



Clark Public Schools

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Coronavirus Plan Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Question: Will New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) and Advanced Placement (AP) testing be delayed or cancelled this year?

Answer: We are awaiting guidance from the State (for NJSLA) and the College Board (for AP), and we will share that information as soon as possible.

Question: How is this situation impacting ACT/SAT testing and college admissions?

Answer: The April ACT is being moved to June. The College Board has cancelled the May SAT, but the June and August dates both remain as options at this current time. As the School Counseling Department receives updates regarding, for example, college admission decision dates, this information will continue to be shared with our students and their parents.

Question: Can activities be planned to add enjoyment to the students' remote learning experience?

Answer: Yes. For instance, a spirit week was planned across the district for this current week. Pictures of our students and teachers during this remote learning time will be shared through the School Counseling Department's Instagram page (https://instagram.com/clark_school_counseling_dept?igshid=1v562kk0il98p) so that a sense of togetherness can still be experienced while we are physically apart. The account is named *clark_school_counseling_dept* should you want to simply conduct an Instagram search.

Question: How likely do you feel a closure for the remainder of the school year is? Will there be opportunities for fifth, eighth, and twelfth-graders to have the "big moments" that they may miss while schools are closed?

Answer: We are hoping to reopen as soon as possible and will communicate information regarding our reopening when we can. Upon our reopening, activities will be prioritized on a districtwide basis with all of our students in mind so that the available time is put to best use.

Question: How are students expected to return to school and succeed to their fullest potential?

Answer: We are doing our best, under the circumstance, to maintain our more typical instructional scope and sequencing in addition to providing, for example, remote school counseling and special education services. With that being said, we will make the needed adjustments upon our reopening so that student success is optimized.

Question: Since remote learning is new to us, what is the process for revisiting our approach and adjusting if necessary? Are the instructional websites able to handle the associated online traffic?

Answer: We, as an administrative team, are closely monitoring this situation on an ongoing basis in close collaboration with our Technology Department. This monitoring is inclusive of staff and parental input, and we will make the necessary, appropriate modifications as we move forward.



Question: Why are the elementary-aged children only required to work on language arts and mathematics assignments?

Answer: Our K-5 language arts and mathematics programs are interdisciplinary in nature. For instance, the students read passages connected to social studies and science. Our approach has been granted State approval, and we are meeting the State's remote instructional time requirement for these grade levels of two hours per day or ten hours per week.

Question: How much work are the middle and high school teachers aiming to assign each day?

Answer: Each CHK class is being given approximately 25 minutes of work per day and each ALJ class is being given approximately 50 minutes when they meet every other day due to the A/B alternating block schedule. These are the amounts of time required to satisfy the State's remote instructional requirement for these grade levels.

Question: Do middle and high school students need to communicate with their teachers at the same times as their more typical, in-person classes or is there flexibility?

Answer: The typical class time is when a student should email a teacher to receive a more immediate response. At the high school, the A/B alternating block schedule, with each class meeting every other day, will remain in place. A teacher can be emailed outside of that timeframe, but a more typical, less immediate response time should be expected. If a given teacher has opted to use a different approach, e.g., virtual meetings during the more typical class time, students will be required to attend those virtual sessions.

Question: How will our children be graded during this time at home? Will the remote work be checked and count towards the students' grades?

Answer: Assignments will be graded, depending on the given teacher and/or assignment, either during the closure or upon our return to school. This answer depends on the approach that the teacher has selected to use so as to be in alignment with his/her more typical instructional practices. Each individual teacher will be communicating what work will be checked and count towards the students' grades for his/her class.

Question: Will student attendance be taken?

Answer: Having students log in at a given time in the morning and then counting them as being present for the day is an unnecessary record-keeping task since those logins give no true indication of student participation throughout the entire day. However, if a teacher selects to hold a virtual meeting where students participate collectively as a group, then attendance for that given session can be taken via such participation or lack thereof. Assignments will need to be submitted by their given deadlines. If a student is ill and unable to meet a deadline or participate in a remote session, his/her parent will need to email the teacher. If, through a consistent lack of assignment submissions or some other type of remote participation, a teacher is concerned about a student, the teacher will reach out to the building administration as well as the school counselor and/or case manager so that parental contact can be made.

Question: Will the date for report cards remain the same?

Answer: For the elementary schools, this date will not change since their marking period recently ended and there is only one marking period left. For the middle and high schools, we will have to reevaluate as we approach the end date of the third marking period in light of when we are

reopening. Our goal would be to give the students, if possible, some additional “seat time” in the third marking period prior to the fourth marking period beginning.

Question: Do we have to send in payment for the before/aftercare program on April 1 or will what we already paid for March be applied towards that new payment?

Answer: Parents of students enrolled in the program are being asked to not submit any payments during our closure. Upon our reopening, March payments will be applied accordingly and Linda Berry, Program Coordinator, will notify parents as to what their credit or balance is. Late fees will not be applied for March and April. Please keep in mind that there are many families with students in the program. As a result, some time will be needed when we reopen to send each family an account update.

Question: Are there any families in the area that need extra support, and, if so, how can we help?

Answer: We, as a school district, are making the needed Chromebooks available in addition to providing lunches to students in the free/reduced program. Comcast is offering free internet service to eligible families for 60 days (application can be found at <https://www.internetessentials.com>). Our community is an extremely caring, supportive one, so we are confident that we will continue to assist each other in any possible ways.