



Re-Opening Plan: Frequently Asked Questions

Health & Safety

What do you mean by doing a wellness check daily before coming to school? **Every morning before leaving home, students will be asked to take their temperature and answer some questions about how they're feeling in a form on RenWeb. The purpose of doing this every morning is to save parents (and students!) the aggravation of coming to school, only to be turned away at the entrance during the daily temperature checks.**

What is the maximum # of students that will be allowed in any given in-person classroom to ensure social distancing? **Classes will only take place in rooms that allow for students to be socially distanced. In light of this, most of the mansion classrooms were decommissioned this year (because they are too small) while rooms like the gym and humanities faculty room were repurposed as classrooms because they are larger. The "new building" classrooms, which in the past could have seated up to 34 students, will now have at most 15 desks.**

If students are moving from classroom to classroom throughout the day, how will the desks and chairs be sanitized for each new group? **Every time a group leaves a classroom, the teacher is required to wipe down the desk and other "frequently touched" surfaces with cleaner. Likewise, electrostatic misters will be used at the end of each day to sterilize the rooms.**

What kinds of cleaning products will be used when disinfecting the classrooms? **The primary disinfectant which we will use for high-level sanitization of the facilities is hypochlorous acid, or HOCL. This is a cleaner used in the medical field - lethal to almost all known dangerous bacteria and viruses, but 100% safe and non-toxic for humans. It is over 80 times more efficient in killing microbial pathogens (including SARS-CoV-2) than bleach. Likewise, we will have Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer that contain alcohol.**

Has the custodial staff been trained on how to sanitize the school? **We have acquired electrostatic sanitizing equipment as well as related cleaning and sanitizing supplies. The maintenance and selected staff are currently training in safe handling of the equipment and solution and proper techniques for maximum disinfection of all areas of the facility that will be utilized on a daily basis.**

How will materials like art supplies, science lab materials, and sports equipment be sterilized for students' use? **NY State Guidelines do not allow for any shared equipment. Therefore every student will have her own personal art supplies. Science labs will be done either as a demonstration by the teacher in front of the classroom or virtual labs online. Physical Education will only do fitness-oriented activities that do not require shared equipment.**



How can you ensure my daughter's safety during the switch between classes? **Signage will be placed throughout the buildings regarding one directional traffic in hallways and staircases. Also, with the temporary elimination of locker use, upon entering the building, students will immediately go to their first period classroom, and throughout the day only do three switches before going home.**

What if I feel that my daughter shouldn't wear a mask? **Preston is following CDC and NYSED guidelines with regards to masks. Since this is a public health matter, a student who does not have a mask will be provided one so she may enter the building, and the cost of the mask will be added to her FACTS account.**

Can a face shield be used as a substitution for a mask? **People who are uncomfortable wearing a face mask for extended periods may choose to wear a face shield that covers the mouth, nose and chin *while wearing a mask below the chin* when keeping proper social distance from others. When social distancing is not possible, such as when walking in a crowded corridor, the person must pull her mask (under the face shield) to cover her nose, mouth and chin until she can safely distance herself again.**

Is there a requirement in the type of mask my daughter should wear? **Preston is allowing the students to wear the type of mask that is most comfortable for them. But the mask should be one color with no design or writing, and should cover the nose, mouth, and chin.**

Will my daughter be able to take off her mask during the day? **Students will take off their masks when they're eating lunch (in between 2nd and 3rd block.) Also, students will have 10 minutes in between classes. If they want to, they will be allowed to cut through the backyard, and while distanced from other students they may take off their masks for a couple of minutes.**

I know it's for safety, but my daughter has breathing issues and I'm concerned that 7 hours with a mask may be harmful to her health. **Your daughter's health and safety are important to us. If she has a documented breathing issue, she may see the nurse and arrange for scheduled mask breaks outside.**

Is there a number of positive Covid-19 cases in the building that will determine immediate closure? **Due to the nature of a high school schedule, even with our efforts to distance and limit movement, all of our students move throughout the facility and interact with students and faculty/staff outside their classes. One confirmed positive case (among students or faculty/staff) and we will have to move to remote learning for 14 days.**



How will parents be informed if there is a member of the school community that has tested positive for Covid-19? **Any communication of essential information to members of the Preston community will be sent using the IRIS alert network, which includes email, text message, and/or a phone call. (That is why we ask parents to provide us with up-to-date contact information at the beginning of each academic year.)**

Schedule & Academic Curriculum

My daughter and I have discussed remote learning and hybrid. If she finds herself struggling to understand a class in an exclusively remote setting, does she have the option to switch to hybrid? **The virtual option is not a discretionary day-to-day or week-to-week decision. The choice to stay fully remote (Team Respect) is set for the duration of the first quarter. But if a student who is in the hybrid group (Team Dignity or Team Honor) chooses to switch to all remote, she may request to do that (in an email to Mrs. Lopez - clopez@prestonhs.org). Moving to the hybrid group at the start of the 2nd Quarter will depend on our ability to keep hybrid enrollment at no more than 50% capacity for social distancing purposes.**

What would happen if my daughter signed up for in-person hybrid learning, but has to stay home to quarantine because of a positive case of Covid-19 in our home? Would she be marked absent? **As long as your daughter logs into her classes virtually (with camera on!) she will be marked present for class.**

Will my daughter be notified how to begin remote learning and what classes she will have for the 2020-2021 school year? **Schedules will be sent out to students and the directions will be provided on how to log in to student classes.**

What time does my daughter have to either arrive at school or attend virtually? **Based on your daughter's schedule she should come into her homeroom or log in on her computer for attendance and follow the class schedule as if she was in school.**

I am concerned that 2 days a week in the building is not enough for my daughter - how will her learning be impacted? **In our efforts to provide a concurrent classroom schedule (a concurrent classroom is a class with students in the classroom and students at home learning together), Preston's students will be learning synchronously for a total of 18 hours and 40 minutes a week. Beyond that, students will receive a minimum of 40 minutes of homework assignments per subject per week, to be done individually at home. This amount of time is sufficient to maintain pacing that will ensure preparation for Regents Exams.**



What will happen with the Regents Exams this year? **NYS will provide followup on how the Regents Exams will be handled. Preston's teachers will be teaching their complete curriculum to ensure that our students are prepared, should Regents Exams take place this school year.**

What if the school has to transition to full remote learning for everybody due to a decision by the mayor or governor or because someone in the community tested positive for Covid-19? **If our school is required to move to full remote learning, students will follow their schedules and engage in synchronous live lessons that their teachers will teach from their homes.**

Why can't I drop my daughter off at school at 7am as I used to do last year? And will there be after school activities so that she can stay in the building after dismissal? **Under current restrictions, we can not accommodate early morning drop off and health/safety guidelines be lifted, we will consider amending our policy.**

Technology & Rules for the Concurrent Classroom

Does my daughter have to have her camera on while watching the live-streamed classes from home? **Yes. In order to be marked "present" for class, a student's camera will have to be on for every single class in a student's schedule, for the duration of each whole lesson. It is important that students' devices be equipped with both a camera and microphone in order to be able to participate in the lessons. If your daughter's device does not have these features, please email Mr. Teemsma (cteemsma@prestonhs.org).**

I heard that there will now be a dress code for the students doing class virtually. Is that true? **Yes. Starting in September, all students who are live-streaming into a class must be dressed "Preston Appropriate." This means either a Preston polo uniform shirt, Preston PE shirt, or any T-Shirt with a Preston logo.**

What if my daughter has technical difficulties when she first tries logging into her class remotely? **We anticipate that there will be some hiccups during the first week of school. A student will NOT get in trouble if this happens. We suspect that it will take a couple of days for everyone to get used to the concurrent classroom (class with students in the classroom and students at home all learning together.)**

Will teachers receive professional development (training) to improve their technological skills? **Yes. Throughout the summer the school has been involved in professional development in teaching virtually as well as concurrently. Likewise, teachers will be practicing doing so in the school building during the weeks before classes start, to ensure that everyone is skilled in these new techniques.**



First Weeks of School

My daughter is fully remote. When can she pick up her textbooks? **In the week of September 7th, ALL students (Dignity, Honor, and Respect) will come to school in scheduled individual time slots to pick up textbooks and workbooks. Students will sign up for time slots. (More information about this day forthcoming)**

On what day does school start? **The first day of classes will be Monday, Sept. 14th. Doors will open at 8:00 with staggered arrival times for each grade level. (Freshmen 8:00, Sophomores 8:10, Juniors 8:20, Seniors 8:30)**

Does my daughter have to physically go into the school or she can do virtual on the first day of school? **The first day of school will be a Team Dignity day. Teams Honor and Respect will do this day virtually.**

Guidance

What will be done to ensure that the social-emotional needs of the students are met? **As long as the student follows her schedule, she will participate in her guidance group-classes every other week. Also, like the rest of the faculty, guidance counselors will have virtual office hours on Wednesdays.**

Will my daughter have access to speak to her guidance counselor and teachers if needed? **Compassion Wednesdays have a scheduled time during which all teachers will hold virtual weekly office hours. The option to email teachers and guidance counselors is still always available.**

Tuition

Will tuition be reduced for remote learning? **Tuition will not be reduced for remote learning. Although learning for all will on certain days be from home, the school is incurring significant additional expenses to ensure our students' safety while providing an education that meets our standards.**