

# **CANASERAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

***Specific Details for:  
Remote Learning***

**2020-21**

**Last Updated:  
08/12/2020**

# INTRODUCTION

Returning to in-person instruction is a very important step in reestablishing the continuity of the learning for students. While remote learning was a necessary option between March and June 2020, it was not the best method for our students to gain the knowledge and skills they need at each grade level. As we return to in-person instruction, it will be vital for students, parents, and staff to work together to adhere to the guidance that has been provided to the school district by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

While the following information is addressed in the district's full Returning to Instruction Plan, the NYS Governor's has directed school districts to create a separate document that addresses some specific components.

***This plan will be posted to the school district's website and updated when necessary.***

## School Closures

One circumstance that will create the need for remote learning will be an event that causes the school district to close school for all/some students.

The district will collaborate with the local department of health to determine the parameters, conditions or metrics that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level. School administrators may consider closing school if absentee rates impact the ability of the school to operate safely. Schools may choose to modify operations prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. The district will work with the local department of health when making such decisions.

# SCHOOL SCHEDULES

COVID-19 required schools to make critical adjustments to their instructional model in March 2020 with little or no time to plan. The plan for starting school in September 2020, will be to return all grade level students to in-person instruction. Our experience during our school closure made it very clear that remote learning is not the best instructional method for students to gain necessary knowledge and academic skills.

Our teachers have met during July to discuss the positive / negatives / and necessary changes that need to be made relative to remote learning or a hybrid model. Teachers will continue to have conversations and make preparations for the potential of returning to remote learning (only if necessary). If the district needs to make a change to a hybrid model of attendance / instruction, we will make every effort to notify parents of the decision to transition to this model. It is very likely that full remote learning will be a function of the NYS DOH or the Governor's office.

# TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY

For New York State students to lead productive and successful lives upon graduation, they must understand and know how to use digital technologies. Technology knowledge and skills are vital for full participation in 21st Century life, work, and citizenship. Sufficient access to computing devices and high-speed internet are essential for educational equity. The district has accomplished the acquisition of 1:1 devices (Chromebooks) for each

student in every grade level. The one important component some of our families lack is internet service or service that is robust enough to make it productive for daily remote instruction. The one option – that was available during the most recent school closure – will be the district’s Wi-Fi access connection in the parking lot. While not the most convenient for some in the district, this resource will be available. The district is also working on other options that may be available and practical.

As we begin the 2020-21 school year with in-person instruction, the district and teachers will be taking steps to prepare students for the potential of another phase of remote instruction. This will include the productive use of learning platforms and preparing for asynchronous learning or sometimes referred to as a “flipped classroom.” The district will also be surveying parents to determine family access to internet connectivity.

This remote learning model (if we have to do this) will ask teachers to post instructional lessons that students will have to access and watch, and then complete assignments based upon that instruction. Teachers will provide support sessions with students to check on their comprehension and completion of assignments. The district will also be working with vendors to minimize the lack of internet access. While the district can’t resolve the issue fully, we believe we can provide some level of access to families – with certain responsibilities placed on students and parents.

In the limited cases, teachers will provide hard copies of instructional materials. Parents will need to determine the best method to connect their students with teachers to demonstrate engagement in instruction and the successful completion of academic work.

The district will be working with teachers to connect them with useful professional development to be ready for another phase of remote learning. We will also be planning how to provide instruction or necessary information to parents on how to utilize the learning platform that will be used in a remote learning situation.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

One of the most important aspects of the teaching and learning process is the relationship built between teachers and students. One of the benefits of having students return to in-person instruction is to be able build these relationships between new groups of students and their teachers. While many of our students and teachers are familiar with one another, not all of our grade level students have had the opportunity to build a classroom relationship with each other. We anticipate in-person instruction at the beginning of the school year will help foster those student / teacher relationships before potentially being forced to move to a hybrid or remote model of instruction.

Due to the district’s limited teaching staff, we are primarily making plans for an in-person return to instruction. It would be difficult for our teachers to manage a hybrid model – managing instruction for students in the classroom and at home simultaneously. The only potential hybrid model we have considered is having PK-6 (7-8) continue with in-person instruction and have (7-8) 9-12 instruction done fully remote. If this becomes a reality, our remote learning teachers will have regular and substantive interaction with students. As was previously mentioned, we are in the process of preparing the framework for remote learning in case we enter another school closure.

Student / parent communication with teachers will continue as currently exists. Students and parents have access to some of the following communication modalities (depending upon the individual teacher): school email, Remind messaging system, Class Dojo messaging system, phone calls, and video calls (when appropriate).

As we begin the school year, most spaces in the building will require students and staff to wear a mask because we will not be able to create 6ft of social distance. Per NYS guidance, students will be afforded the opportunity to take mask breaks during the day. If a particular class size is small enough to allow a teacher to space students out – with 6ft of distance – it will be the classroom teacher’s discretion to permit students to not wear their mask for that particular class period. Again, these circumstances will likely be limited. While many of our class sizes are not large, they are big enough to not allow us to move students away from one another within our classrooms.

We acknowledge the return to school right now will not be what we have previously thought of as normal. However, our efforts will attempt to return students to school routines and a sense of normalcy in a positive, welcoming environment that supports students.

**END OF DOCUMENT**