

Spartan FAQs

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding the Spartan Restart plan. There are some specific operational topics which our teams continue to work through. We will add questions as they come in, and answer as promptly as possible. **The most recent updates will be in maroon.**

Please email your questions to: SpartanRestart@boardmanschools.org

****As more information becomes available, we will continue to update this page.****

Last updated: 8/7/2020

GENERAL

When is the start of the school year?

The first day of school will be Monday, September 14, for all Boardman Local School students- both in-person and remote learners.

Will the school calendar be adjusted to reflect the 2 week delay, for instance will holidays and breaks still be observed?

The delayed start will not lead to other adjustments. The 2020-21 school calendar will be otherwise unchanged--Holidays and breaks will remain the same.

How do you know for sure that temperatures are going to be taken at home. That every household has a thermometer or some way of taking a body temperature? Some districts are investing in infrared thermometers to scan the temperatures of students upon entering the buildings. How can you be sure no parent or guardian is sending their child to school with a temperature?

The entire restart plan is built upon layers of trust. There are no guarantees that door thermometers will scan every child. Different pain relievers can be given to students to mask temperatures. Also, a temperature check at the door does not catch the student who rode the bus and potentially created contacts. We all have to do our part in making this work.

Has the school considered hybrid learning?

Yes, it was looked at very closely. However the board decided on the current format of 5 day in person and 5 day remote learning models at this time.

Will the school relax the number of absences allowed before an absent warning letter is sent? I always kept my kids home when they were feeling sick or had a temp. Every year I would get a letter saying how many days my kids were absent! If more kids were kept home schools would be healthier.

Attendance letters are tied into the number of hours missed, and the notification must go out by state law. However, because so many schools across the state may have this issue-this year especially- there may be some loosening of those rules at the state level. We have not received any direction from the state on this at this time. We advise parents to keep their children at home when ill.

Are there still going to be the plexi glass trifold around the desks? If not each desk every other? My son will be a 4th grader.

Yes, plexiglass dividers have been ordered for all buildings, and depending on size of desks or tables, they will be installed as an extra layer of protection.

When must I choose between the in- person or remote learning option?

Parents who want their children to learn from home, must register for remote learning by Friday, August 7. If you did not receive the remote learning registration form by mail [CLICK HERE](#) **The remote registration form must be returned to Central Office located at BHS by Aug. 7.**

Will after school care still be offered and for which buildings?

We intend to provide before/after school care for the same buildings where it was provided last year. Details are being worked out at this time to ensure it complies with all health and safety guidelines. We will update the status as more details become available.

REMOTE LEARNING

For remote learners, how will we be getting our books for classes? especially if the student finds it easier to have the physical copy of school books?

This will be worked out at the building level. More information will be available closer to the start of school in September.

In March when we had to go remote due to the Covid 19 and had to use zoom there were a lot of issues so I was wondering if they will be using any type of backup if there are any issues with Zoom once school starts back up?

Zoom and Google Classroom will be our platforms. We plan on developing PD for parents. Only students will be invited through Zoom. Links will not be shared in a public forum.

For elementary particularly, are there teachers that will be designated specifically for virtual learning and in person?

This will be determined once we have registration forms in.

If there is a mandated change to go to all remote, will children that have been in the classroom have the same teacher?

Yes.

Also, if children had been virtual and then decide to change to in-person learning, will they have the same teacher?

That depends on their grade level. The district is still working on which grades/buildings may have remote only teachers, and which will have teachers who are responsible for in person, as well as remote only learners.

If the school shuts down due to high covid cases, how will the in person students get transitioned to remote learning? Will it be the same remote learning the other students are doing?

In-person students will continue with their current classroom teachers but in a remote setting.

Will I be able to take the same classes via remote learning as I would in school?

Yes, for the most part. There may be some electives or special classes that would be difficult to offer remotely:(i.e. woods class)

Will there be advanced classes offered in the remote learning option?

Yes, advanced classes will be available through remote learning.

Can we switch back to in-person learning at the 9 week mark?

Yes. Remote learning is a 9 week commitment. At the end of the first grading period you may switch. The end of the 1st grading period is Friday, November 6.

If I choose remote learning, will technology be provided?

Yes, we will work with families individually to make sure they have the correct technology.

Will remote learning follow a daily schedule?

Yes, our goal is for remote learners to have the same educational opportunities as our in-person learners. There will be dedicated hours for remote learners and staff in respect to both students and staff that encourage a normal school routine. However, this may or may not follow the regular building schedule.

Will there be live sessions via zoom with teachers, and how often will they be?

That will vary according to building and grade level but our intent is that *new* instruction will be recorded or presented via zoom along with teacher designated office hours that will enable more time for questions.

Will the kids that are remote learning interact with other kids, on line? For questions and answers? Through zoom?

The intent of the remote learning program is for as much interaction as possible between student/teacher via live and recorded methods. Zoom will be the mode for live interaction, and depending on child's age/building/teacher preference--groups of students may be involved.

How would students who chose remote learning do gym?

At this time, our teachers are working on plans for unique classes such as gym. Our intent is to offer Phys Ed in some form for our remote learners, exactly what that may look like is still being developed.

MUSIC PARTICIPATION

Music Participation

All students in grades K-12 WILL have access to music class. Please be assured that our music staff will strive to provide your child with the same music experience online as

they would receive if they were in the traditional classroom. Please contact the music department chairperson with any questions regarding online music classes: michele.prokop@boardmanschools.org

Extra-Curricular Music Groups (Project Mayhem, Spartan Singers):

- During the pandemic and time of remote learning, these groups will be offered based on enrollment and proper instrumentation.
- As with any extra-curricular activity, attendance is mandatory.
- Remote learners will need to be in attendance for rehearsals, masks will be required and proper social distancing is to be observed.

Marching Band:

Boardman High School Band students who will be attending the Boardman Online Learning Platform during the pandemic will be permitted to participate in any marching band performances provided they did not opt out of participation in summer band rehearsals. They must complete two weeks of in-person training and rehearsals to learn the music and drill in August.

Performances:

All music ensembles rely on in-person preparation for performances. Remote learners will have access to the class curriculum, however their absence from an ensemble may make it impossible for them to perform. Performances will not take place if the instrumentation of the in-person learner does not support the group. For example, if instrumentation requires 4 flute parts and there is only 1 flute in the ensemble, performances may not be possible.

Choral Music

Both in person learners and remote learners will have access to choral music class (grades 5-12) or general music class (grades K-4). At this time, in order to ensure that our students are in the safest environment possible, our music staff has agreed that **group singing will not take place during school**. Students may be asked to practice singing at home. We will be taking a music appreciation / general music approach to learning in such classes.

Please direct music questions to: michele.prokop@boardmanschools.com

IN PERSON 5-DAY-A- WEEK LEARNING OPTION

Will there be switching of classes?

K-6 will have reduced switching of classrooms, but 7-12 will be changing classes on a more regular basis.

In grades 7-12 there will be hallway and stairwell traffic patterns/control that will be reinforced by signage, and staff supervision.

****When in hallways or when moving about the building, face coverings will be required.***

Will class sizes be reduced?

Based on parent surveys, we predict that approximately 20-30% of our families will choose remote learning, thus reducing class sizes.

If we choose in-person learning but our kids have a difficult time with wearing a mask, can we switch to remote learning or only at the 9 week mark?

For academic reasons, as well as logistical challenges, we strongly encourage families to commit to a learning model for the 9 weeks, and transition only when a bona fide emergency exists.

How will social distancing be accomplished when possible?

Items have been removed from classrooms to support social distancing. When everyone follows social distancing guidelines we can maximize our physical distance. However, to expect 6 feet of social distancing at all times is NOT practical. The district is planning to purchase plexiglass barriers to assist in situations where the optimal 6 feet social distancing is not possible.

Are there still going to be the plexi glass trifold around the desks? If not each desk every other? My son will be a 4th grader.

Yes, plexiglass dividers have been ordered for all buildings, and depending on size of desks or tables, they will be installed as an extra layer of protection.

FACE COVERING POLICY

- Face masks/shields will be mandatory for all students, unless there is an underlying medical condition or disability .

- Age appropriate “mask breaks” will be granted by district personnel.
- Students MUST wear a face covering on all district-provided transportation and during the school day.
- Exceptions to the face mask policy will be taken on an individual basis.
- All Staff of Boardman Local Schools will be required to wear face coverings (masks/face shields). There can be flexibility in this requirement when staff are working alone or more than 6 feet from others.

Governor Dewine has just recently mandated masks be worn by students k-12. Will face shields still be accepted?

Yes, as long as that decision remains at the local level. The official language of the governor’s face mask policy has not been released and we are waiting to see if face shields are addressed in that document. Also, a mandate by the health department could also change this local policy.

What about kindergarten with face masks with IEP with disabilities, how's that going to work out?

We realize that some students may have medical or sensory needs that don't allow for the consistent wearing of masks. There will be measures put in place to facilitate this including the use of shields and the distancing of students. We are also looking into options for stand alone shields at desks.

What about potential heat because of unairconditioned buildings?

That’s one of the reasons the District delayed the start of school by two weeks; to get beyond the very hot days that would make it too uncomfortable with face coverings. Should extreme temperatures be forecasted in September, we may accommodate that by calling for an “Extreme Heat” day. Under a “Heat Day” certain buildings would be closed for in person learning, and students would instead learn remotely on that day.

Does my child have to wear a face covering for the entire school day?

No. When social distancing cannot be maximized, facial coverings will be on. We will strive to find ways to provide breaks for students throughout the day. When social distancing can be maximized, facial coverings may be relaxed. For younger students, we will continue to explore ways to provide more breaks during the day.

Will masks be provided by the district?

We are asking parents to provide masks for their children, but the district will have masks on hand, for students who may forget to bring one or lose theirs during the day.

CLEANING

What supplies will be available in classrooms?

Every classroom will have a sanitizer station, that includes hand sanitizer, paper towels and cleaning supplies for desk cleaning.

What else is being done to keep our schools clean?

High touch areas will get particular attention throughout the day, and hand sanitizer will be available for all students to use in classrooms and stationed throughout the school buildings in high traffic areas. The District will use electrostatic sprayers to clean targeted areas and items that are difficult to wipe individually.

Will there be sanitizer stations in the buildings?

Sanitizer stations will be in each classroom and in prominent places in the buildings, i.e.: outside the cafeteria/gym, etc.

GYM/ RECESS/SPECIALS

Will there be a gym class?

Yes, but not traditional large group classes.

Will there be recess for elementary schools?

Yes, but it may be a reduced version of what students are used to because of social distancing rules. The intent at this time is to have recess for students K-6.

Will holiday breaks be eliminated/ or school extended because of the 2 week delay of the start of classes?

No, the calendar remains the same.

LUNCH AND CAFETERIA QUESTIONS

How will lunch be handled at HS? Will they go to the cafeteria or remain in their classrooms?

Lunch at the High School will be served in the cafeteria. There will be no self service. Social distancing will be maximized and other spaces in the building may be utilized for spacing. Other details are still being worked out at the building level.

If a student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, how will he/she receive a meal if opting for remote learning?

Boardman Schools intends to provide meals for remote learners who qualify for free and reduced lunches, as well as full pay students. At this time, a system for parents to order/pick up those meals is being developed.

It is important to note the lunch prices remain the same as last year: \$2.75 for K-8 and \$3.25 for 9-12. Those who qualify for free/reduced would still do so at free or reduced prices.

Can children use lunch boxes and backpacks?

Yes. However, certain restrictions may apply, depending on building.

MEDICAL

Will there be temperature checks for students when they enter the building each morning?

No. Parents are responsible for temperature checks and a health assessment before they send their child to school in the morning.

Why is it up to the parents to check for temperatures and screen for illness?

The CDC recommends that schools do not perform district-wide screening of students. This should be done daily by the parent or caregiver. We also have a concern that when a student shows up at a school door with a high temperature then it is too late. That student has already potentially created close contacts and exposed staff and students.

What happens if a child falls ill during the school day?

If your student is exhibiting any signs of illness, it is best to keep him/her home and if well enough, they may make up assignments remotely. If a student exhibits signs of illness or a temperature above 100F *during* the school day, the student will be sent to the nurse and must return home. Parents should plan for multiple, pre-arranged methods of getting a student home from school should they become ill or exhibit symptoms.

The Following information is guidance from the Mahoning County Board of Health:

CONFIRMED CASES IN DISTRICT

How should we handle students or staff if someone in their immediate family is confirmed?

That person would be identified through case contact tracing and be made to quarantine for 14 days. No further action would need to be taken at school-except for a plan for educating the child while out of school.

If there is a confirmed case and contact tracing shows several individuals meet the definition of contact (6' or less for 15 min or more - currently with or without a mask), what are your recommendations for the individuals who came in contact with the affected person?

Through contact tracing, the Health Dept. will identify close contacts of the confirmed case. They will work with the schools to see who would have met this criteria in the school setting. Whomever was identified will be expected to quarantine for 14 days. No further action would need to be taken at school-except for a plan for educating the child/children while out.

Will the Health Dept. notify the superintendent if an employee or student is positive for coronavirus?

The Health Dept. will identify a contact at each school building that the Health Dept. will be in contact with for cases and contacts. This can be the superintendent, school nurse, and/or the principal.

Once a case is confirmed, is the district responsible for contact tracing?

The Health Dept. will work with the school to perform contact tracing in the school. This will be a case by case basis because depending on the grade of the child and/or teacher it will determine the number of contacts.

If one student gets sick do we send home the siblings?

Yes, if a student is sent home with probable COVID symptoms, siblings should be sent home to assist with contact tracing. Once confirmed, siblings would be on 14 day quarantine. If they have probable COVID symptoms, they need to stay home until they are cleared by a physician.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, what happens?

We will collaborate with the Mahoning County Health Department and are required to report known positive test results to that entity. We will follow the Mahoning County Health Department's guidelines and we have electrostatic spraying equipment for any enhanced cleaning measures.

How will the Boardman Local School District communicate if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19?

The District will work collaboratively with the Mahoning County Health Department, which will determine what steps to take if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19.

Why does the school have to check with the Bd of health if a student or teacher tests positive for Covid? We are always notified when lice, pink eye or strep is in the classroom.

The rules are different for a declared pandemic. Boards of health can implement policy that we need to follow.

ORIENTATION

Will there be new student orientation?

The District is continuing to work on details related to kindergarten, fourth grade, seventh grade, ninth grade and new student orientation. We will update with details when available.

TRANSPORTATION

- Busing guidelines are still being developed.
- When possible, students from the same household should sit together
- Students will have assigned seats
- Face coverings will be mandatory
- No more than two students to a seat
- Buses will be sanitized regularly

Will there be a form if your child does not want to ride the bus this year?

A busing form is being developed now and will be available shortly to be distributed to parents as well as posted to the website

How can the driver control the kids keeping masks on and facing forward?

Bus rules for facing forward and masks will be clearly communicated to students, and enforced by bus drivers. We urge parents to stress to their children to follow the safety guidelines at all times, including during bus rides. Masks are mandatory while riding the bus.

What is the drop off/pick off protocol for West Blvd going to be? In the past they have actively discouraged you from drop off/pick up.

West is currently undergoing construction on a new access area/roadway to create a more organized and systematic dropoff that will not interfere with bus traffic in the front lot. Parent transportation will not be discouraged.