLETICS**

**Q. Will BASCOL be available at the elementary school?**



A. Yes, before and after school child care provided by BASCOL will be available at the elementary school for students during the in-person learning days. Students may not participate in the BASCOL program held at the elementary school on days in which they are not physically attending in-person learning. However, BASCOL is offering an alternative location for care needed on days a student isn't in the elementary.

**Q. Will students be able to participate in the B.E.S.T. program and extracurricular activities?**

A. The district is diligently working to be able to provide these programs to students. These programs typically do not start until the end of September or the beginning of October. Please watch for future communication from the district related to the B.E.S.T and extracurricular activities.

**Q. When will sports start?**

A. At this time the state has delayed the start of school-based athletics until September 21<sup>st</sup>. As the district receives more information and guidance related to school-based athletics, it will be shared with the community.