

**FAQ -- Barnet School  
Reopening Structures  
August 14, 2020**

This Frequently Asked Questions document outlines a series of questions as they relate to the opening of school options. The questions are a combination of questions we posed at the school level as well as questions posed by parents. It is a fluid document that will be updated periodically as questions arise. Please monitor for updates. If you have questions that are not addressed through this document please contact us.

On-Site Questions

**What will the daily schedule be?**

7:15 am Early drop off as needed - 1:30 pm dismissal for Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 8  
*Upon entering the school building students will have a health screen which consists of a temperature check and general screening questions.*

*Students being dropped off will need to arrive no earlier than 7:15 am. Due to COVID procedures we cannot allow for students to be on site without a health screen. Health screens will begin at 7: 15 am.*

1:30 pm Dismissal for all students

*This will allow us to begin cleaning the school building and provide time for teachers to plan/support students who are learning remotely.*

*Please note we may need to provide more than one run for busses which will impact drop off times.*

Middle school schedule is as follows:

Group A: Monday and Thursday in person, other days remotely

Group B: Tuesday and Friday in person, other days remotely

School days will run from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm.

*Full time middle school is not an option at this time, due to many constraints.*

*Tina Morrisons will send home the list of the students who will attend on days A or days B the week of August 24th. If you need to plan ahead of time for your job commitment, please call the office and ask specifically about your child. We will not release information regarding your child's classmates due to privacy.*

*On Wednesday, our middle school teachers will assist the students online, offering office hours and individually connecting with the students who chose a full remote learning model. This time will also allow us for extra cleaning of the middle school wing which is the one with the most students.*

**What will the actual physical set up of the classroom look like? If my soon to be 7 year old is going to be in a plastic cubicle all day, vs. a distance desk from others, I may consider one less traumatizing than the other.**

Each classroom has been set up with State guidance on physical distancing in mind. In order to maintain as much normalcy as possible for teachers and students we will work to modify, within the guidelines and teacher input, for a safe and comfortable learning environment. In some classrooms we have purchased table top plexiglass dividers. They sit on top of tables and provide a subtle yet effective barrier between students. We do not intend on isolating students with plastic or plexiglass structures.

Barnet School sits on a 98 acre campus. We have identified many spaces outside for teachers to use as outdoor learning spaces. To support this we will be using foldable chairs for all students to use when outside. As much as possible, teachers will be encouraged to use the outdoor spaces as a way to teach, take mask breaks (masks must be worn indoors at all times) and get some fresh air! We just purchased a large 20x30 outside tent for our teachers to use in case of rainy days and we also have a pavilion on site (playground area) that teachers can use taking turns.

**What do safety procedures look like?**

Students will be required to follow some specific guidelines for their own safety and their classmates' such as maintaining safe distance, frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, etc. Mrs. Ruth Vaal, our school nurse, is creating a document that will list all the guidelines/procedures for school safety that will soon be shared with parents and students. She is also going to host a special presentation for our entire staff on August 21st. If you have more specific questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to her or to me.

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**Will the staff remain the same for in school learning? I know some staff members within the CCSU and other unions have made the transition to either in school or remote only. I would like to know if the Barnet staff is changing to accommodate remote learning.**

Barnet Teachers will be teaching their classes on site. They will be developing learning opportunities for remote learners and be available through set office hours for support. We are also planning for other school staff to remotely assist students and families as an additional support.

One of the consistent pieces of feedback we received from parents and teachers about their remote learning experience from the spring of 2020 survey was the need to streamline the number of systems and platforms students and families needed to navigate. With this feedback in hand, each instructional team will be deciding on a consistent set of structures to support both on site and remote learning. These structures are:

- Learning Management Systems (Google Classroom and SeeSaw for example)
- Communication Tools
- Lesson Recording and Video Conferencing Platforms
- Academic Tools

Learning management systems provide an online platform that students can access both in school and out of school. Each instructional team will start the school year with a consistent platform for their classes. Learning management systems support the integration of technology into our traditional classroom structures for in school instruction. Additionally, should we need to go remote again at some point during the school year, we will have already developed routines and expectations that can be more easily adapted to a remote setting.

**Is there going to be a sub available to cover teachers who are out sick until they can return? Will the subs be trained in the "COVID protocols"? What happens if a sub is not available?**

We will be using substitute teachers in the event teachers are absent from school. Substitutes will be provided training on all Barnet School protocols as they relate to keeping a safe and healthy school building. There are times when substitutes are not available. In this event we will work to provide coverage with available staff within the school.

**Will my child be required to wear a mask?**

All students and staff are required to wear a face covering while in the school building.

**What are the cleaning procedures? Is there a schedule in place for frequent cleaning? Who will be doing this?**

We will be frequently cleaning/sanitizing the school. Classrooms will be cleaned before, during and after the school day. Our custodial crew has been trained in COVID cleaning procedures. We are investing in a sprayer cleaner (Clorox 360) that will clean classrooms.

**If a student starts in school, will they be able to switch to remote at any time?**

Students that begin the school year on-site will be able to move to the remote option when necessary. During this move, the school will have a transition meeting to develop a dialogue that clarifies expectations and needs of all parties.

**A question my child asked me: "Will I have to play alone on the playground?" Ugh**

Students will be having recess with their cohort class outside. With appropriate physical distancing in place students will be able to play with classmates outdoors.

**Is there staff to supervise COVID demands (proper mask donning, social distancing, hand washings etc), so that the teacher is able to teach and not disrupt academic curriculum? A teacher surely can not do both, successfully.**

Working in a school requires collaboration between all staff to ensure we maintain a safe, healthy and rigorous learning environment. We are developing school wide COVID expectations that will support classroom learning. These protocols will require a collaborative approach to ensure COVID protocols are being followed by students at the classroom and school wide level.

**What will Essential Arts, for example PE, Art, and Music look like?**

Students will still be able to have Essential Arts classes. All Physical Education classes will need to be outside for now. This will allow for students to have open air areas to engage in class. We are still in the planning process for Art and Music. We hope to be able to provide Music outdoors when possible. If outdoors and a six foot distance can be maintained, we may be able to allow students to play instruments and sing. The Art classes for now will take place in the students' homerooms, with the help of the classroom teachers.

**What will be the cut off date for a final decision?**

We want to be responsive to families needing time to decide. The Fall Planning Survey is designed for parents to provide an initial idea of what they are considering at this moment. Although it had a deadline of August 7th, we understand that parents may change their minds prior to the start of school and we want to be flexible to this eventuality. If you have completed the survey and have questions or need to update your choice please call the school office to inform us of this change. Changes will be accepted up to the beginning of school. After the beginning of the school, if you change your selection, please allow us for a couple of weeks to modify the teachers schedule accordingly to accommodate more students.

### Remote Learning Questions

**How will remote learning for the 2020-21 school year compare to the closure in the spring of 2019-20?**

Last March, schools were required to close their campuses for all students and staff with very little notice. Academically, teachers were required to adapt their in-class instruction to fit structures that were either not developed or required significant modification for a remote setting for all of their students. With incredible flexibility and creativity, teachers developed platforms that provided all of their students and families with learning opportunities remotely online. If reliable internet was not available, many even provided packets for students to engage in. They provided support for learning at times that worked best for families even if that meant into the evening hours. In short, our teachers and families did what was necessary to accommodate students during a very chaotic time!

As we prepare and plan for the Barnet School remote learning option, we want to make clear to families that the level of direct classroom teacher contact will not be the same as it was during the spring closure. Barnet Teachers will be developing and providing learning opportunities to students who are remote. We are developing electronic platforms to provide an organized landing page that is consistent amongst all teachers and easy to navigate for students and parents. While these opportunities will be aligned to our on-site lessons, they may not be a direct match simply because learning remotely will require more independence and, when necessary, family support.

**Who will the teachers be? What curriculum will they follow?**

Barnet Teachers will be responsible for designing lessons and assignments following the state approved Common Core (ELA and Math), Social Studies (C3), Performing Arts, and Next Generation Science Standards.

Individual grades or classes schedules will be sent home with the students upon their first day of school, as usual.

**How will remote students interact with teachers? How will assignments be provided? How are assignments assessed?**

Teachers will be providing lessons and assignments to students through the classroom learning management system (Google Classroom, SeeSaw). Teachers and other support staff will be available during set office hours to schedule time with students to answer questions and support students in need of help.

**Will the remote learning option support asynchronous (not simultaneous) instruction?**

Remote learning will be asynchronous. Students will have access to lessons, assignments and assessments but will not be able to (due to confidentiality consideration) access real time classroom lessons.

**How will remote students be evaluated in the first weeks of school?**

Benchmark assessments will be an important element of our first month of school. It is critical that we determine student readiness in math and literacy. Students who are learning remotely will be able to take STAR benchmark assessments in math and literacy. We are also determining additional assessments we can provide students who are learning remotely.

**Will the supervisory union have enough Chromebooks for all students, in-person and remote learning? Will parents be allowed to provide their own device for students to use with remote learning, provided that devices meet requirements and parents install necessary software?**

Through additional funding we will be able to provide our students with Chromebooks or other devices for their remote learning needs. Parents who would like to use their own devices will need to have the technology support the instructional needs of the classroom learning management system.

