

THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR AT GREAT NECK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED



THE "GROUP A"/"GROUP B" HYBRID SCHEDULE

What will the first day of school look like for the "Group A" (Orange) students and the "Group B" (Blue) students?

The Orange ("Group A" on their schedule) students will attend school in-person on the first day of school, **Tuesday, September 8th**, and will follow a "Day A" schedule. (The "Day A" schedule is what determines whether they go to their science lab or their physical education class.) The Blue ("Group B" on their schedule) students and the "full remote" students will be at home and will follow the school day by attending all of their "Day A" classes via Zoom or Google Meets. Students who are at home will either be live-streaming their class or will be assigned work or a recorded lesson.

On **Wednesday, September 9th**, the Blue students will attend school in-person, also following a "Day A" schedule. The Orange students and the "full remote" students will follow their schedule from home by attending all of their "Day A" classes via Zoom or Google Meets. Students who are at home will either be live-streaming their class or will be assigned work or a recorded lesson. On **Thursday, September 10th**, the Orange students will be back in

school and will follow a “Day B” schedule. The Blue students will follow a “Day B” schedule on **Friday, September 11th**.

Will teachers reach out to students before the start of school to provide links to Zoom or Google Meets?

Some teachers have already started to contact their students. Many have also contacted the parents of students.

BUS TRANSPORTATION & MORNING DROP OFF

How will students be seated on the bus?

Buses will be loaded from back to front; that is, the first students on the bus will walk to the back of the bus for seats. Buses will unload starting with students in the front of the bus, one seat at a time. Members of the same household are encouraged to sit together.

Please refer to the district reopening plan presentation for a full explanation. Transportation information appears on pages 5 through 8.

<https://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY02208059/Centricity/domain/27/presentations2020-21/Reopening%20Presentation%208-19-20.pdf>

Will there be any late buses?

There will be no late buses until after September 18th.

How are buses being kept clean?

Please refer to **page 8** of the reopening plan presentation.

<https://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY02208059/Centricity/domain/27/presentations2020-21/Reopening%20Presentation%208-19-20.pdf>

I plan to drive my child to school. What do I need to know about drop off?

Parents who are driving their children should drop off starting at 7:45 a.m. The main lobby entrance and the East Gym entrance will be open for students to go through security and have their temperatures checked. Parents are reminded to pull their car up as much as they can towards the east end of the school in order to allow more cars to pull in behind them, help alleviate traffic, and allow for a smoother drop off process



The East Gym entrance and the driveway leading to it. Please follow the instructions of the security guards to drive up as much as possible to the east end of the school.

How does the building plan to process the arrival of 400 students (with temperature checks, etc.) in a 15-minute window each morning?

As noted above, students will be entering the building through both the main lobby entrance and the East Gym entrance.

THE HYBRID SCHEDULE

What's the difference between a day in school and a day at home for the hybrid schedule?

When students are in school they will follow their regular class schedule and will attend classes in person. On the following day, when attending from home, they will follow their schedule and will check into their classes for attendance. Teachers will decide whether the students will live-stream the class or whether they will do an assignment or asynchronous (recorded) lesson at home. If they are doing something different from the students in school, they will likely be able to be off-camera after they check-in for attendance at the start of class. Either way, students will be expected to follow their 9-period schedule every day.

Will hybrid students need to keep their camera on while attending school on their "at home" day?

Cameras will need to be on for attendance and all students must show their face on camera. The use of avatars or other screen fillers is not permitted. Teachers will determine if they want the students "at home" to remain tuned in to the class or to do assigned work on their own.

What are some examples of “asynchronous” learning?

Asynchronous learning includes recorded lessons, recorded videos, reading assignments, writing assignments and other lessons and assignments that students complete on their own, on their own time.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Will the school day start and end as usual? Was passing time increased between classes?

Yes, the school day will start at 7:59 a.m. and will end at 2:33 p.m., as in past years.

The passing time between classes will remain at 4 minutes. (Fewer than 400 students will be in the school on any given day. Our overall student population is approximately 1200 students.)

How will students be seated in the classroom?

Desks are spaced 6 feet apart and all desks will face forward towards the front of the room. Since some students will be remote, only about 35 to 40 percent of our students will be in school on a typical day. That means that there will be plenty of room in the classroom to allow for social distancing.

Normal size classrooms have been set up with 15 desks per room, spaced 6 feet apart. Smaller rooms have fewer desks, but all are 6 feet apart. Here is a photo of a typical classroom set up:



More information about how the classrooms will be set up can be found on **pages 14 and 15** of the district reopening plan presentation:

<https://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY02208059/Centricity/domain/27/presentations2020-21/Reopening%20Presentation%208-19-20.pdf>

How many students in each grade at South High School will be attending school in person?

There are 360 students in Group "A" (Orange) and 340 students in Group "B" (Blue). The Orange group has 91 students in 9th grade, 78 in 10th grade, 93 in 11th grade and 98 in 12th grade. The Blue group has 88 students in 9th grade, 80 in 10th grade, 96 in 11th grade and 83 in 12th grade. There are 83 "full remote" 9th graders, 109 "full remote" 10th graders, 97 "full remote" 11th graders and 113 "full remote" 12th graders. Some special education students will attend school in-person every day.

Teachers have reached out to students asking them to bring headphones to school. Why do students need headphones?

It is recommended that students bring headphones to class to minimize sound “feedback” during Zoom discussions. The teachers will be using microphones and remote students will be participating by Zoom. If all of that audio came out of every student’s iPad speaker, it would create a lot of sound “feedback.” Using headphones will eliminate that problem.

“FULL REMOTE” STUDENTS

Will “full remote” students be joining the classroom remotely with both “Orange” and “Blue” groups or will they follow the hybrid schedule of one of the groups, being “remote” but participating in the live class one day and doing the “at home” work on the group’s “at home” day?

“Full remote” students will not be following a strict Orange or Blue schedule per se; instead, each teacher on the student’s schedule will determine when the remote student will be connecting “live.” For example, a “full remote” student’s Math teacher might want them to participate in the “live” class on an Orange day because in-person enrollment on that day is less so they can give more attention to the remote students, but their Science teacher might want them to participate “live” on a Blue day. This variation will allow students to have a mix of both “live” classes and some asynchronous work away from the camera and their device every day.

Do “full remote” students need to pick up any textbooks or will everything be on Google Classroom?

Many lessons can be accommodated via sharing documents on Google Classroom. If any textbooks need to be picked up, teachers will communicate that to their students.

What are some examples of “asynchronous” learning?

Asynchronous learning includes recorded lessons, recorded videos, reading assignments, writing assignments and other lessons and assignments that students complete on their own, on their own time.

How likely is it that a “full remote” South High student will be able to return to South High in-person for the second semester? Are there any space limitations? If so, how will it be decided whether there is room for a student to return?

“Full remote” students will be sent a questionnaire in November to ask if they want to remain “full remote” for the spring semester or if they want to return to school. Once we have the responses, we will try to accommodate all requests for students who want to come back to school in-person for the second half of the school year.

Each classroom has been set up so there is at least 6 feet of space between each desk. If we still need to maintain 6 feet of distance between desks in the spring semester, whether or not a remote student will be able to return to school will depend on whether there is enough physical space to accommodate them in each of their classes on either an Orange or a Blue day.

The total number of students enrolled in each section of a class remains the same as it would have been had we been able to open as usual. The class is divided into Orange, Blue and Remote.

EXTRA HELP

We understand that “extra help” will initially be done virtually for all students. At what time of day will “extra help” be offered? Students will need to get on the bus right after school and travel home before they will be able to connect virtually. How will that work?

For the first three weeks of school, extra help will only be offered virtually. After that, the school will re-evaluate whether to have in-person “extra help” for students who are attending school in person or to continue offering it exclusively virtually. Teachers will share the “extra help” schedules with their students and it will be arranged at a time that students can attend.

How will “full remote” students arrange for extra help?

Teachers will share their “extra help” schedules with their students.

IEPs AND SUPPORT SERVICES

How will the special education program, such as IEPs, be handled?

Support services will continue as mandated.

LUNCH

How will students be seated in the cafeteria?

Tables in the cafeteria will be replaced with desks so that everyone can while maintaining a social distance of six feet. Here is a photo showing how our cafeteria is set up for lunch:



More information about lunch can be found on **pages 11 and 12** of the reopening plan presentation:

<https://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY02208059/Centricity/domain/27/presentations2020-21/Reopening%20Presentation%208-19-20.pdf>

Will students be able to eat lunch during class if they don't have a lunch period?

Students will not be permitted to eat in the classroom. Students who do not have a lunch period will be given a lunch pass from the Guidance Office so that they can take a few minutes to leave the classroom, remove their mask and eat lunch. We don't want to risk that students will have their masks off for a prolonged period of time in the classroom. Unlike elementary students who will be eating in the classroom, high school students do not stay with the same cohort of students all day; they travel from class to class and interact with many different teachers and students during the course of a school day.

Where can students eat other than the cafeteria?

Students can eat in the lobby, seated one student to a bench, or outside in the courtyard. Outside benches were purchased. Students may also be permitted to eat in the auditorium in a socially-distanced manner.

Has any thought been given to the possibility of lunches being eaten under tents on the playing fields?

As noted in the presentation at the August 19th Board of Education meeting, according to State Education Department regulations, temporary pop-up tents (canopies) without walls may not exceed 400GSF. This size structure is too small, will not ensure social distancing requirements and cannot be used for instruction.

Although we will not have any tents, low rise bleachers have been ordered for outdoor seating.

MASK COMPLIANCE & MASK BREAKS

Who will correct students who are not wearing their masks properly?

Students will be required to wear a mask properly during the school day. If a student is unaware of how to wear a mask, a staff member will correct them. If a student is intentionally not wearing their mask correctly, or if they are not wearing a mask at all, the student will be subject to school discipline.

Please explain "mask breaks."

Most students will need time during the school day to take their masks off for a few minutes. Supervised mask breaks will be permitted during lunch, outside with social distancing, in the lobby when it is not crowded with students and there is enough socially distant space available, or in large open cafeteria and gym spaces.

If a student needs a mask break during class, a student may stand in the hallway for a minute or two within a teacher's line of vision.

SPORTS & CLUBS

Are fall sports cancelled?

Unfortunately, in order to keep all student athletes safe, the Nassau County section of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) voted to postpone interscholastic sports until January 4, 2021.

When sports begin, will Orange Day students and Blue day students practice together?

Yes. All students will attend together; however, students who were remote learners on the day of a practice will need to have their own transportation to school for practice.

Will there be after school clubs?

Clubs will start on or about September 18th. Clubs can begin virtually before then. Once clubs begin in-person, 6 feet of social distancing must be maintained.

Can "full remote" students attend clubs and sports in-person once those activities start happening in person?

Yes. The "full remote" students will need to have their temperature checked upon arrival and, of course, they will need to provide their own transportation to school.

Will there be “Period 0” Gym class or morning swim practice?

“Period 0” Gym class will occur in the East Gym. There won’t be any swimming for this class. Students should enter the building through the East Gym entrance and the teacher, Mr. DiLevo, will greet them and take their temperature.

Will there be any area where students can stay after school just to study?

As we start off the school year, students will not be permitted to stay after school for any reason. There won’t be any late buses through September 18th. At that time, after-school activities will be re-assessed.

ABSENCES ON A “REMOTE” DAY

If my child is sick on a day that they are “remote,” should I call attendance to report that they will not be attending remotely?

Yes. Contact the Attendance Office any time that your child is not able to attend their classes, whether they are scheduled to attend in-person or remotely. The **Attendance Office** can be reached at **(516) 441-4815**. You can also submit an Attendance Survey on the Parent Portal to report the absence. Teachers will be taking attendance in all classes for all students, whether remote or in-person.

VENTILATION

What practices are in place to ensure adequate ventilation and air circulation at all times?

Classroom windows will be open to circulate fresh air. Fresh air dampers on all ventilation equipment will be completely opened manually to ensure that the optimal amount of outside air is introduced into a space. Air conditioners are set to exhaust settings.

Teachers may also choose to take students outside on occasion.

More information about ventilation can be found on **pages 18 and 19** of the reopening plan presentation:

<https://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY02208059/Centricity/domain/27/presentations2020-21/Reopening%20Presentation%208-19-20.pdf>

SAFETY WHILE PASSING IN THE HALLWAYS

How will social distancing be enforced while students are walking together and passing other students in the hallways between classes?

Students will have masks on while passing in the hallway. Since they will be traveling to their next class within a four minute span of time, there will not be any prolonged exposure to any individual. Lockers will not be in use, which will allow traffic in the hallways to pass more freely.

In addition, some hallways and stairwells will be one-way only. Some will continue to be two-way. Signs will be posted and a map will be shared with students.

Students will not be permitted to congregate in groups in the hallways.



These photos show some of the signage that was put into place around the school to direct students about social distancing and whether a hallway or stairwell is one-way only or two-way.



MUSIC, GYM & SCIENCE LABS

What will happen with Band, Orchestra and Chorus?

Musical performance classes will start off as music appreciation and music history classes. No one will play a musical instrument or sing until at least September 21st when it will be re-evaluated.

How will gym classes take place?

Gym classes will all be held in large spaces or outdoors and only socially distant, non-contact activities will take place.

How will “full remote” students participate in gym classes?

Gym classes will focus on non-contact activities. It is expected that “full remote” students will participate in some of the same activities from home. When that is not practical, they will be given a substitute activity

How will “full remote” students participate in science labs?

The district is providing virtual lab activities for “full remote” students.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Will there be a 9th grade orientation like in past years?

9th grade orientation will take place in person to allow students to follow their class schedule and locate their classrooms. There will also be some virtual components.

Will the hybrid model affect testing days? I'm concerned that my child will have a few tests in one day.

The usual department testing day schedule will be followed.

What if my child has a technical difficulty during Zoom or another remote activity?

Please advise the teacher of any technical difficulties.

Can students change cohorts (from Orange to Blue or Blue to Orange) so they can attend with their friends?

Students cannot change cohorts. A lot of time and planning went into dividing students into two groups for the alternating school days. This process also involved dividing all class sections into two groups to make everything as balanced as possible.

If my child is not feeling well and cannot attend school in-person, can they join remotely that day?

Contact your child's teacher if they are not feeling well but would like to attend remotely on a day that they should be in school.

What should I do if the health circumstances in my household change and my child needs to change from hybrid to a "full remote" schedule?

Please contact Dr. Gitz at cgitz@greatneck.k12.ny.us to see if the change can be accommodated.

What should I do if my child is not getting enough attention in class, whether in-person or remotely, or has any other problems in class?

Always contact your child's teacher first to try to resolve the issue. You can also reach out to their guidance counselor. If the issue still doesn't get resolved, contact the department head. (All contact information can be found on the school's website.) Do not contact the assistant principals or the building principal unless you have already reached out to the teacher and department head and the issue is still not resolved.

Will the quality of the remote learning be evaluated over the course of the school year?

The school administration will work with the PTO to host virtual forums where we can gather feedback, as well as answer questions and address concerns about how things are going as the school year progresses.

Why isn't the district COVID testing every student and faculty member before they return to school?

It is not a mandate at this time. We will have temperature checks upon arrival at school and will ask students and faculty to check for and report any symptoms.

Will my child's transcript indicate whether they attended school in-person on a hybrid schedule or whether they attended remotely?

No. Transcripts will not indicate whether hybrid or remote.

What about Open House, parent meetings, Guidance meetings?

All parent meetings, Open House, PTO meetings, etc. will take place virtually.

What about water fountains and bottle refilling stations?

Water fountains will not be in use. Students will need to refill their own water bottles at the bottle refilling stations which will be sanitized on a regular basis by the custodial staff.