



## **Return to School (2 options beginning October 20th) Frequently Asked Questions**

Thank you for your patience as we work with the data to determine decisions around the opening of Talawanda Schools. We are unable to develop a plan without numbers, and we could not ask for numbers without the board making a decision on what the options would be.

In order to develop the best plan, we must know how many students will be in each program (F2F and Remote), and how many of our teachers are coming back or requesting a remote option.

We may close the online learning option after our parent choice survey due date. It is critical that we can prepare adequately to serve students, and we need exact numbers to do so prior to the October 20th start date. The form parents received via email is an opportunity to have a choice regarding their student's learning environment. The data from the form is pertinent to assigning students and teachers to courses.

Please see the Pandemic Plan for more information.

[TSD Pandemic Plan](#)

***Remember: The Parent Choice Form/Commitment is due Monday, October 5, 2020. You may be locked out of a choice if the Commitment Survey is not completed.***

## **FAQ - Remote Learning**

**Will remote instruction be with Talawanda teachers? If so, will it look like fall or last spring?**

**THS** - Remote Teaching/Learning with THS teachers. The district is currently working hard on plans to make this happen by using our own teachers.

However, THS covers a broad offering of courses. Certifications and licensure requirements also are a factor. THS has worked with the Edmentum platform for a number of years, with our own teachers modifying its offerings. This may need to be an option depending on numbers.

**TMS** - Remote Teaching/Learning with TMS teachers. The district is currently working hard on plans to make this happen.

However, TMS covers a broad offering of courses. Certifications and licensure requirements also are a factor. Like THS, TMS also works with the Edmentum platform. This may need to be an option depending on numbers.

**Elementary** - We believe that elementary students will be able to have a TSD teacher for remote learning, similar to the model currently being used. The district is currently working on plans to make this happen. However, students could be mixed with students from Bogan/Kramer/Marshall. Students could have a teacher from another building.

There is also a chance that it could be a purchased platform if we do not have enough staff to cover the classes.

**Is the decision binding? If so, for how long? The year? The quarter?**

Students would be committed until the end of 2nd quarter, Dec. 18th. Students could switch at the end of the quarter and start 2nd semester in the other learning environment. We will not know exactly until the parent choice form results come in. We won't be able to change schedules once choices are made, as that would then change the schedules and teacher assignments. Students will need to stay in their chosen option for the second quarter. We want to work towards keeping consistency as much as possible during quarter 2.

**What types of “live teacher support” will be provided and who will those teachers be?**

The district is currently working on plans to deliver remote learning with our own teachers. This depends on the number of students that come back face-to-face and number of parents/students that choose the online option. The Board has directed us to provide as much Talawanda teacher instruction as possible. If for some reason we cannot use our own teachers, we may need to use a platform (Edmentum). We would have teachers and staff that would support that online platform.

**What will be the quality of education when teachers get sick and there are no available subs? Will school close or will we have a study hall?**

We will use our other staff to cover if there is a shortage. We will combine classes if we do not have enough teachers. Lastly, we might need to place students in areas such as the gym or cafeteria if we have staff that went home, not enough subs., etc. If we reach this point, we might need to close a class, grade level, building or the district for a short time or longer. It depends if it is COVID-related or another illness. We will make adjustments as needed.

**What will happen if students are quarantined?**

We would treat the students like we would treat any student that was ill. Students would be allowed to make up work. If students were not sick, students could even work during the quarantined time.

**If we combine classes due to a lack of healthy teachers, will you actually physically double the number of students in the class for the sake of coverage?**

Yes, this could happen if we do not have other staff that could cover the classrooms. We have to ensure students are monitored, so a doubling of classes could happen. Our goal is to have substitutes or other staff members cover classes first.

**What about 504/IEP Students?**

The IEP or 504 team makes the decisions as required by law. Students who are on an IEP or who have a 504 can meet with team members to make decisions specific to their child based off of the child's IEP and/or 504.

**FAQ - Safety**

**What is the physical distancing plan in the schools in Face to Face learning?**

Face masks are required. Additional cleaning procedures will be in place. Safety equipment and screens will be utilized. We must inform parents that we know that we cannot guarantee that students will be 6 feet apart at all times, and that they will be with other students in blocks of time greater than 15 minutes throughout the school day. This is considered direct contact by the health department. It's important that parents understand the risks that come with the face-to-face school option.

**What will Lunches, Hallways, Recess and other Unstructured Activities and Transitions in Face to Face learning be?**

Students will be taught the expectations. Masks are required (with the exception of meal times and scheduled and safe mask breaks). Each building will have its own plan based on the number of students and staff as well as the types of spaces contained within each facility. TSD cannot guarantee that students will be able to maintain 6 feet of distance and students will often be together for periods greater than 15 minutes. Staff will develop and implement plans for transitions, lunches and recesses.

### **What protocols will be followed for face-to-face, and how strictly?**

Each building will have its own plan. All students must wear a mask unless there is documentation for a medical exemption. Students will be taught procedures for lunch, hallway transition, etc. Students who fail to comply may be disciplined or assigned to online. There is risk with face-to-face. we do not want to minimize the risk. If the face-to-face option is chosen, families know and agree to the risks. Students will be less than 6 feet apart and will spend more than 15 minutes together during the school day and during transportation to and from school.

### **How many students will be in a room at a time in the Face-to-Face option?**

We believe there should be fewer students in each classroom as some students will choose remote online learning. This face-to-face option has risks. Desks or tables will be separated as much as possible. However, students will be with each other more than 15 minutes and be separated by less than 6 feet.

A desk shield may be provided to each student or to the table/desk. A student must clean and maintain his or her own desk shield. The desk shield can be moved to other areas such as the cafeteria or in the hallway as a student walks. The building plans will include how the desk shields will be used. There will be differences found in the elementary, middle, and high school buildings.

### **What is the plan for when exposure to positive cases occurs in a school building?**

Parents must inform us if they know first. We will report any symptoms to the health department. The health department is the only entity that can quarantine or isolate individuals. All people are expected to follow the health department's orders. The health department contacts the individuals who have been in direct contact and therefore need to be quarantined or isolated. \*If we know that information from the Health Department, we will share with the family.

Anyone with low-to-no risk, but a possibility of exposure, will be sent a letter. This letter just lets the student(s) and family know there is a possible exposure or case at the school.

We also have been updating our dashboard at our website ([COVID-19 Information](#)) under “Resources” as we are required to report this data.

**If we choose to go back and cases spike (given that is what every health expert has been saying is in store for the fall and winter) do we have the individualized option to immediately go remote at any time?**

No, you would commit for the quarter.

However, if cases spike and there is spread in our schools, our district or building could move those students in that building or district back to remote. The Governor or health department could also require us to go online too.

**Could individuals, class, grade level, building or district be closed or quarantined?**

We could close grade levels, schools or buildings for a day to 14 days or more pending what would be needed. Individuals who are quarantined or isolated by the health department MUST stay home and not come to school.

We need our families to partner with us so that we can keep our classes, grade levels, buildings and the district open.

Families must have a plan in place in case your child, class, grade level, school, or district is closed for any amount of time.

**What happens if my child is sick and quarantined?**

Contact the school. The staff will work with the student and family to make up the work. Sometimes, the student is not ill or is asymptomatic and can work from home. If not, additional time will be provided to the student.

A student could not join a remote online option during this time (if in the face-to-face option) as we need to ensure the curriculum is followed and taught.

**What's the district's decision point to suspend in-person instruction and go remote? i.e. what's the threshold at which the district determines that it is unsafe to be in classrooms and on busses with no ability to social distance?**

We would move all to in-person (or remote) if we are directed by the Governor or health department or some other order is provided and required.

We continue to monitor the data. If we move to purple and have community spread, we believe we would need to move in this direction, but would check with the health department. If there are other factors where students and staff are not safe, we may need to close for a day, a few days, or move to an online option for all.

If we do not have enough teachers and/or staff due to absences, illness, or quarantine, then we would either need to close for a while or move to online.

If we have 20 percent or more students absent, we would need to close for a day, a few days, or for a while (with a possible move to remote learning) pending the situation and data.

If there is community spread and it is affecting the students and staff, we will need to close for a day, a few days, a while or move to remote learning to ensure the safety of all.

We may also have to close for a day, a couple of days, a while (i.e. move to remote learning) or not provide transportation if the bus staff could not work/transport students.

**How will the classes in person be arranged? Do the students stay in one class all day or move about through tight hallways with even less ability to distance?**

Students will move from class to class. Each school is updating their plans. Procedures will be in place such as lunch, hallways, recess, and other transitions. There are tight hallways and limited space in almost every building.. We will do our best to increase social distancing and contact on the buses, in hallways, or other areas. We also will limit traveling from area to area as much as possible. There will be a risk with the face-to-face option.

Students and staff will be required to wear masks.

At the elementary level, most classes stay in one class except for specials, recess, lunch and other activities, though Grades 3, 4, and 5 have some class changes. Again, procedures will be in place to reduce contact. Teachers and staff will teach the expectations on how to move, travel, and clean areas. Students will be in contact with each other less than 6 feet and more than 15 minutes at a time. There will be a risk with the face-to-face option.

**What happens when students (and parents) refuse to wear masks? Will they be removed from school or will we just ask "politely" to wear a mask?**

Students and visitors who do not have a medical condition (we have some that do have a condition) will be reminded. If a student fails to comply, administration will work with the student and family but this could result in discipline OR a removal from the face to face option and placed into the online option. Again, if we are talking about a student that forgot, a reminder or providing a mask may suffice. However, chronic noncompliance will result in utilizing the Student Code of Conduct and the possibility that the student could be removed and placed online.

We will limit visitors. Visitors will be permitted by appointment. Visitors will not be allowed to each lunch or simply visit.

Visitors will be asked to leave if they fail to comply with our safety protocols. Visitors will be escorted out if noncompliance continues. Law enforcement may be called if needed.

**How will band/choir classes be handled for both an in-person option or a remote option?**

Band/Orchestra/Choir will meet in the face-to-face option with as much distance as possible. However, 6 feet of social distance will not be met, and students will be together for more than 15 minutes. Remote learners in grades 6th-12th will likely join live classes via Zoom.

- Students enrolled assume additional risk in these courses
- Every attempt will be made to space out during singing or playing of instruments
- At any given time, only 75% of students will be singing or playing an instrument
- An additional space can be provided for students who need to move to a new location while not playing/singing

**How often will the school, the classrooms, and the individual desks be cleaned?**

The custodians will clean the high touch/heavy traffic points throughout the day. They also will continue to clean throughout the day, particularly common areas like restrooms and cafeterias. Classrooms will be cleaned each evening. Students and staff will also be required to clean their own areas or areas in need.

We also have sprayers that can be used to spray contaminated areas. If there is an illness or accident, the sprayers can be used. Custodians will also clean those areas.

Care Rooms have been established in each building. Students who are ill and/or with symptoms will be cared for in these monitored rooms, until a parent or guardian can pick them up. Families must plan accordingly and be prepared for if/when a student becomes ill.

Buses are cleaned between routes as well as at the end of the day.

All buildings are being cleaned and disinfected in preparation for the October 20th in person start.

**\*Students will need to bring their own water bottles filled each day.**

**\*More information will be provided after the plans have been developed based upon choices made.**