

School Reopening FAQ's

Q. When are students allowed into the building?

A. At 8:00 am

Q. What entrances will be used to drop off?

A. Only two entrances to the building are open this year. All 7th-9th grade students will use the North doors. The South doors (main entrance) will be used by 10th-12th graders.

Q. What doors are used for student pick-up after school?

A. Students may use any door to exit the building.

Q. Are daily questionnaires and temperature checks required?

A. Students and staff must answer an online questionnaire (link to the app to follow) prior to entering the building daily. Touchless temperature checks will be done at one of two stations as students enter the building.

Q. What happens if a student spikes a temperature or feels ill during the school day?

A. The nurse will escort the student to a quarantine room where they will wait for a parent, guardian, or family member to pick them up.

Q. Are masks required?

A. Masks are required while moving throughout the school, when within 6 feet of other people, or when sitting in classrooms.

Q. Are masks with political speech, controversial or incendiary messages allowed?

A. Masks with such messages would not honor the spirit of our school's mission or the school's dress code. Therefore, at the discretion of the principal, you may be asked to wear another mask if the mask that you are wearing is deemed inappropriate by the principal.

Q. Who will clean classrooms between periods?

A. Teachers will spray a disinfectant on all desks at the end of each period. Students will exit the room and will be given rubber gloves and wipes in their next period to allow the disinfectant time to work. Students will wipe off their desks before leaving the classroom. Students entering a classroom will be given the opportunity to disinfect their desks again before being seated.

Q. Who will be cleaning the school?

A. A cleaning service has been hired to clean the entire campus nightly. A day porter will continuously clean bathrooms, common areas, railings, doorknobs, etc., throughout the school day.

Q. When must students (not in a sport) leave the campus?

A. By 3:00 pm so that the evening cleaning crew can complete their work in a timely manner. We do not want our students in contact with the cleaning contractors for health and safety reasons.

Q. Will extra help be available for students?

A. Yes, virtually, or by appointment. Students should email their teachers to arrange times.

Q. Will there be sports this fall?

A. As of this publication, Section 2 has decided that fall sports, with the exception of football, cheerleading, and volleyball will begin on September 21.

Q. Must my child attend classes in person?

A. No. We will be instructing in a hybrid model. Students may attend classes in person, virtually, or a combination of both.

Q. Will attendance be taken regardless of the daily choice we make regarding instruction?

A. Yes. A daily bell schedule will be followed, and attendance will be taken on Powerschool.

Q. Is a computer device required?

A. Yes. For the past two years, CCHS has required all students to have a Chromebook or similar device.

Q. What happens if someone in the building tests positive for Covid-19?

A. A decision will be made regarding closure in consultation with the Rensselaer County Health Department and the Catholic School Office of the Diocese.

Q. Will families and staff be notified if someone in the school community tests positive for Covid-19?

A. Yes. Families will be notified via email and our emergency notification system. However, due to privacy laws, names will not be released for those that test positive. County health department contact tracers will most likely contact anyone who comes in contact with a Covid-19 positive person.

Q. Will hot lunch be available this year?

A. Yes. There will be three lunch periods this year in order to properly space students out. Seventh and Eighth grades will eat in the cafeteria during the first lunch period. Ninth and Tenth grades will eat in the cafeteria or gym during the second lunch period. Juniors and Seniors will eat in the cafeteria or gym during the third lunch period. Seniors may choose to eat on the soccer field or hill as senior privilege weather permitting. Students may choose to bring their own lunch to school.

Q. Will students have time to socialize while maintaining proper social distance?

A. Yes. All students will stop working from 11:45 - 12:45. While one group of students eats, the other two groups will remain in their 5th-period class until their grade is called to the cafeteria.

Q. What is the procedure for picking up a student early?

A. In an attempt to minimize visitors to the school, we ask that you call the school at 518-235-7100 and give verbal approval to release your student. Please pick them up at the front door without entering the building.

Q. Will the reopening plan be revised?

A. Yes. As circumstances change, the plan will be updated. Families will be given email notification that the plan has been updated, explaining that sentences highlighted in red are what is being replaced by the yellow highlighted sentences.

Q. Can I meet with my student's principal, guidance counselor, or a teacher?

A. Yes. Call the office or email to arrange for a meeting or phone call.

Q. What if a school bus or parent drops off prior to 8 am? Will children be able to get into the school or have to wait outside on the grounds?

A. Unfortunately, the school does not have the ability to hold large numbers of students prior to 8:00 am. Therefore, students will line up on the sidewalk while maintaining 6 feet of social distance.

Q. If a student is waiting outside, who will monitor social distancing or the wearing of masks?

A. Teachers will be assigned an outside duty to ensure the orderly entry into school.

Q. Are all children, faculty/staff mandated to wear masks inside the school and outside on school grounds during the entire school day?

A. Yes. Masks are required while walking in common areas and during class. Students are permitted to remove their masks once seated for lunch.

Q. Are any children allowed to stay after school until 4 pm like previous years?

A. Unfortunately, we need to vacate the campus as close to the 2:37 dismissal as possible. All students, not in a sport, must leave campus by 3:00 pm in order to accommodate our cleaning service.

Q. When students arrive at school, do they immediately report to first-period classrooms?

A. Yes. All students will go directly to their first-period classroom upon entering the building.

Q. If children arrive without masks, will we provide masks? If it happens continuously, will we have enough to supply?

A. Each classroom, the main office, and front door greeter will be stocked with several PPE items, including disposable masks.

Q. Will students stay in one classroom all day?

A. It may not be possible to keep all students in one classroom all day. However, our 7th graders will remain in cohorts and will be assigned one classroom for the day. Our 8th - 12th graders will be dismissed from class by using two bells. On the first day of classes, teachers will ask students to count off by two. Students assigned the #1 will be dismissed at the first bell, and students assigned #2 will be dismissed at the second bell. This ensures that $\frac{1}{2}$ of each grade level will be in the hall at one time rather than all students or all students from a single grade.

Q. How will students move throughout the halls when the period bells ring?

A. Students must walk on the right side of the hallway, stairs, etc. while maintaining 6 feet of distance between them and the next person. Staff and students must wear masks while in the halls, and in all common areas.

Q. Will students be issued lockers this year?

A. No. We will minimize the number of materials, binders, textbooks, etc. so that students can carry a bag or backpack to their classes. We have asked teachers to limit the use of textbooks and assign reading so that the books can remain at home.

Q. What if area public schools close without being mandated to do so by the state?

A. Public school districts in New York State have the authority to make local decisions as long as they are not in conflict with State Education Department regulations. If public schools close, transportation, nursing services, and special education services

would most likely not be available to our students. Therefore, it would be prudent to conform to a common period of closure. If we make the decision to close, we will continue direct, synchronous instruction (similar to the spring) following a daily, abbreviated bell schedule.

Q. What will happen if there are too many students to fit into a classroom?

A. If an alternate larger room can not be scheduled for the period it will be necessary to send some students to an “overflow room” such as the library?

Q. Will there be direct supervision in the overflow room?

A. Yes. All students will be under direct teacher supervision for every class period.

Q. How will overflow students be chosen?

A. Initially, the first students entering the classroom will be assigned to that classroom for the period. However, attendance will be tracked in Powerschool so that we can determine if there is equity in how students are assigned to the overflow room.

Q. Will students with IEPs or 504 accommodations be given preference to work in a classroom, resource room, or alternate location such as the guidance office if such an accommodation is deemed necessary?

A. Yes. All accommodations will be followed, including not sending such students to the overflow room if sending them would have a negative impact on their educational experience.

Q. Does God love us?

A. Yes, “for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing everyone on September 14.

Last revised on August 27, 2020, at 4:00 pm.