

City School District of Albany

2020-21 Middle School Reopening Faculty/Staff Forum

Information is subject to change

Lori A. McKenna, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Instruction
July 29, 2020



CSDA Guiding Principles

Vision Statement

The City School District of Albany will be a district of excellence with caring relationships and engaging learning experiences that provide equitable opportunities for all students to reach their potential.

Mission Statement

We will work in partnership with our diverse community to engage every learner in a robust educational program designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

Goals

- Increase **student achievement**
- Enhance the **delivery of quality instruction**
- Build our **leadership capacity**
- Empower families**
- Partner with our diverse community**



2020-21 Middle School Forum

Provide an update and opportunity for feedback on the planning process and status of reopening schools in September.

If you have questions or feedback you would like to provide during this focus group, please use the **Chat function** on your screen.

We will answer as many new questions as time allows.

2020-21 Middle School Forum

Superintendent Adams charged the Middle School Reopening Committee with developing recommendations for reimagining school for grades 6-8 in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. She asked the committee to define the framework for learning in three modalities: fully on-site, blended and fully virtual/off-site.

The team's best thinking to date, given the parameters, is presented within. The team continues to research, review guidance documents from the Reimagine Education Advisory Council and the NYS Departments of Health and Education, and seeks input from stakeholders to inform this recommendation.

Our ultimate goal and purpose is to present our best recommendation for a safe plan for reopening that creates the most conducive learning environment within the guidance parameters.



CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Planning Committee: Middle School (6-8)

| Name | School | Role | Name | School | Role |
|-------------------|----------|---|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Jen Houlihan | District | Instructional Supervisor, ELA | Sonya Flowers | District | TA/APSUE President |
| Amanda Powers | District | Instructional Supervisor, STEM | Deborah McNicholas | Hackett | Teacher |
| Lori McKenna | District | Assistant Superintendent, Secondary | Ellen Gerard | O'Neal | School Counselor |
| Kate Wright | District | Instructional Supervisor, Fine Arts | Paul Manzo | Hackett | Teacher |
| Ashley Chapple | District | Instructional Supervisor, Health, PE and Athletics | Jen Kuebler | Myers | Teacher |
| Elaine Griessler | District | Director, Special Education | Cindy Clo | O'Neal | SpEd Teacher |
| Nicole Lindeman | District | Instructional Supervisor, FACS, Technology and Library | Melissa Hirt | Myers | Technology Teacher |
| Tom Giglio | District | Director, ENL and Refugee | Latisha Miller | O'Neal | Teaching Assistant |
| Mike Panetta | District | Asst. Director, PPS | Tom Willette | O'Neal | Teaching Assistant |
| Mike Paolino | Hackett | Principal | Jen Pryor | District | Instructional Coach |
| Andrea Piper | Myers | Principal | Sue Tuminaro | District | Instructional Coach |
| Dave Bernsley | O'Neal | Principal | Kim McDonough | ASH | 6 th -grade teacher |
| Julie Barber | NAMS | Principal | Abigail Bleck | District | Communications Specialist |
| Stephon Frost | Hackett | Home School Coordinator | Laura Hamlin | District | Master Schedule Support |
| Lisa Finkenbinder | District | Food Services | Kristy Kruse | Myers | School Counselor |

2020-21 Reopening Discussion

Required components of our Reopening Plan

- Parent choice: hybrid/blended or virtual
- Enhanced academic rigor and accountability
- Students and employees wearing masks
 - Families are asked to provide masks for their children
 - The district will have replacement masks and also face shields as an option for employees
- Daily health screenings/temperature checks for all employees and students
- Parents asked to take their child's temperature daily before coming to school
- Contact tracing and coordination with local health department guidelines
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols
- Shared books and supplies minimized
 - Where used, books (e.g., library books, trade books) and supplies (e.g., science lab materials) will be disinfected or allowed to remain untouched between use (as per CDC and DOH guidelines)
- School visitors will be restricted to those required for school business
- Students and staff will be trained on proper hand hygiene practices

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Recommendation for Middle School Structure

Schools considered

- O'Neal, Hackett and North Albany may be used to rotate students for on-site instruction
 - North Albany may support students from O'Neal, North Albany, Giffen (6th), Eagle Point (6th) and ASH (6th)
 - Hackett may support students from Hackett and Myers
 - O'Neal may support students from AIC and TOAST (6th)

We assessed O'Neal, Hackett, Myers and North Albany to determine the number of students we could accommodate in each classroom while following CDC guidelines of 6 feet social distancing between desks.

Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Recommendation for Middle School Structure

Blended learning model consideration

- Onsite learning two days
 - Onsite learning → Core subjects both days and encore subjects one day
- Virtual learning three days
 - Virtual learning → Core subjects only

Possible rotation schedule for on-site learning

- Self-contained special education students and English-language learners may attend every day
- General education students in grades 6-8 may attend two days (Tues-Wed or Thurs-Fri)
- Co-taught/resource room, English-language learners, Tier 3 students for math and reading may attend three days (Mondays)
 - Also could use Monday for related services (if needed)
- Exploring the possibility of Friday for instrumental music lessons

Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Recommendation for Middle School Structure

On-site learning schedule sample considerations include:

- 40-minute periods
 - This could include an SEL period each day for all students, two periods for encores both days and core classes (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Language for grades 7-8, and Math and English enrichment for grade 6)

One way in/one way out for students will be determined to ensure students do not cross paths (grade levels may be assigned to floors)

Breakfast and lunch may be in the classroom

Shortened student day could allow for contractual obligations such as CPT and planning time; would not reduce instructional time for students

Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Next Steps

- Determine multiple entry points and design staggered arrival and dismissal procedure
- Finalize staff, student supervisions, rotations and schedules
- Develop guidelines and resources for
 - On-site and virtual instruction
 - Exclusively virtual instruction
 - Teacher and staff professional development and planning (academic, social emotional and procedural)
- Develop a communication plan for students, families and staff to provide clear guidance on re-entry procedures

Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Faculty and Staff Survey Results

- **675 survey participants**
 - Administrator/management – 43
 - Teachers – 429
 - Non-classroom professional – 73
 - Non-classroom support staff – 52
 - Classroom support staff – 78

- **3,148 total comments and questions**

- **9 categories**

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Faculty and Staff Survey – Frequently Asked Questions

Delivery of instruction

- Will we receive PD and related materials to assist with instruction?
- How will small group and 1:1 instruction work while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing?
- How will a hybrid model look at the secondary level, and how will teachers be responsible for teaching both virtually and in-person?

Health and hygiene

Q: What procedures will be in place to ensure that adequate supplies of hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels and PPE are available to students and staff in buildings? How will you assure that students can easily access sinks for handwashing during the school day?

Health screening

Q: Who will be screened; what will screening consist of; when, where and how often will screening take place and who will do the screening?

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Faculty and Staff Survey – Frequently Asked Questions

Technology

Q: Will the district provide Chromebooks to every student and teacher/TA, and what is the district doing to provide Internet access to families without it? Will there be training or Help Desk assistance available to staff and families struggling with the technology?

Safety and security

Q: How will security scans be conducted properly at the secondary level while assuring social distancing?

Transportation

Q: How will social distancing be maintained and enforced on buses, and how frequently will buses be cleaned and sanitized?

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Faculty and Staff Survey – Frequently Asked Questions

Breakfast and lunch

Q: Where will students eat their meals, who will supervise them, and how will you keep students and staff safe while students eat and are not wearing masks? Where will teachers eat their lunch? If students eat in classrooms, who will clean after?

Athletics/Physical Education

Q: Will students have access to phys ed classes and recess? What will it consist of and how will you make sure students maintain appropriate social distance?

Other

Q: Will staff have to use their own sick days if they contract COVID-19 at work or must quarantine due to possible exposure on the job?

Questions

If you have additional new questions or feedback you would like to provide, please use the **Chat function** on your screen.

We will answer as many new questions as time allows.

