



High School - Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on September 10, 2020

Q: What date will the all-remote learning start?

A: Tuesday, September 15th

Q: I am currently in the hybrid model. Will I still be coming to school?

A: Students in Cohort B will come to school on Friday, September 11th. Students in Cohort A will be in school on Monday, September 14th. All students will then start remote learning on Tuesday, September 15th.

Q: I am in the remote model. When will I see my schedule for classes?

A: Students who chose the all-remote model will be able to see their schedules beginning Thursday, September 10th at 9:00pm.

Q: Why did the district decide to go all-remote for grades 5-12 instead of keeping the hybrid option?

A: Our current model is not sustainable because we have students who have not yet begun their school year. This needs to change immediately. We thoroughly considered and discussed every option available and we have agreed on a model that addresses all of the concerns we have heard and values we hold for our students.

We have been listening and appreciating all of the concerns we've heard from the community and based on that feedback we understand that our community values

- Equitable education for all students
- High-quality instruction with Williamsville teachers
- Continuing the connection for each student with his or her school community five days a week
- Access to all of our programming opportunities for all students

Q: What are the strengths of this model as opposed to others?

A: This model has many strengths and benefits for our students, including:

- All students will learn with existing high-quality teachers from their current middle school or high school, with whom they may already have connections.



- All students will be able to have the same rich opportunities to participate in all the courses we offer including elective courses, accelerated classes, SUPA programs, Project Lead the Way, and Advanced Placement courses and to take advantage of the full-range of academic supports that are provided to our students. In the previous model, there were courses that would be denied to remote students, and courses that would be denied to hybrid students. That inequity is unacceptable.
- Provides synchronous, high-quality instruction five days a week from the classrooms and allows students to have all of the courses available to them.
- This model allows for seamless transitions in case NYS directs school districts to close. We can easily maintain all of the elements we value. Having all students in the same model allows us to be flexible based on any changes in circumstances, or directives from NYS.

Q: Are the teachers prepared to make the switch to this model by Tuesday?

A: Yes. Based on the events of the spring, we were preparing to possibly implement this model and spent the summer offering professional learning opportunities and training on remote instruction. Our curriculum teams also worked to revise our curriculum so it could adapt to a remote model if needed. The Williamsville teaching staff is prepared to deliver instruction in this manner to students. In addition, we convened a cohesive remote learning committee of over 20 stakeholders including parents, teachers, and administrators at all three levels of instruction. That committee produced a vision for remote learning and recommendations that will be an integral part of our current model.

Q: Will changing to the all-remote model allow us to meet the New York State Education Department's 180 days of instruction requirement?

A: Yes. Implementing this model means that we can meet the 180 days of instruction regulation without interrupting any breaks or vacations.

Q: It says that the target date of return to the school building (in some form) is January 4th. Does that mean we are definitely out until January 4th?

A: No. We want to bring students back to the building, and we will do everything possible to bring students back into the building earlier than January 4th.

Q: How much direct, synchronous instructional time will students have with their teachers each week?



A: Students will be in the classroom for direct, synchronous instruction for 165 minutes, per class, per week. This is an increase of 60 minutes per week from the Hybrid model.

Q: I'm enrolled in the Harkness program. Can I still do that?

A: Yes, students enrolled in the Harkness program will attend 2 days a week (per the current Harkness model). Transportation for these students will be provided. However, Harkness also provides a full-virtual option.

Q: Will district self-contained classes also be remote?

A: No. District self-contained classes will continue to attend the school building five days a week, on the schedule they are currently on.

Q: Does this model allow students with special needs to receive supports as required in their IEP or 504 plan?

A: This model allows us to provide more face-to-face special education support to students, as required by their Individual Education Plans. It also allows those supports to be provided by teachers from the student's own school. This model does not prohibit the District from providing in-person related services for students when necessary. We will continue to monitor students' progress and adjust or modify the services provided to them as necessary. For additional information on special education programming read the [Special Education Programming Considerations](#).

Q: Will ENL students still report to school four days a week?

A: No, ENL students will be attending school virtually, all five days of the week, through the all-remote model. However, this model does not prohibit the District from providing in-person related services for students when necessary. For additional information on special education programming read the [Special Education Programming Considerations](#).

Q: Will teachers be available to provide students with extra help if they need it?

A: Yes, all teachers will be available in the morning during "Period 0" to provide students with extra help on an as needed basis, as well as after school during "Period 10"

Q: What is the "Homeroom" period on Wednesdays used for?



A: We will use the Wednesday homeroom time to establish an ally/mentor system, with each teacher taking on a small group of students that they will meet with to ensure they are working successfully in the remote model as well as to build connections with families and students, work with students on their Social and Emotional Learning, increase Trauma-informed practices, and be an advocate for their group of students.

Q: Will I still be able to take my AP/SUPA classes in the all-remote model?

A: Yes, the students will follow the schedule of courses they requested, which includes AP, SUPA & college -level courses.

Q: Will I still be able to take my elective classes in the all-remote model?

A: Yes, students will keep all of the classes on their schedule.

Q: What will I do if my teacher is absent?

A: When a teacher is absent, they will post this information as soon as possible to let the class know what they should do that day.

Q: Who will be teaching my classes?

A: Classes will be taught by the Williamsville teachers listed on your schedule.

Q: Will going to an all-remote model affect sports being played?

A: No, high school athletics will still be allowed to be held after school based on the guidance provided by NYSPHSAA and Section VI.

Q: What about clubs and other extracurricular activities?

A: We will continue to offer some extracurricular activities on a limited basis. Advisors for these activities will be communicating to all students in regards to their interest in participating.

Q: Will breakfast and lunch still be available for students while in the all-remote model?

A: Yes, prior to Tuesday, September 15th, information will be provided by Child and Nutrition Services on the pick-up process and schedule for breakfast and lunch.



Q: How will students get access to supplies and materials while in the all-remote model?

A: We will work collaboratively with teachers to create pick-up and/or drop-off schedules for any supplies or materials that students need to have.

Q: What will the daily “bell schedule” look like for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday?

Virtual Bell Schedule - M, T, Th, Fr

Period	Time
0	7:45 - 8:10am
1	8:10 - 8:45am
2	8:55 - 9:30am
3	9:40 - 10:15am
4	10:25 - 11:00am
5	11:10 - 11:45am
6	11:55 - 12:30pm
7	12:40 - 1:15pm
8	1:25 - 2:00pm
9	2:10 - 2:45pm
10	2:45 - 3:00pm

Q: What will the daily “bell schedule” look like for Wednesdays?

Virtual Bell Schedule - Wednesday

Period	Time
Homeroom	10:00 - 10:15am
1	10:20 - 10:45am



2	10:50 - 11:15am
3	11:20 - 11:45am
4	11:50 - 12:15pm
5	12:20 - 12:45pm
6	12:50 - 1:15pm
7	1:20 - 1:45pm
8	1:50 - 2:15pm
9	2:20 - 2:45pm

Q: Will the high schools still be running the same “day cycle” schedule?

A: The three high schools will be running their normal day cycles during the all-remote model.

- East - Every-other-day cycle, Days A/B
- North - 6 day cycle, Days A/B/C/D/E/F
- South - 6 day cycle, Days 1/2/3/4/5/6

Q: Do students need to sign in to a “class” during Lunch, study hall or free periods?

A: No ,when students do not have an actual class scheduled, they do not need to be online.

*Add links to Zoom and GSuite tutorials (how students can join step-by-step)