

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Reopening Safely

Overall Questions

Why did you select the Family Choice Model?

- Here is the [“Reopening Safely”](#) plan to reopen the Pelham Schools under the Family Choice option. This means a full reopening of school for most students and staff while providing a remote learning option for students unable to return to school or uncomfortable about returning to school. The commitment will extend through the first semester for Pelham High School students and the first trimester for elementary and middle school students.

When do parents have to select their choice?

- The deadline is Friday, August 7, 2020. If you do not decide or submit, the default answer is that your child is attending school.

How do parents select their choice?

- For families currently in Pelham and entering grades 2 - 12, go to the [Parent Portal Link](#) and see the Fall 2020 Family Choice Survey at the bottom of the page.
- For families new to Pelham and those entering preschool, kindergarten and grade 1, go to [Family Choice Survey for New Families to Pelham](#)

What if I don't know my parent portal password?

- Trouble accessing? See these [Parent Portal Instructions](#). Need help? Call . . .
 - Pelham Elementary School - Kelley Sauer at (603) 635-8875
 - Pelham Memorial School - Sarah Barrios at (603) 635-2321
 - Pelham High School – Laura Leonard at (603) 635-2115
 - Superintendent's Office - Matt McKenna (603) 635-1145

Is the ventilation up to code in the building?

- Yes. And we will be making adjustments to respond to COVID-19. We will double our outside airflow in our buildings, run the system for 25% more time daily, and

improve our air filtration system. We will also monitor this system so as not to create unintended ventilation problems.

What social-emotional learning approach is the district using?

- *The district will be utilizing the [Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning's \(CASEL's\) Three Signature Practices](#).*

Safety and Operations

Will students be screened before entering the school building?

- *Before entering the school, students will be required to self-screen. Those not self-screened, who answer yes to any screening question, or have a fever at or above 100.0 will not be allowed to enter the school and sent home.*

Who is required to wear a face covering?

- *Everyone entering or moving about the schools is required to wear a face covering. Students in grades 2 through 12 are required to wear face coverings. We recognize that younger students will have a learning curve getting accustomed to face coverings so students in grades preK - 1 are encouraged to wear a face covering.*

Can my child wear a gaiter (or other face covering) instead of a cloth mask?

- *Yes, as long as the parent provides it and it covers the nose and mouth.*

How many masks will the district provide students?

- *Students will be provided with five cloth masks.*

Will students be allowed to have mask breaks?

- *Yes. Teachers will build in breaks and outdoor time, as needed. This will include continued recess at the elementary and middle school.*

Will hand washing be encouraged?

- *Staff and students will incorporate multiple daily hand washing routines whenever possible or use hand sanitizer.*

Will students share supplies?

- *Students will have their own supplies in classrooms. Sharing will be discouraged.*

What about fire drills?

- *We will have our normal drills. We have coordinated with the fire department to have our first drills allow us to practice doing them safely with the new universal guidelines in place.*

Cleaning Procedures

Will there be extra custodians?

- *Yes. We will reassign/hire additional custodial staff to be available during the day to complete this work.*

How often will bathrooms be cleaned?

- *Custodial staff will routinely clean the schools and work spaces including high touch surfaces during the day according to CDC guidelines.*

Will students be expected to clean their desks?

- *Yes. Students will be expected to wipe down desks and personal space when entering and leaving classrooms.*

Transportation

Will students be expected to wear face coverings on the bus?

- *Yes. Students will be required to wear face coverings on buses.*

Can siblings sit together?

- *Students in the same family will be required to sit together.*

Can students go home on a bus with a friend?

- *No. The district will not allow for changes to student routes for play dates.*

Food Service

What options will be available for lunch?

- *School menus will be posted two weeks in advance. Students will have limited/no choice within the meal offering.*

Will the vending machines be open at the high school?

- *Yes. The vending machines will be available for students.*

Will students eat in their classrooms?

- *Yes. Students will eat in their classroom.*

Where can I find the Free/Reduced Lunch Application?

- *The 2020-2021 Free/Reduced Lunch Application will be available on the website soon.*

Preschool

What is the schedule for preschool?

- *For Preschool, 3 years olds will attend on Monday and Tuesday and 4 year olds will attend on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The instructional minutes will be consistent with last year's schedule.*

What will the class size be for preschool?

- *The largest the class size would be is 12. It is an early childhood education program that is inclusive in nature. A ratio needs to be maintained with 50% being students without disabilities.*

Are you offering remote instruction for preschool?

- *Services will be provided remotely (or face to face) for students with disabilities. There will not be a remote option for students without disabilities.*

Will the curriculum be play-based?

- *Yes, to the degree that can work with physical distancing. Toys and materials will be sanitized throughout the day.*

Will teachers wear face shields?

- *Teachers can wear face shields and/or masks depending on the circumstances of the class..*

What special education services will be offered during preschool?

- *Those required in the IEP and that can be offered safely.*

Elementary School

What is the new schedule for Kindergarten?

- *For Kindergarten, instead of attending ½ day programming five days a week, students will attend full days for two days a week. AM students will attend Tuesdays and Wednesdays. PM students will attend Thursdays and Fridays.*

What about K-ABC?

- *K-ABC students with disabilities will attend Tuesday-Friday. Some remote services will be offered on Monday.*

Will there be recess? How will you keep students safe on the playground?

- *Outside is a safe option. We will practice physical distancing to start the school year and have monitors. Physical distancing will be a behavior expectation as with any other behavior.*

Will students have access to unified arts?

- *Yes. Unified Arts will rotate into classrooms. Physical education will utilize outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

What will morning arrival look like?

- *These plans are being developed.*

Will there be staggered dismissals?

- *These plans are being developed.*

Will lunch be in the classroom? Is peanut butter allowed?

- *Yes. Lunch will be in the classroom. Peanut butter will not be allowed in classrooms with allergies.*

Will students have access to the Nurse's Office?

- *Yes. We have two spaces for our nurse. One for suspected COVID cases and one for all other nurse-related issues.*

Will the Kindergarten curriculum be play-based?

- *Yes, to the degree that can work with physical distancing. Toys and materials will be sanitized throughout the day.*

What are the expectations for teachers that teach remotely?

- *These are our [Remote teacher expectations](#)*

Middle School

What are the morning arrival procedures?

- *Students will utilize three separate entrances, and it will be staggered by grade and team.*

What are the dismissal procedures?

- *Students will have staggered dismissal times. Additional information will become available at the start of school.*

Are there any changes to the schedule this year?

- *Terms will be on a trimester schedule for both core classes and unified arts. This is a change from 2019-20 when core courses were on a quarterly schedule.*

How will students transition in the hallway?

- *Students will have one-way traffic flow in hallways. There will be training at the start of the school year. This includes accommodating the staircases.*

Will lunch be in the classroom? Is peanut butter allowed?

- *Yes, lunch will be served in the classroom. Classrooms with peanut allergies will not be allowed to have peanut butter.*

Will students have access to the Nurse's Office?

- *Yes. We have two spaces for our nurse. One for suspected COVID cases and one for all other nurse-related issues.*

What will the grading model look like this year?

- *Students will use the traditional 0-100 grading scale for the 2020-2021 school year.*

Will students still have access to Unified Arts?

- *Unified Arts will have a different schedule that limits the amount of travel between classrooms.*

Will attendance be taken each period (both remote and in school?)

- *Students will be expected to attend all classes; attendance will be taken each period.*

Will students have to clean between classes?

- *Students are expected to wipe down desks and personal space when entering and leaving classrooms*

Will students have lockers?

- *No. Lockers will not be used in the 2020-2021 school year.*

Will students be able to bring water bottles to class?

- *Yes. Students will be able to bring water bottles to class, and use the filling station to fill them. Water bubblers will be turned off.*

High School

What are the arrival procedures?

- *Students will enter the building through one of the five entrances, closest to where their advisory is located.*

What are the dismissal procedures?

- *There will be staggered dismissals based on location in the building.*

Will juniors and seniors be able to park?

- *Yes, juniors and seniors will be able to park. If we have additional spots, we will consider allowing sophomores to park. Parking spots will not reserved for those who chose remote learning for the semester.*

What will the schedule look like?

- *For the 2020-2021 school year, we will use a 4 x 4 block schedule, with students taking only “Blue Day” classes every day through the first semester and “White Days” in the second semester. Courses that were typically semester long will now be a quarter. Advanced placement classes will run for the full year.*

Why are we switching to that model?

- *This will reduce contact among peers because there will be less switching of classes, improve access to materials, and provide an easier pivot to remote, if necessary*

What will the grading model look like this year?

- *Students will use the traditional 0-100 grading scale for the 2020-2021 school year.*

Will attendance be taken each period (both remote and in school?)

- *Yes. Students will be expected to attend all classes; attendance will be taken each period.*

Will students have access to the Nurse’s Office?

- *Yes. We have two spaces for our nurse. One for suspected COVID cases and one for all other nurse-related issues.*

Will visitors be allowed in the building?

- *Visitors are strongly discouraged.*

Will students have lockers?

- *No. Lockers will not be used in the 2020-2021 school year.*

When can students see their updated schedules?

- *We are targeting the date of August 23rd. Students will be able to schedule time with their counselors prior to the start of the school year to make schedule changes as they have in the past.*

What are the expectations for teachers that teach remotely?

- *These are our [Remote teacher expectations](#)*

What does the new high school schedule look like?

High School Schedule

	Start	End
PLC	7:35	7:55
Advisory	8:00	8:45
Block 1	8:50	10:05
Block 2	10:10	11:25
Block 3-Lunch	11:30	1:10
Block 4	1:15	2:26

Programs

Athletics

What is the current guidance from NHIAA?

- *NHIAA has released guidance that pushes the start date of sports back to September 8 and looks at potential regional play.*

Will students that choose the remote option be able to participate in sports?

- *Yes, students will be able to choose to participate in athletics if they are offered and eligible to participate academically.*

What is the current anticipated start date of Pelham High School Athletics?

- *This date has not been determined.*

What is the current anticipated start date of Pelham Memorial Athletics?

- *This date has not been determined.*

Co-curriculars

Will co-curricular activities be available for students?

- *Yes, we plan to phase in co-curricular activities after the start of the school year.*

Can students that choose the remote option participate in co-curricular activities?

- *Yes. Students will be able to choose to participate in co-curricular activities when they are phased in.*

Band

Will Band be offered at the Elementary School?

- *No. Currently the plan is to not offer band or chorus at the elementary school at the beginning of the school year.*

Will Band be offered at the Middle School?

- *Yes. Currently the plan is to offer band at the middle school at the beginning of the school year. More information will be forthcoming about practices, expectations and PPE for instruments.*

Will Band be offered at the High School?

- *Yes. Currently the plan is to offer band at the high school at the beginning of the school year. More information will be forthcoming about practices, expectations and PPE for instruments.*

CTE

Pinkerton

Will students be able to participate in CTE programs at Pinkerton?

- *CTE students will travel together to Pinkerton CTE programs on a two to three day rotation. The other days per week, students will be participating in remote instruction from Pinkerton teachers. The days of the week will rotate and a schedule will be provided to students. The school district will provide transportation on buses for Block 1 and Block 3 students.*

What is the first day of school for Pinkerton?

- *The first day of school for Pinkerton is Wednesday, September 2, 2020.*

Does taking a CTE class at Pinkerton impact my other classes?

- *Yes. Please work with your guidance counselor and Mrs. Michaud to coordinate these changes*

Alvirne

Will students be able to participate in CTE programs at Alvirne?.

- *Pelham High School is working with Alvirne to determine availability of programming at the start of the school year.*

Special Services

How will students with IEPs be supported in the remote learning environment?

- *Students with IEPs will continue to receive all services and support described by the IEP. IEP teams may need to meet to discuss the implementation of services and supports. Remote classroom teachers will implement the accommodations/modifications in the IEP. IEP teams will consider whether or not services should be offered as a face to face service.*

How will students with 504s be supported in the remote learning environment?

- *Students who are eligible for 504 plans will receive all the support described by the 504 plan. Remote classroom teachers will implement the accommodations in the 504.*

Will IEP team meetings be in person or virtual?

- *IEP Team meetings will continue to be held remotely for the present time.*

If I choose remote, will my child be able to receive services face-to-face?

- *If you choose remote, the IEP team will discuss the provision of services. Decisions around the need for the student to receive the services face to face will be individualized and based upon the child's progress towards their IEP goals and their ability to meaningfully participate in the remote environment.*

What if my child is unable to wear a mask as a result of their disability?

- *Please reach out to your child's special education case manager. The IEP team will discuss any necessary accommodations needed as a result of your child's educational disability.*

Will my child have the same service provider (ie: speech, OT, counselor, special education teacher) if we choose remote?

- *They may not. Our staffing assignments will be determined based upon student need and with the understanding that we are trying to match staff to student needs.*

If I choose remote, and become concerned about my child's progress, what are the next steps?

- *We encourage you to reach out to your child's special education teacher or school counselor to schedule a team meeting to discuss your concerns. The IEP team/504 team should consider what, if any, amendments need to be made to the educational plan to ensure progress is made.*

What is the difference between homeschool and remote learning in terms of special education services?

- *When parents are choosing remote learning, they are choosing to participate in the public school districts instructional program. As a result the district is obligated to ensure that they are offering the student a free appropriate public*

education. This means that the district will continue to provide the services and supports described by the IEP. Homeschooling is different from remote learning in that it offers families the ability to organize their child's educational program based around their needs as a family. NH statute requires home education programs include several subjects -- science, math, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, history of the US and NH constitutions, as well as exposure to and appreciation of art and music – it does not specify when these subjects must be covered. This flexibility is a hallmark of home education; it does not need to replicate "school at home." Homeschooled students, however, do not have access to special education services. Although the district is responsible for determining if homeschool students are eligible for special education services, they are not responsible for ensuring access to a free appropriate public education when parents choose to homeschool their students.