

**Question #1:**

What is the Hybrid Plan?

Answer #1: The hybrid plan is a combination of in-person and remote learning. If parents choose the hybrid method of instruction for their children, there will be three days of new lessons per week. A child who is on an “A” schedule will have in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday and virtual instruction on Wednesday which will encompass all new lessons. On Thursday and Friday, activities through SeeSaw/Google Meet, various projects and readings will be assigned to reinforce the in-person and virtual instruction. Students can also check in with teachers during the teachers “office hours.” Students on the “B” schedule will do the same on the opposite days.

Question #2:

What will the school day look like for 100% remote instruction?

Answer #2: If parents choose a full remote schedule for their children, there will be a dedicated teacher or teachers who will provide live lessons daily. Benchmark assessments will be given based on the skills that have been taught and frequent formative assessments will gauge student knowledge of concepts.

Question #3:

If we choose one plan and decide we want to switch to the other plan, will we be allowed to do that?

Answer #3: If hybrid instruction is chosen, families can switch to virtual, however due to spacing restrictions, families cannot switch from remote to hybrid until the marking period ends.

Question #4:

Is there a process to follow to switch plans?

Answer #4: Families will be allowed to switch plans at the end of each marking period. The process will be shared at a later date.

Question #5:

What safety and health measures are being taken for in-person instruction?

Answer #5: Students and staff will be required to wear masks at all times. Students or staff with a medical note or designated impairment may wear face shields. Social distancing will be enforced in hallways (one way) and outside offices, SAC office, nurse’s office, bathrooms, etc. as per CDC/NJDOH guidelines. These combined safety measures exceed CDC guidelines. Entrances, exits, drop-offs and pick-ups will require modification for social distancing. All students and staff will use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus or school building. Hand sanitizer will be available in every office and classroom for use at a minimum of every two hours. Temperatures of all students and staff will be taken on the school bus and prior to entering the school building. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be isolated until leaving the building.

Question #6:

What measures are being taken to assure that ventilation is safe in all rooms and hallways used by children and staff?

Answer #6: The district is currently reviewing all standards and guidelines set forth by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) with respect to the proper operation of all HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems throughout the district. In addition, we are working to ensure all federal, state and local guidelines are being satisfied. Specifically, the NJDOE has issued guidance based on information from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to limit the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. With the help of engineering professionals, a survey of the district is currently underway to evaluate and assess the HVAC systems for compliance with the ASHRAE and NJDOE guidelines. Our focus is on health and safety, and classroom spaces occupied by students and staff will be designed for proper ventilation, airflow, and social distancing.

**Question #7:**

Will the virtual only option be the same across classrooms and schools?

Answer #7: Yes.

Question #8:

Will the hybrid online option be the same across elementary schools or school specific?

Answer #8: The hybrid option will follow the same schedule, however instructional practices will be specific to each teacher.

Question #9:

What will the classrooms look like?

Answer #9: Desks will be placed at six-foot intervals to ensure proper social distancing.

Question #10:

When is the first day of school for students?

Answer #10: The first day of school for students will be September 10, 2020.

Question #11:

When will we know whether our child is assigned to the Mountie or Bulldog group?

Answer #11: Families will have an opportunity to indicate their choice for hybrid or remote during the week of August 17th through a survey that will be sent through Parent Access. Students will be assigned to the Mountie or Bulldog group during the week of August 24th.

Question #12:

Can we have our children grouped with other families for childcare or learning purposes?

Answer #12: Children will be grouped with immediate family members only.

Question #13:

What are the hours for the school day?

Answer #13: All schools will operate on a condensed schedule. Specific schedules will be sent from each school.

Question #14:

Will lunch be served/provided?

Answer #14: Lunch will be provided for free/reduced eligible families. A procedure will be announced for students to receive breakfast and lunch.

Question #15:

Will my child be guaranteed to have a device and internet connectivity?

Answer #15: Yes.

Question #16:

How will support be delivered maintaining social distance for students with an IEP?

Answer #16: There are some students who require "hand over hand" instruction. In this case teachers/paras will utilize gloves, face shields with a mask and hand sanitizers as well as frequent hand washing to ensure a safe learning environment.

**Question #17:**

Will there be an opportunity for virtual, one-on-one support during remote days for students with an IEP?

Answer #17: Yes, as we did during Extended School Year (ESY) we will utilize break out rooms for teachers/paras to assist students who need reinforcement for a particular content or activity.

Question #18:

There are school holidays on Mondays. How will this affect the Mountie and Bulldog groups for the number of days they attend school?

Answer #18: With the change of the school schedule, there is only one Monday holiday. It will not be necessary to alter the schedule.

Question #19:

Kindergarteners usually have classrooms with shared tables. How will this be handled?

Answer #19: Shared tables will not be utilized. Students must maintain social distancing at all times and therefore will be in seats that are six feet apart.

Question #20:

What opportunities will be provided for students to socialize during the in-person sessions?

Answer #20: There will be limited interaction to maintain safety protocol; however, there will be snack time for grades K-3.

Question #21:

Can we choose different options for children in the same family, hybrid vs. remote?

Answer #21: Yes.

Question #22:

Are the cleaning products being used in school buildings non-toxic? How will the schools be cleaned? Will you use Electromagnetic cleaning rather than antiseptic spray?

Answer #22: All cleaning products are non-toxic and are green seal certified. The products are also on the CDC's List N for disinfectants for use against COVID-19. Schools will be cleaned via a combination of spraying and wiping, as well as the use of fogging equipment.

Question #23:

What will instruction look like for K-2?

Answer #23: Now that we are opening school in fully remote mode, **K-2 students will have a total of 4 hours of instruction daily for five days per week** which consists of 2.5 hours live instruction in core subjects with their actual teacher and 1.5 hours of related arts as well as independent work and teacher office hours. This schedule will incorporate 20 to 30-minute lessons with breaks in between allowing for students to refocus, stretch, and have a break from screen time. We are considering a new platform for virtual instruction that has proven to be engaging for the early learner. More information will be available by the end of the week. Our focus is to provide a rich and rigorous experience for our youngest learners.

Question #24:

What will instruction look like for Special Education students?

Answer #24: Special Education students will receive all IEP mandated services to the greatest extent possible during both remote, hybrid and face-to-face learning.

**Question #25:**

Will there be extra-curricular activities before or after school?

Answer #25: No. There will be before- and after-care in school once we are back in school. Extracurricular activities have yet to be determined.

Question #26:

Will there be before- and after-care from the YMCA?

Answer #26: Yes.

Question #27:

Will the district provide clear expectations for reaching mastery at a given grade level/subject?

Answer #27: Our curriculum supervisors are working on revising our curriculum to ensure that all standards are covered.

Question #28:

How will electives be included in the curriculum?

Answer #28: Electives will be included in all models.

Question #29:

Will outdoor spaces be used for instruction?

Answer #29: Yes, when possible, when we transition to a hybrid model.

Question #30:

Will visitors be allowed in schools?

Answer #30: No.

Question #31:

How can we access the Parent University?

Answer #31: Plans are in development and you will receive an email as to how to access it.

Question #32:

Will Wednesday be a four-hour or full day of instruction?

Answer #32: Wednesday will be a 4-hour day.

Question #33:

What do we do if we need childcare and we are in the remote option?

Answer #33: The district is working with community partners and will provide information as it becomes available. Currently the YMCA will be providing before- and after-care.

Question #34:

How will remote instruction be enhanced and will it include live instruction?

Answer #34: Remote instruction will include live instruction. Teachers will be provided with opportunities to learn online practices that work such as virtual project-based learning and accountable talk. They will also include opportunities for students to interact with peers, such as through discussion and group work during the class period.

Question #35:

Is there training and Professional Development (PD) planned for teachers to support remote learning? How is there consistency across schools?

Answer #35: All district teachers will receive district-led PD.

**Question #36:**

What happens if a student or staff member tests positive? Will the school close?

Answer #36: The Montclair Health Department along with our school nurses and district physician will be notified to determine level of contact (casual vs. close contact). Contact tracing will be led by the Montclair Health Department. The decision for school closure will be made by the Health Department based on these facts. School will not necessarily close due to one positive case of COVID in our school staff or student population. We are following the guidance of our school physician, and if someone tests positive for COVID, that person needs a negative test before being allowed back to school.

Question #37:

How will the district ensure there is teacher to student engagement for the virtual program with opportunities for small group video calls and time to speak with their teacher for feedback?

Answer #37: All teachers will have opportunities for small group calls in their schedule.

Question #38:

For virtual learning, will work be released weekly so students can complete it at their own pace/time frame?

Answer #38: Work will be posted by 8 am each morning.

Question #39:

For K-2, will the classes pod? Will the same homeroom teacher do both pods?

Answer #39: Yes.

Question #40:

What is Home Instruction and Homeschooling?

Answer #40:

Home Instruction

In New Jersey, home instruction is the provision of one-to-one or small group instruction in the student's place of residence or other appropriate setting due to a health condition, need for treatment, court order or exclusion from general education for disciplinary or safety reasons. The Legislature under home or out-of-school instruction due to a temporary or chronic health condition (6A:16-10.1), and home or out-of-school instruction for a general education student for reasons other than a temporary or chronic health condition (6A:16-10.2), requires that a board of education provide instructional services to an enrolled student, whether a general education student in kindergarten through grade 12 or special education student age three to 21, when the student is confined to the home or another out-of-school setting due to a temporary or chronic health condition or a need for treatment that precludes participation in their usual education setting, whether general education or special education; or instruction for a general education student for reasons other than a temporary or chronic health condition.

To request home instruction, parents must contact the Director of Pupil Services (973-509-4022), Included in the request should be your child's name, grade and the current school they attend.

Homeschooling

In New Jersey, the Legislature under the compulsory education law (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25) has permitted children to receive "equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school," including the home. Under the Montclair Public Schools, parents choosing to place their children in "Pods" is considered/defined as homeschooling. Parents are mandated, by the following New Jersey statute regarding compulsory education, to enroll their children in school.



Montclair Public Schools: FAQ/Re-entry Plans for Fall

- N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25 requires that “every parent, guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between six and 16 to ensure that such child regularly attends the public schools of the district or a day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that provided in the public schools for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school.”

To homeschool your child you must first submit a letter of intent or email notification (roxsmith@montclair.k12.nj.us) to the Assistant Superintendent for Equity, Curriculum and Instruction. Included in the letter should be your child’s name, grade and the current school they attend.