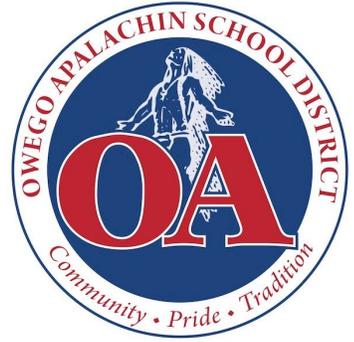


Dear OA School Community,

On August 7th, the Governor announced that schools can open ([NYS Schools Permitted To Open In The Fall](#)). OACSD has been working for quite some time on this process. Our two district committees ([Health & Safety](#) and [Academic](#)) are made up of 50-60 stakeholders working together on the reopening of our school buildings. Many of the demands the Governor made were already a part of our overall plan ([Reopening OACSD](#)).



The Governor also announced that school districts must post their remote learning plan online as well as their plan for testing and tracing students and teachers. Schools must also have three to five public meetings prior to August 21 with parents - who will be allowed to participate remotely - as well as one meeting with teachers to go through their reopening plan.

Remote Learning

The OACSD remote learning plan is still being finalized and will be shared out and posted on our website once completed. Students and families should know and understand that remote learning will look completely different from how it did during the Spring of last school year. Through the districts self-evaluation and the recommendations from students, parents/guardians, and teachers received in district surveys, remote learning will be much more structured:

- Schedule and daily attendance
- More rigorous workload & academic expectations
- Feedback & Grading

Contact Tracing/Testing

The OACSD neither initiates nor oversees COVID-19 testing or contact tracing. The District has a screening protocol outlined in our [Reopening Plan](#) that is consistent with state-wide guidelines from the Department of Health. Individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID prior to arrival or while they are on school grounds are directed by the district plan to seek out medical attention. In the event that the Department of Health determines they need to do contact tracing, a Department of Health representative will reach out to the Superintendent for a list of close contacts of the affected individual. A close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes. The District will cooperate fully with the Department of Health in support of contact tracing.

As we move to reopen our school buildings, we need to take extra care to make sure everyone stays healthy, safe and supported. The new reality of living, working and learning in the COVID-19 era requires us as a school community to make some changes to our daily routine and to focus on three areas, Prevention-Mitigation-Reinforcement:

- Prevention: daily wellness checks of students and staff, wearing of cloth facial coverings by all, social distancing, disinfecting and sanitizing, and engaging proper hygiene practices
- Mitigation: Follow-up with Health Department and families for contact tracing, disinfecting and sanitizing as needed, communicating with impacted parties
- Reinforcement: learning for every instance, retraining and reminding of prevention practices and protocols.

The safety and well-being of our learning community is our top priority. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus.

It's also important to understand that each student, teacher, staff member and family will have different feelings on COVID-19 and comfort levels with each other. We need to be kind, respectful and work together.

The district has been working to provide answers to all of the questions that have been asked to this point. It is important to note that there are still many unanswered questions out there and this is a very fluid process with things changing daily. You can review the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) here: [FAQs on Reopening OACSD](#).

We had already planned on holding meetings for staff, students, families, and community members to discuss the reopening plans and allow parents and families to ask questions.

These meetings will take place on the following dates and times.

- Monday, August 17, 2020 at 10:00am (OACSD Staff Meeting)
- Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:30pm (Public Meeting 1)
- Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 10:00am (Public Meeting 2)
- Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6:30pm (Public Meeting 3)

These meetings will be held via Zoom webinar, where questions can be asked and answered. To help the district best prepare and provide answers to questions you may have, please ask them prior to the meetings by using this form: [Google Form to Ask Question\(s\) on Reopening](#)

We will send out the public links to join each webinar later this week.

Questions may still be asked during the meeting using the Zoom webinar chat features. We hope you will take this opportunity to ask any questions you may still have.

Student Enrollment Decisions:

We received all but roughly 60 student enrollment decisions. If you have not made your enrollment decision, you can expect to receive a phone call from your specific school building to help facilitate your decision. We have 75% of students enrolled in an in-person option and 25% who will be doing complete remote learning. These numbers fall within the expectations we had as we created our reopening plans and prepared to properly physically distance students on buses, in classrooms, and create class lists and cohort groupings.

As plans are finalized and more guidance from state and federal authorities becomes available, information will continue to be provided.

Just a reminder that we will have a Board of Education meeting this evening, Monday, August 10th at 6:30pm. The meeting will be live streamed on the district's YouTube Channel here: [OACSD YouTube Channel](#)

Again, we'd like to thank you for your continued support, understanding and flexibility as we move closer to the start of the new school year.

#OATOGETHER