

# Tunkhannock Area School District

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **BUILDING SPECIFIC**

#### **What will the classroom look like?**

Students will sit at desks 6 feet apart. They will have their own manipulatives, instructional materials, and books. They will be permitted to work in small groups with peers and their teachers, and will wear a mask. Frequent mask breaks will take place throughout the day when students are 6 feet apart.

#### **What will breakfast look like?**

PC--During the first few weeks of school, every student will have a breakfast placed on their desk. Moving forward they will pick up their breakfast from a cafeteria worker in the pods. Breakfast will take place in the classrooms.

IC—Breakfast will be available from “to-go” stations conveniently located in the building. Students will take breakfast to their classroom to eat.

STEM— Breakfast will be available from “to-go” stations conveniently located in the building. Students will take breakfast to their classroom to eat.

High School—Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria. Students will eat in the cafeteria in desks spaced 6 feet apart.

#### **What will lunch look like?**

IC/PC--As of right now, students will eat lunch in the cafeteria, at desks, spaced 6 feet apart. They will have an assigned seat, sit near their homeroom peers, and all desks will be cleaned in between lunches.

STEM—Students will eat lunch in the Admin Gym, at desks, spaced 6 feet apart. They will have an assigned seat, sit near their homeroom peers, and all desks will be cleaned in between lunches. Students will select meal choice at the beginning of the day and food will be delivered from the cafeteria at lunch time.

High School-- As of right now, students will eat lunch in the cafeteria, at desks, spaced 6 feet apart. All desks will use a paper placement to provide a sanitary eating surface. The cafeteria will be sanitized at the conclusion of all lunches.

#### **What will recess look like?**

PC--Students will go outside, as usual, throughout the year. Each classroom will be assigned a portion of the campus at TAPC— soccer field, lacrosse field, both side lots and the two playgrounds. Students will be assigned space at MPC as well. During the first 45 days, playground equipment will not be utilized. Students should plan to wash their hands before and after recess. Masks are required when outside for recess.

IC-- Students will go outside, as usual, throughout the year. Each classroom will be assigned a portion of the campus at TAIC. During the first 45 days, playground equipment will not be utilized. Students should plan to wash their hands before and after recess. Masks are required when outside for recess.

**What will specials look like in K-6?**

Students will have art, library, music, technology (STEM) and physical education. Students will go outside for physical education as much as possible, or use the gym during inclement weather. PLEASE make sure your child has appropriate outerwear with them each day for gym class and recess.

Specials will take place in the students' homeroom.

**What will arrival and dismissal look like?**

TAPC – Arrival is from 7:35-8:05am. If you are dropping your students off, please line up on Digger Drive and use the Parent Lot. You will be directed in and out of the lot. Buses will unload students at the bus platform. The same applies for dismissal, which is from 2:45-3:05pm.

MPC – parent drop off will take place at 7:30-7:45, after buses unload. Parent pick up will take place at 2:15pm, after buses depart with students.

IC-- Arrival is from 7:35-8:05am. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE to accommodate additional drivers in the morning: If you are dropping your students off, please pull into the IC Auditorium Parking Lot using Tiger Drive. Buses will unload students at the front of the IC. The same applies for dismissal, which is from 2:45-3:05pm.

High School—Arrival is from 7:35-8:05 am. Cars drop-offs will occur at the Band Lot.

**If my child is sent home with a fever, do I need to take them for a covid test to return?**

No, they can return with an alternate diagnosis from a doctor and need to be fever free without medication for 24 hours.

**How will I be informed about a positive case in the school or my child's classroom?**

Parents/guardians will be notified of a positive case through the All-Call system. Instructions regarding building closures and remote learning will also be communicated. Directions regarding quarantine requirements will come from the Department of Health.

**Can I send a water bottle to school with my child?**

Yes, please do.

**Will my student be mixed with students from other classrooms?**

PC/IC/STEM—In the cafeteria, students will be seated with their homeroom, but other classrooms will be in the cafeteria at the same time. Students in grades 5-7 who participate in band will attend band with students from their homeroom plus one additional homeroom. In this space, students will be physically seated with their OWN homeroom, spaced 6 feet apart from other students.

High School—Yes. Students will transition between classes throughout the day.

**If a child tests positive, does the whole class and teacher need to quarantine?**

The PA Department of Health completes contact tracing and will make this determination.

**What happens if my child's teacher needs to quarantine? Do they stay home and learn virtually?**

There are a number of factors which will determine a need to quarantine and transition to remote learning. All directions regarding quarantine will come from the Department of Health.

If the teacher is unavailable and students are not required to quarantine, a substitute teacher will be provided for in-person learning.

If the entire class needs to quarantine, then the teacher and students will transition to remote learning.

If an individual student is unable to be at school awaiting test results, the student can transition to remote learning until he or she is able to return to the classroom, provided they feel well enough to participate.

**What happens if a student refuses to wear a mask when required to do so?**

Students will be removed from the classroom and need to be picked up. Repeated refusal will likely result in the student being transferred to Fusion C3.

**Who is responsible for contact tracing in the school?**

The Department of Health with additional information provided by the school district.

**Will each student receive a device?**

PC—Yes, all K-2 students will receive an iPad that should come home every night and return to school with them every morning.

IC/STEM/High School—Yes, all students in grades 3-12 will receive a Chromebook that should come home every night and return to school with them every morning.

**Should I label my students' belongings?**

Yes! Please label everything that comes to school with your child.

**Should I send extra clothes with my student?**

Yes, please do.

**Can students bring snack?**

PC--Yes. Your child's teacher will contact you. Snack will be individual (you send your child's snack everyday) or your teacher may have a snack schedule (you volunteer to provide snack to the whole class). If you are providing snack for the whole class, it must be prepackaged and individually wrapped. Nothing homemade will be permitted.

**TRAVEL****What is the school's expectation regarding travel to a "high covid" state?**

Anyone who travels to a state listed on the PA Department of Health website cannot return to a district facility for 14 days after returning to PA. Please monitor this list closely and notify the district immediately if you have plans to visit one of these locations.

## **OPERATIONS**

**Once you reopen, what will the decision making process look like to prompt a school closure or other significant modification to operations? How will teachers/staff be notified as to whether instruction will be held remotely?**

The district will regularly review data to determine building status. Factors such as positive cases of covid-19, community spread, and state mandates will determine building status. Additional guidance was published by PDE and the Department of Health to provide specific triggers. If the district decides to close any building, communication will be sent via All-Call system.

## **SAFETY**

**How will you work to mitigate risks associated with non-symptomatic individuals?**

- Daily screening procedure for all people entering building
- Use of hand sanitizer upon entry to building
- Frequent hand washing during the day
- Cleaning protocols during the day (frequently touched surfaces) and evening

**Does family member need to notify the school if a positive test case?**

We recommend families notify district of any positive test. Employees should contact immediate supervisor.

**What is the protocol to return if awaiting a covid test result?**

Anyone who is tested for covid upon recommendation of a doctor or other medical professional must wait 14 days before returning to work regardless of test results.

**Will there be any consideration in minimizing contact with others for people with health conditions or if they are living with people that have health conditions that could increase their risk of getting COVID?**

We are working to minimize the number of visitors into the building in an effort to reduce exposure risk. In addition, anyone entering the building will be screened using the covid screening procedure. If you have a personal concern, please contact Heather McPherson directly.

**What are our mask expectations?**

- Each person must wear a new mask each day
- Each person must wear a school-issued mask (or alternative if required by a doctor)
- Students must wear masks in all designated areas
- Mask packs will be available for pick-up before the first day of school
- Masks will be sent home daily for next day use
- Teachers will have extras in classroom

**Will there be regular mask breaks when teachers and students are not talking?**

Mask breaks will occur throughout the day when distanced greater than 6 feet apart.

**Will the masks that we are getting going to be small enough for little kids? Proper fit? Try them before school?**

We have ordered children's masks for our younger/smaller students. We will distribute mask packs to students prior to the start of school. This will allow students to try them and will insure students have masks available for the first day of school.

**How do we handle students who refuse to wear a mask?**

Masks are required in all areas except when seated in the cafeteria. Six feet of physical separation must be maintained in order for mask to be removed. All other areas require masks. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Arrival and dismissal
- Hallways
- Bathrooms
- Auditoriums
- When standing in line in the cafeteria
- Buses

We recognize that students will need reminders as they develop new habits. However, if a student repeatedly does not wear a mask or refuses to wear a mask in the appropriate areas, the student will be removed from the classroom and the parent will be called for pick-up. Repeated non-compliance will result in transfer to Fusion C3 platform.

**How often will you implement cleaning, sanitation, disinfecting and ventilation protocols/procedures to maintain staff and student safety?**

District procedures have been documented to define the following:

- Periodic cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day
- Daily cleaning procedures throughout building to clean and disinfect
- Rotation of UV cart to provide increased level of sanitation in each building
- Incident response procedures

Please contact John Shepulski for additional information.

**If a child/parent refuses to wear the mask, should they have to be driven to school? No mask, no transportation?**

Yes. Failure to wear a mask on the bus will result in loss of bus privileges.

**Will there be contact tracing if someone is exposed and quarantined?**

Yes. The Department of Health will conduct contact tracing if there is a confirmed positive case in the district. The district will gather pertinent information to assist the Department of Health in this process. The Department of Health will determine who is required to quarantine in the event of a positive case.