



Oswego City School District
2021 – 2022 School Year Reopening Plan
Question and Answer Document

Below are a series of frequently asked questions and answers about the district's reopening plan for the 2021 – 2022 school year. As the district receives additional questions throughout the school year, we will continue to post the questions and answers to them.

Elementary

Question: What is the drop off and pick up time for elementary students?

Answer: All elementary students will attend school 5 days a week from 8:45 AM - 3:30 PM.

Question: Is there a Health Screening Survey?

Answer: Yes, temperatures will be taken daily as students enter the building or get on the bus. Health screening forms must be submitted once a week (Mondays) via Parent Square.

Question: What are the OCSD mask wearing expectations?

Answer: Masks are still to be worn throughout the school day when students are indoors and on buses. Mask breaks will be provided throughout the school day and during 30-minute lunch periods. Mask will not be required when students are outside.

Question: What if my child medically is unable to wear a mask?

Answer: A doctor's note is needed indicating the medical reason the child cannot wear a mask. Such notes can be sent directly to your child's school nurse. After a note is received our medical team will evaluate the matter and determine what alternatives might be needed.

Question: Where will breakfast/lunch be held?

Answer: Free breakfast and lunch will be served each day for all students. Grab-and-Go breakfast bags will be available for students as they enter the buildings in the morning. Lunch will continue to be both in the classrooms and the cafeteria. When possible, a rotation of classrooms will occur to hold lunch periods in the cafeteria. When in a classroom lunches are held at the student's desk, placed 6 ft. apart. When in the cafeteria they will be sitting 6 feet apart to allow for the masks not to be worn while eating.

Question: What are the recess expectations?

Answer: Students will participate in recess each day. Approximately 20-minute of recess will be provided for each classroom. Weather permitting students will be outside. Sneakers should be worn by all students participating in recess. Spaces utilized outside include the playground, the field, and the front yard/sidewalks for classroom play. Masks are not expected for outdoor play, but social distancing will still take place. Kickball, four square and other such field/lot games will be allowed.

Question: What if my student needs to quarantine due to COVID?

Answer: If a documented quarantine is required, the student will be able to livestream into the classroom. You will need to contact the classroom teacher and school principal to set up the live streaming. Please contact the school nurse with any questions related to COVID illnesses or quarantining.

Question: What if my child is ill and needs to stay home for a non-Covid related reason?

Answer: Please call the school nurse if your child is ill and cannot attend school that day. When your child returns, please send a doctor's note or note indicating the reason for the absence.

Question: Can children bring in book bags with school supplies this school year?

Answer: Yes, students can bring in book bags with school supplies and water bottles this school year.

Question: If I have a question about the day-to – day routines in my child's classroom who should I contact?

Answer: Parents and/or guardians should contact their child's classroom teacher with these questions.

[Oswego Middle School](#)

Question: Do I need to complete a Health Screening Form for my child each week?

Answer: YES - if your child is attending school in - person at OMS then you must complete the Health Screening Form on *ParentSquare* one time per week. Please submit the form on or before Monday morning at 7:00am each week.

Question: Does my child have to wear a mask when they attend school?

Answer: YES - your child must wear a mask both in school and on the bus.

Question: Does OMS have a Dress Code?

Answer: YES - OMS has a Dress Code that is outlined in the Student/Parent/Guardian handbook that will be passed out and reviewed with all students the first day of school.

Question: What time does the OMS school day start and end?

Answer: OMS starts at 7:30 (Check-in procedures until 7:45) and ends at 2:30.

Question: Will Breakfast and Lunch be served this year in school?

Answer: YES - we will have a 'Grab and Go' Breakfast at OMS. School Lunch will also be offered. All OMS students are eligible for a FREE School Breakfast and Lunch through the end of the 2021 - 2022 school year. Some students will eat Lunch in the OMS Cafe - others will eat in a classroom. 6 Feet Social Distance must be maintained when eating.

Question: If I am driving my child to school in the morning what time do I need to have my child at school?

Answer: If you are driving your child to OMS in the morning, please plan to be at school between 7:30 - 7:35am. Please use the Student - Drop Off Zone at the West Side of our school. Each child who is driven to school in the morning must have their temperature taken before exiting the vehicle.

Question: Do OMS students have a Homeroom?

Answer: NO - we do not have a Homeroom period at OMS. All students report directly to their 1st Period class. 1st Period is slightly longer than all other classes so students can watch the Announcements (The Daily Buc), etc.

Question: How many periods are there in the day at OMS? How long are the periods?

Answer: There are 9 periods in the day at OMS. Each student at OMS takes 8 classes and has 1 Lunch Period. Classes are 41-42 minutes long and lunches are 30 minutes long.

Question: If I am picking my child up after school what do I need to do?

Answer: If you are planning to drive your child home from school please do not arrive at school before 2:30pm. We will call all buses first followed by walkers and students being picked up. Please use the Student Pick Up (and Drop Off) area at the West Side of our School.

Question: Can my child use their locker?

Answer: NO - we will start the 2021 - 2022 school year with no lockers for students. Students will be allowed to carry backpacks.

Question: Can my child use hand sanitizer in school?

Answer: YES - your child is encouraged to use the Hand Sanitizer stations that are strategically placed throughout OMS. Your child should plan to use the Hand Sanitizer located outside each classroom BEFORE entering the room.

Question: Does my child need to change clothes for PE this year?

Answer: NO - we are not using the Locker Rooms for PE this school year. Students do not need to change for PE this year.

Question: Will my child be assigned a school - owned Chromebook?

Answer: YES - each student at OMS will be assigned a school - owned Chromebook during the 1st week of school.

Question: If my child is playing a sport and has sports equipment, etc. with them will they have to carry it with them all day?

Answer: NO - at OMS we will make accommodations both in the locker rooms and in the first period classes for students to store things so that they don't need to carry everything all day.

Question: What sports are offered at the Middle School/Modified Level?

Answer: During the Fall season the following Modified Sports are offered: Girls and Boys Soccer, Girls and Boys Cross Country and Football.

Question: Is there a sports study hall for my child to be part of until his/her sports practice starts?

Answer: YES - OMS hosts a sports study hall that starts at 2:35 PM each day. Students will remain in the Sports Study Hall until their coach arrives.

Question: Will OMS offer Clubs and Intramurals this year?

Answer: YES - OMS will offer a full slate of clubs and intramurals in person this year. Additionally, we will offer Focus Forward (Mentoring Program) in partnership with SUNY Oswego. All activities will be offered after - school until 3:20 PM.

Question: Do teachers at OMS stay after school to offer extra help to students?

Answer: YES - teachers at OMS do stay after school to work with students. Students can ride the late bus home at 3:20 PM. Students need to talk to their individual teachers and set up the days with them that they are available to stay after school. Teachers sometimes work with students during their lunch period if pre-arranged. Teachers can also work with students during the Advisory Period.

Question: Does that OMS have a Late Bus?

Answer: YES - OMS has a Late Bus that comes at 3:20 (Monday - Friday)

Question: If I have any concerns about my child's schedule or their OMS experience in general who should I contact?

Answer:

OMS Principal - Mary Beth Fierro - mfierro2@oswego.org

OMS Assistant Principal - Samantha Spaulding - sspauldi@oswego.org

OMS Assistant Principal - Judy Osetek - josetek@oswego.org

OMS 7th Grade Counselor- Kathy Pearson - kpearson@oswego.org

OMS 8th Grade Counselor - Michelle Cooper - mcooper@oswego.org
OMS 7th/8th Grade Counselor - Dan Rogers - drogers@oswego.org
OMS 7th/8th Grade Counselor Barb Carroll bcarroll@oswego.org
OMS School Psychologist - Rachel Baker - rbaker@oswego.org

Question: If I have a question about the expectations of a specific class that my child is taking who should I contact first?

Answer: You should always contact your child's teacher first. You can request a Parent Teacher Conference if necessary.

Question: What is the Cell Phone Policy at OMS?

Answer: At OMS we ask that cell phones are always 'Off and Away'. If cell phones are out in class or in the hallways, they will be taken away by school personnel. All student cell phones that are taken away at OMS will be brought to the Main Office and an Administrator will call the parent/guardian to come in to pick it up.

[Oswego High School](#)

Question: Are you anticipating students going to school 5 days a week?

Answer: Yes. Students will return to instruction 5 days a week 7:30-2:30

Question: In the middle school the children could go into the school and put things in the lockers and walk the school to learn it. Will they be able to do this should the State allow back in school learning?

Answer: HS students will not be able to use lockers for at least the first 10 weeks of school. Students will be able to walk the building to learn it.

Question: Plan A, B and C and communicate that with the parents? Normal return, masked return, cohort return, virtual options and what that will look like if the state says it is required. Many factors play into our planning process. How many kids can fit on the bus? How many kids' families are comfortable with them returning? Will the state mandate a virtual option?

Answer: The Governor will not be providing guidance. The OCSD reopening plan has been shared with the community and is posted to the district's website.

Question: Can bussing still limit us?

Answer: Transportation regulations have changed this school year. We can now have more children on buses. However, all students and staff must wear a mask on buses. Our transportation department is now working to ensure that all OHS students will be able to have access to school transportation.

Question: I know part of the issues with getting more students here last year was the spacing needed on buses. Is the district planning on doing a bus survey soon? I found many students don't take buses.

Answer: Our Transportation department recently completed a transportation survey with parents and/or guardians. The survey URL is as follows:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJ5vV2ON5AQWcTekKwJBmg0z759FK1GnqzKO1-70yZZilcOA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Question: During orientation will the students be able to tour the school?

Answer: Yes, barring any unforeseen circumstances and with safety protocols in place

Question: Any sense of fall sports being offered?

Answer: Yes, NYS athletics are planning to offer sports. We have no reason to believe that they won't --that is our plan, we are cautiously optimistic that we will be in a good place! Fall sports begin in August. Go to Family ID now to see the dates and to sign up for sports.

Question: Has there been any discussion of modifying or changing start/release times? We began last year with a later start, which was beneficial for academics.

Answer: Yes, the district has considered a variety of start and end times. This year we are going to be returning to our normal start and end times (from 7:30 AM until 2:30 PM)

Question: Any current guidelines related to vaccinated students with sports and classroom attendance? Do you anticipate a vaccination mandate?

Answer: Currently there are no plans for a vaccine mandate.

Question: Who decides if there will be a virtual option? When will we know?

Answer: All K-12 students will attend school for "in-person" instruction five days a week - Given the significant learning and social – emotional needs of our students, the district believes that it is imperative to return all of its students to school five days per week for "in person" learning right away. Accordingly, the district will be returning to "in-person" learning for all students in the fall, unless there is a documented medical reason (must be identified in a doctor's note) that parents and/or guardians feel should be considered and would prevent their child from attending school "in-person."

All parents who have a child with a documented medical reason should contact their school principal to inform them and complete the attached medical excuse survey link to share this information with us. We are asking that parents complete this survey by no later than August 22, 2021, if possible. Once this information is received, a health review will be completed to determine the appropriate supports and/or educational program that will be offered to accommodate the students' learning needs.

Medical Excuse Survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvoyaD9rHacIHMEzkve3rb0K4CfYJhkI9gbM8li3NrkDQHA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Question: When is the official first day of school?

Answer: The official first day of school is Sept 8th, the Wednesday after Labor Day.

Question: What about the sophomores who have never been in the building?

Answer: Any student that has not attended in person up to this point will be invited in freshman/new student orientation.

Question: I have a question about the use of athletic facilities for outside organizations. Do you have an idea of when the OHS pool will be available to Oswego Lakers Swim Club?

Answer: At this time, they are approved to have use of the middle school pool. If you have further questions, please contact facilities/athletics.

Question: Can homeschool kids be a part of the school sports program?

Answer: No, homeschooled students are not allowed. Only OHS enrolled students can participate in interscholastic athletics.

Question: Do the kids have to wear masks going back to school?

Answer: In keeping with the recommendations of the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics and per recent guidance from our District Medical Director, we will be requiring all students, staff, and visitors to masks while indoors. When outdoors, students, staff, and visitors will not be required to mask. Masking breaks will be provided for students throughout the school day, as needed.

Question: Do we know if meals will still be free for all students?

Answer: Yes- this has been extended through next school year. Please see the following URL with more information on this: <https://edsources.org/2021/usda-extends-free-meals-through-next-school-year/653335>.

Question: What will the protocol be if there is noncompliance for mask wearing if required?

Answer: Our discipline at OHS is progressive, per our Code of Conduct. When students are not complying with this mandate they will be asked to do so.

It should also be noted, we do anticipate that periodically students may forget their mask. When this occurs, we will provide one for them to use.

Question: Do you know when CiTi will decide their plans for this year?

Answer: CITI has shared with us that they plan to operate with a normal and traditional schedule this school year. Students will once again be attending classes on campus following their safety protocols.