

Lehigh Area School District

Parent and Guardian Fall Planning Update Frequently Asked Questions

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information	Page 2
COVID-19	Page 4
Transportation	Page 7
Elementary	Page 8
Secondary	Page 12

General Information

1. **Q: Who can I contact if I have questions about the district's Health & Safety Plan that are not answered in the Frequently Asked Questions below**

A: If your question is not answered in the Frequently Asked Questions below, you can email the district at the email address dedicated to answering questions regarding reopening our schools: back2school@lehighton.org.

2. **Q: What should my child be prepared to bring to school daily?**

A. Children are encouraged to bring the following items to school each day:

- Hand sanitizer
- Water bottle filled with water
- At least one face covering (masks or face cloth). The district encourages students to bring an additional face covering in case the need arises to replace the original one.
- Student owned technology device, if possible (BYOD)

3. **Q: What will be the modified start and end times for the student day and when can I drop off my child(ren)?**

A: Listed below are the start and end times for the school day for each of our schools. If you have questions, please contact your child's building level principal.

Building	Drop-off Time	Start Time	End Time
Lehighton Elementary School	8:30 AM	9:00 AM	2:30 PM
Lehighton Area Middle School	8:10 AM	8:20 AM	2:30 PM
Lehighton Area High School	7:35 AM	7:50 AM	2:00 PM

4. **Q: Will start and end times change during the course of the school year?**

A: No

5. **Q: Will students who participate in the district cyber option (LAVA) be able to participate in school sports (grades 7 through 12)?**

A: Yes

6. **Q: Will non-athletic clubs and activities be held this school year? If a student chooses the cyber option will they be allowed to join these activities with the in-person students?**

A: Each co-curricular activity will be evaluated based upon the Health and Safety protocols established. The administration will be working with appropriate staff to determine which activities may be permitted. Students in the LAVA Program will be provided the opportunity to join activities that will be offered.

7. Q: How do I go up signing my child up for the cyber program?

A: Families interested in applying for the LAVA program should email and visit website:
<https://sites.google.com/view/lasdlava/home>

8. Q: What grades will be eligible for the Lehigh Area Virtual Academy?

A: All students in grades K-12 are eligible to enroll in our Lehigh Area Virtual Academy (LAVA).

9. Q: Will there be dedicated teachers teaching the cyber program?

A: Yes, there will be dedicated Lehigh Area School District teachers teaching the LAVA program.

10. Q: Will the cyber program be a permanent option? Even after Covid-19?

A: The District is committing to the Lehigh Area Virtual Academy program for the 2020-2021 school year and will reevaluate the program at the end of the school year.

11. Q: Would devices be provided under the cyber program?

A: Yes, both devices and technology support will be provided.

12. Q: Will the district allow visitors in the buildings?

A: There will be no visitors/volunteers allowed in the school buildings. This will be reassessed after the fall school semester. When visitors/volunteers are authorized back in the buildings they must indicate at sign-in that they are following self-screening procedures prior to permitting entry and are required to use face coverings at all times.

13. Q: Will schools be able to adhere to the 6 foot CDC guideline at all times?

A: Administration has put into place procedures to assist in maintaining the 6-foot social distancing as per the PDE and CDC guidance. The Health and Safety Plan has all educational settings with 6 feet of social distancing. When students are present in their classrooms and other instructional areas they will be permitted to remove their masks/face coverings, while keeping the six foot of social distance. However, we are mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community there are no strategies alone that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. Our plan and administration will continue to make a good faith effort to keep all students and staff safe.

14. Q: How will children, staff, and authorized visitors be screened prior to entry into school buildings?

A:

Children: In order to avoid large gatherings of children at building entrances and respect children's privacy, the District is asking and relying on parents to screen children prior to leaving the home and getting on a bus or entering a school building. A child with a fever of 100°F or higher must stay home and parents should contact the school to notify them of the reason for the absence. This is an important step in maintaining our school community's health and safety.

Staff: The District is asking and relying on staff to screen themselves prior to entering a school building. A staff member with a fever of 100°F or higher must stay home and should follow normal absence reporting procedures.

Visitors/Volunteers: During the fall of 2020, visitors and volunteers will not be allowed in the school buildings. Once authorized visitors/volunteers are allowed in the buildings, the District is asking and relying on them to screen themselves prior to entering a school building. Authorized visitors and volunteers will be required to complete a sign-in sheet confirming that they have screened themselves and do not have any COVID-19-related symptoms.

15. Q: What will happen if a student begins to feel ill during the school day?

A: If a student begins to feel ill during the school day, he/she should notify the teacher immediately. The student will be sent to the school nurse, wearing his/her face covering, and the nurse will assess the student's symptoms. If the student is exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms, every effort will be made to isolate the student and parents/guardians will be called to immediately pick up their student. Parents/guardians will be asked to contact their physician and/or appropriate healthcare professional for further directions.

16. Q: Will parents/guardians be notified if a member of the school becomes infected with COVID-19?

A: If case counts become present in our school community, Certified School Nurses will maintain frequent contact with the PA Department of Health to assist in the identification of close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases and to obtain the PA Department of Health's recommendations for notifications, exclusions, and closures.

17. Q: Will I be told which student(s)/staff have been infected with COVID-19?

A: Individual health information is confidential, and the District will not reveal the identities of those who are infected with COVID-19. If you feel you have deduced who may be infected, confirmation will not be provided by the District.

18. Q: What should I do if my student has a medical condition which places him/her at a higher risk for serious illness if infected with COVID-19?

A: We recommend that you speak with your student's physician to obtain specific recommendations for your student's individual health situation, and contact the Certified School Nurse. Individual accommodations will be identified collaboratively by parents/guardians, school nurse, and school administrator and specified in individual student plans (e.g., 504 Accommodation Plan, Individual Health Plan, IEP).

19. Q: What should I do if my child has a low fever or just doesn't feel well?

A: Please contact your medical professional and consider keeping your child home.

20. Q: How do school attendance rules apply to students who need to quarantine at home?

A: The District's Attendance Policy 204 recognizes "quarantine" as a reasonable cause or condition that may cause an absence from school. Such absences are considered to be excused/lawful absences.

21. Q: How will my student receive his/her education if required to quarantine at home?

A: The health of your student, your family and our school community needs to be a continued shared priority for all of us. While your student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will not be expected to engage in assigned school work, and the teacher(s)/school team will work with him/her to learn missed material and progress forward when your student is feeling better. If your student is quarantined at home, but feeling well, the teacher(s)/school team will utilize our student learning management platforms (Canvas) to provide opportunities for the delivery of a continuity of education.

22. Q: Are all students required to wear face coverings?

A: Face covering requirements will follow the guidelines outlined by the Governor's Ordinance in place at the time. These guidelines as of July 17, 2020 indicate that face coverings are required for all students, unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.

23. Q: What qualifies as a face covering for both students and teachers?

A: Appropriate face coverings are outlined in the CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines and includes face masks.

24. Q: What are the expectations for how students and staff wear their face masks?

A: Masks/face coverings must meet the CDC guidelines as follows:

- The mouth and nose are fully covered
- The covering fits snugly against the sides of the face so there are no gaps
- The student should not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the face mask
- The face mask/coverings can be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping.

25. Q: Will the class sizes be small enough so that students will not have to wear masks/coverings?

A. Each room will have a designated capacity. All educational settings will maintain 6ft of distance with less than 25 people in the room. This will allow students to remove their masks when being seated in the educational settings.

Transportation

26. Q: Are masks/face coverings required at bus stops?

A: The District is requesting that students and parents/guardians follow the CDC guidelines, PA Department of Health Guidelines, and Governors ordinances in place at the time on social distancing and face coverings when at the bus stop.

27. Q: Are masks/face coverings required to be worn by students on the bus?

A: The District is requiring that all students while on the bus will be required to wear a face covering and that this covering stay on until the student has entered their assigned area in the school building(s).

28. Q: How will you mitigate the risk of COVID-19 when my child is riding on the bus?

A: Busses will be sanitized daily. The children will be seated with no more than two children per seat. The first two seats of the bus will not be used to provide more social distancing between the bus driver and the children. Face coverings are required of children unless doing so jeopardizes the physical and/or mental health of the child and/or wearing a face covering is not feasible due to a disability. Bus drivers will be required to wear face coverings when students are on the bus and when they enter or exit the bus.

29. Q: Will bus stop times be changing?

A: Times for bus pick up and drop off are evaluated each year based upon bus routes, student numbers, and ride time. As the 2020-2021 school year school start times are adjusted, this will also affect the pickup and student drop-off times. Once the transportation is finalized an updated bus schedule will be published.

30. Q: Will students be assigned seats on the bus?

A: Yes, all students will be assigned seats on their designated bus and we will make an effort to have siblings seated together on the bus. George's Transportation has always done a great job working with our administration to address matters of concern.

31. Q: Will bus drivers be required to wear a mask/face covering?

A: They will be required to wear an appropriate face covering while students are traveling on the bus and/or entering and exiting the bus.

Elementary

32. Q: Will masks/face coverings be provided or does each student bring their own?

A: Families will be encouraged to have at least five masks/face coverings for each child so that there is a new one each day or have it cleaned daily. It is suggested that each child have a lanyard to hang their mask on at times they are not wearing them. Masks/face coverings should be tasteful and not disruptive to the learning environment.

33. Q: Will face shields be permitted for students instead of masks?

A: No

34. Q: What educational opportunities are available for students at the elementary level?

A: (1) Daily Face-to-Face Instruction
(2) Remote Learning via the Swivel ([Swivl Demo](#))
(3) Lehigh Area Virtual Academy (LAVA)

35. Q: Can I send my elementary student to school in the morning and then choose to pick them up mid-day to continue virtually learning at home?

A: No. Students will be expected to stay throughout the day.

36. Q: How will breakfast and lunch be served to the students?

A: Students will be able to select from a bagged “grab-and-go” breakfast cart when they enter the building in the morning. All breakfast meals will be consumed in the classrooms. Lunches will be served in the cafeteria, on the stage, and the LGI rooms. Students will practice social distancing while sitting in the same direction.

37. Q: Will there be an option for elementary children to attend every-other-day learning as well?

A: No. We are planning for every day because we are safely able to do so and because we feel it’s best for student learning at that level. We also want to provide as much in-person instruction as possible to have students get to know each other, build community, and teach instructional technology in case we have to move to remote learning.

38. Q: Will elementary children still have recess?

A: Yes. Students will have recess while physically distancing without masks/face coverings. We are providing flexibility for more physical activity and recess. Initially, playground equipment will not be available, but we will continue to evaluate and follow recommendations from CDC guidelines.

39. Q: Will there be regular specials in the elementary schools?

A: Yes. Specials (technology, library, music, art, PE) will be offered in both the in-school and Virtual Academy options. In schools, teachers will come to classrooms to offer the specials. PE will be held outdoors or in the gym when possible. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after each PE class. We will try and schedule classes outside to the extent the weather, space and schedule allows.

40. Q: What is the district's Virtual Academy?

A: Our Virtual Academy is taught by LASD teachers assigned to our virtual school. For the most part, it will align with the same standards we use in our curriculum and it will include many of the same resources and instructional technology tools that we use during in-person learning. Students enrolled in our virtual programs will need to commit for a marking period.

41. Q: Is the Virtual Academy the same as the remote learning from the spring?

A: No. The Virtual Academy is not the same format as the remote learning experience but it is designed to include synchronous, but more asynchronous experiences, creating a more flexible schedule. A certified Lehigh Area School District teacher is assigned to help the student and grade the work. The Virtual Academy classes have more content specific material and higher expectations than the remote classes in the spring.

42. Q: What will the Virtual Academy be like for elementary students?

A: Our elementary Virtual Academy will be facilitated by LASD teachers and will include a class of students from across the district who are also in the academy, rather than just students from a specific school. It also will include Zoom sessions to build community as a class, and have check-ins with students.

43. Q: What will the elementary level's remote/swivel option look like?

A: Each grade level will have a teacher who will utilize a device called a Swivl to live stream daily lessons and content for our students at home. The Swivl device consists of a stand, tracking robot that will hold an iPad, mini lens, and a wearable tracking and microphone/audio device. The teacher will utilize Zoom through the iPad to live stream and also record their lessons. Students will log into Canvas to access their daily zoom links, or recorded daily lessons. Canvas will also have all the supplemental materials for students for independent practice, homework, and assessments.

44. Q: If in-school must move to remote elementary instruction, will there be significant synchronous instruction or will it be self-paced as in the spring?

A: We are prioritizing synchronous learning.

45. Q: What happens to in-class students if the school district has to close again?

A: If we close schools, students who are a part of in-school learning will transition to remote learning with their same teacher.

46. Q: Can families opt for in-school learning for one child and Virtual Academy for another child?

A: Yes. Different children from the same family can opt for different choices.

47. Q: Can students switch learning options during the year?

A: For staffing reasons, we are asking elementary families who start in the Virtual Academy or Remote/Swivel to commit to their decision until the marking period break. It may be beneficial for secondary students to make the switch at the semester change to make the transition easier.

48. Q: Will play be included in kindergarten classes even with physical distancing and masks?

A: Yes. Teachers will employ play and socialization throughout the day following all CDC and PDE Guidelines.

49. Q: Should we be required to transition into remote learning for the fall, will it be different than what was provided previously?

A: Yes. The fall program will be more robust than the emergency program created in the spring. We have teams of faculty and principals from around the district working with our curriculum director to improve the remote experience by including more direct teaching lessons, as well as additional instructional technology tools, to support learning at home if we are required to close schools and shift to a remote model. CANVAS will be the platform utilized by all teachers to deliver synchronous and asynchronous lessons and activities.

50. Q: What will the average class size be at the elementary level?

A: The average class size will be 20 with student desks spaced out at 6 feet so students can remove their masks during classroom settings.

51. Q: Will the elementary students be required to wear their masks/face coverings for the whole day? How will the teachers be handling the implementation of the mask/face covering wearing?

A: We are requiring all staff and students to wear masks/face coverings to support the safety and health of our entire school community. Students will be able to remove their masks/face coverings while outside and maintain social distance in their classroom while at their desk.

52. Q: How will elementary school students be socially distanced when arriving in the schools and classrooms?

A: We are working with transportation to stagger arrival times. As students are walking to class, faculty and staff will be in hallways to ensure that students are wearing masks/face coverings. Because this transition is less than 15 minutes, our plan does enable social distancing to be less than 6 feet during transitions. All hallway traffic will be moving in one direction throughout the building.

53. Q: Will students be sharing classroom materials?

A: No. Students will have their own learning boxes and will not be sharing materials.

54. Q: I am worried about having my elementary child in school five days a week with a full school day? How many breaks are going to be given to these little ones due to them being at a desk all day and with limited access to outside the classroom?

A: We are aware of the developmental and emotional needs of our youngest learners and are planning appropriate learning experiences for them that are engaging and include movement. We will prioritize time outside as well.

Secondary

55. Q: What will the high school schedule look like?

A: Alphabetically students would be divided A-K and L-Z.

- Siblings with different last names may attend on the same day. The day will be determined by the oldest siblings last name.
 - Start of school will look like :
 - Tuesday, September 8: A-K
 - Wednesday, September 9: L-Z
 - Thursday, September 10: A-K
 - Friday, September 11: L-Z
- The expectation while at home for students is that they log on and attend the live Zoom instruction following normal time slots.

56. Q: What will the middle school schedule look like?

A: Students at Lehigh Area Middle School will have a six period schedule and include Encore/Creative Arts classes that will meet on all year on a rotating schedule. However, Spanish will meet on a daily basis for the entire school year.

57. Q: How will breakfast/ lunch periods look at the high school?

A: Breakfast will be a grab and go served at the first floor refreshment stand. Lunch will be served in the classrooms during Period 3. There will be adaptations for students who are not in attendance that day due to the schedule rotation to pick up a grab and go lunch.

58. Q: How will lunch periods look at LAMS?

A: Students will eat at a distance of six feet apart and all face the same direction.

59. Q: How will breakfast be handled at LAMS?

A: Breakfast will be a grab and go served out of the cafeteria.

60. Q: How will Physical Education classes be modified at LAMS to minimize the risk of COVID-19?

A: PE Indoors will have staff and students wear face coverings, social distance will be followed, sanitizing equipment after each use, reminders of frequent handwashing before and after PE, and students will not change for class or enter the locker room.

61. Q: Will Physical Education classes be modified at LAHS to minimize the risk of COVID-19?

A: PE Indoors will have staff and students wear face coverings, social distance will be followed, sanitizing equipment after each use, reminders of frequent handwashing before and after PE, and reduced time spent in locker rooms.

PE Outdoors will not have masks worn by staff and students once socially distancing is established, equipment will be sanitized after each use, frequent hand washing before and after PE, reduced time spent in locker rooms.

62. Q: Will siblings in high school go to school on the same days to help parents coordinate?

A: Yes. Students with last names starting with A-K will attend one day; students with last names starting with L-Z will attend on the other day. If siblings have different last names we can adjust their in-person days so they are the same. Families will attend according to the oldest siblings last name.

63. Q: Will all courses for secondary students, with the exception of hands-on electives, be available through the Lehigh Area Virtual Academy?

A: Not all of the Virtual Academy options are the same as the in-person offerings.

Enclosed view the following course offerings:

<https://sites.google.com/view/lasdlava/k-12-lava-catalogorientation>

64. Q: If a student at school must transition to remote learning due to illness, will they be moved to the Virtual Academy?

A: No, students taking in-school instruction who become ill or who need to quarantine will be provided with work to keep them up-to-date. Where possible, the teacher will use Zoom to deliver synchronous instruction to the student for this period of time.

65. Q: Can a secondary student switch between Virtual Academy and in-school instruction at any time? Can a student who starts in-school switch to the Virtual Academy?

A: Students may switch from the Lehigh Area Virtual Academy to in-school instruction at the end of the marking period to make the transition easier for the student. A student who starts in-school may switch to the Virtual Academy at any point, but will be required to make up the missing curriculum.

66. Q: What policies will be in place if I decide to send my child to high school in September and cases spike?

A: If cases spike and schools close, we will move these students and the entire district into remote learning. In this case, we would offer a more robust remote learning program than we offered this past spring. CANVAS will be the learning platform for all staff, the district has provided professional development.

Additional FAQ's

1. Will there be bus transportation?

The district is currently working on a transportation plan with George's Transportation that will include transportation for students to and from school.

2. The Middle School and Elementary students get out at the same time, does this mean if there is transportation that they are sharing the buses this year instead of the middle and high school students?

Middle School and Elementary students will be on the same bus runs for this school year.

3. It is suggested to bring your own device. If your child does not have a device to bring is this an issue?

Students who do not have a device will have access to technology when needed for their class and/or assignments.

4. Are the elementary students going to be sitting 6ft apart while eating lunch like the middle school? Will there be staggered lunch times for the middle school so they can social distance?

All students will be seated at least 6' apart during their instructional settings and lunch periods (classrooms/cafeteria etc.)

5. If a student in your class gets covid does that mean all the students in that class have to quarantine for 14 days?

No, we will follow the recommendations from our local and state health officials for this type of scenario.

6. If you have siblings in different schools and one child has a classmate in their room that got covid and that child has to quarantine does the other siblings in the other schools have to quarantine as well?

We recommend that you follow the guidance from your family doctor or pediatrician.

7. Will there be an orientation for 6th grade students prior to school starting?

All buildings will have virtual meetings to start the school year (ex. Meet the Teacher/Orientations etc.). The district will be limiting the amount of visitors in the school buildings to staff, students and other educational personnel.

8. What is the difference between the Swivl Learning Environment and LAVA?

The Swivl option is a Synchronous Learning approach where teachers and students are online at the same time with a set schedule. Communication happens in real time and the teacher can answer questions and provide clarifications as needed. It would require the student to be online and have a set schedule, the same as being present in the classroom.

LAVA is an Asynchronous Learning approach where teachers and students are not online at the same time. The teacher provides resources and lessons that the student may complete at a time that is most convenient for them. Students work at their own pace. This approach will be directed by a member of the LASD teaching staff.

9. If I supply the device for my child to bring in and another student damages/breaks the device, who will be responsible for repair/new device?

The owner of the device would be responsible. School district policy #237 has the following listed:

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device brought to school by a student.