

FORT CHERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING SCHOOL FOR 20-21 SY

ISSUE #1

JULY.8.2020

SCHOOL YR CALENDAR

Teacher Inservice August 24
First Day for Students August 31

CONTACT INFO

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Summer Hours:

School Office are open by
appointment only

Elementary Center
Tami Goddard, Secretary
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Jr/Sr High School
Jodie Partozoti, Secretary
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HEALTH & SAFETY PLANNING FOR 20-21 SY

Health & Safety Task Force Meetings:

Elementary July 6 & 15
High School July 8 & 13

Health & Safety Plan submitted to Board of School Directors for
Approval on July 20, 2020

Tentative: Parent Survey released for 20-21 Educational Programming
Choice on July 21 with return date of July 31

CURRENT STATE REQUIREMENTS AS OF 6/8/20

- School Calendar shall be at least 180 days
- Board of School Directors may approve variation in educational programming and alter length of school day through board resolution
- Face coverings shall be worn in all areas unable to social distance 6 ft
- Any individual traveling to "hot spot" or listed state *should* quarantine for 14 calendar days
- Any individual symptomatic will need to remain home until symptoms clear and temperature free for 3 days

ACADEMICS

TO BE ANNOUNCED



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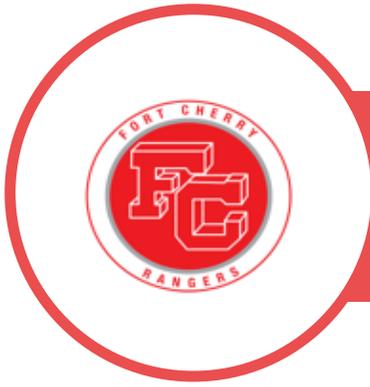
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FAQ

INFO REGARDING REOPENING OF 20-21 SY

ELEMENTARY CENTER (K-6)

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

What are options being discussed for next school year?

- (1) *Traditional—face-to-face instruction in the brick/mortar school building, 5 days a week*
- (2) *Hybrid—2 days face-to-face instruction in the brick/mortar school building; 3 days distance learning (Group A Mon-Tues, All off Wed., Group B Thurs-Fri)*
- (3) *Fort Cherry Cyber—instruction from our own teachers through a cyber platform such as Fusion, Google, Moodle, and/or Canvas*

Is half day Kindergarten an option?

Yes, half day could be an option; however, parents would need to commit to transporting mid-day

If elementary day is shortened, what would be the times?

Shortening the day would assist with developmentally appropriate programming especially for the younger students. Per PA School Code, Elementary programming must equal 900 instructional hours; lunch minutes do not count towards instructional hours; therefore, the Elementary day needs to be at least 5.5 hours. Options could be starting later or getting out early: 8:30 – 2 / 10:45 - 3:15

What is the difference between distance learning vs cyber education?

Distance learning is taking current classroom lesson plans and instructing the content through printed material and/or online activities which are completed at home; this may include some interaction between teacher and students through communication tools such as google classroom, google meet, or zoom for in person interactions. Distance learning would incorporate the use of current Fort Cherry textbooks and materials.

Cyber education is implemented through fully systematic scope and sequence of PA Standards which can be implemented synchronous or asynchronous through an online educational platform by Fort Cherry



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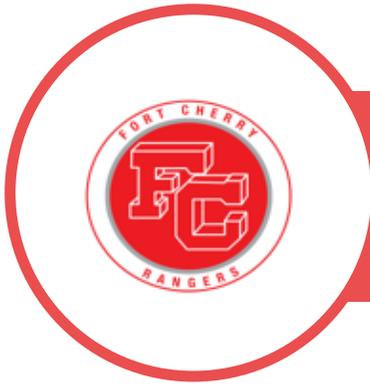
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teachers throughout school day hours. The cyber education platform will instruct the same content, but resources, textbooks, materials, and activities could differ from current Fort Cherry resources and materials. Synchronous learning can use live webinars, instant messaging, video conferencing, and virtual classrooms; students learn at the same time in real time; allows for instant feedback and clarification. Asynchronous learning can use email, screencasts, flip classrooms (recorded lessons), videos, blogging, and lesson recordings; students learning at different times at their own pace; allows students to work at their own pace using their own daytime routine.

[Neither of these scenarios were authentically offered during our recent closure from March – May; Fort Cherry offered instruction through an emergency scenario of grab and go activities/lessons.]

Is PA State Cyber/Charter Schools free?

PA State Cyber/Charter schools are free parents but the tuition is paid by the local school district in which the child resides. Each District's cyber/charter cost is a different based on state formula.

Our District gains 51.6 % from state tax revenue; 42.6% from local tax revenue; 1.3% from federal tax revenue. Various tuition is based on state formulas set forth through PA School Code and legislation.

For 19-20 School Year:

Fort Cherry per pupil expense was \$9897 for brick and mortar instruction (no additional cost for special ed unless outplaced to a specific institution—those tuitions usually range from \$20,000 – \$80,000)

Fort Cherry Tuition rate for a child to attend Fort Chery who did not reside in the District was: Elem \$11,805; HS \$13,125; (no additional charge for special education student); if our students attend another School District for desired programming that we do not offer, we pay that District's tuition cost which is different than ours; Fort Cherry resident to attend a State Cyber/Charter: non-special tuition: \$13,145; special education: \$30,460; these tuitions will slightly increase for 20-21 school year

If a hybrid option was selected, would it be possible to assess students and families that are higher risk learners, have financial need, or child care needs so they may attend more often?

Per PA School Code and FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) regulations, all students must have equitable access to educational opportunities. Legally, schools are unable to provide more instruction to one group over another.

If a hybrid option was selected, could siblings be scheduled on the same day?

Sibling groupings would be attempted, but cannot be promised; depends on busing and classroom numbers.

If a hybrid option was selected, what would happen on the off day, when students are at home?

The three days not attending face-to-face instruction would be conducted through distancing learning. Students would be expected to be online working on classroom assignments and/or activities.

If a hybrid option was selected, what would be expected of teachers on Wednesday?

Fort Cherry Teachers would be implementing distancing learning and cyber instruction.

Could a hybrid option allow for Group A students to come in AM, Group B to come in the PM?



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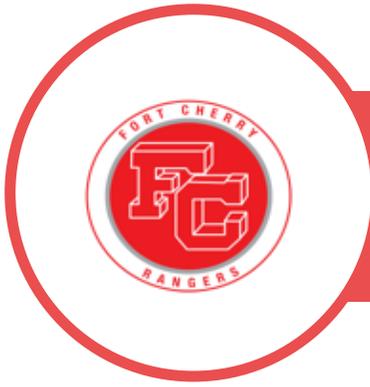
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Due to the financial cost of running two extra bus runs per a day; it would be extremely costly to add mid-day runs. In addition, in order to meet hourly regulations, students would need to work at home on the off hours.

Is recess possible?

At least during the warm months, recess is a possibility; however, recess will need to be organized and maintained using social distancing protocols of 6 feet and no use of playground equipment/items.

Will intermediate grades (4-6) change classes?

Most likely homerooms will be organized to accommodate groupings and groups will remain together; teachers will move from room to room.

Is the School District locked into the designed plan for the entire year?

Health and Safety Plans are living documents that may be altered and modified as needed. As mandates and regulations change, the District's plans and educational programming can change as needed.

What is the plan if the county/state moves to red phase or school must be closed?

If Washington County or the state moved into red, all schools will be closed and all students will move to full time distance learning online and/or continue with cyber education depending on their previously chosen method of education. If closure is for an extended amount of time, all students may need to move into the cyber option; determination will be made in order to make transitioning easy for students and teachers.

How will IEPs/support services be implemented?

As per PA School Code, FAPE, and IDEA, all specialized programming must be implemented. Students will most likely move to their specialized classrooms for instructions and therapies. Groupings of students will remain extremely consistent to minimize exposure.

What about unified arts (music, library, art, gym, STEM)?

All specials will be "pushed into" the classrooms. Special teachers will instruct their content in the regular classroom setting. Library books will be unable to be checked out; however, Mrs. Tarentino will work with teaching students how to gain access to e-resources through our public library system. All other programming will need to be altered as to not require the sharing of materials and/or resources.

If cyber is offered, could a family decide to change to traditional at any time?

In order to maintain consistency with grading and content execution, enrollment/withdrawal periods will be offered every nine weeks.

Would parents be able to preview the cyber option before choosing this option?

Yes; curricular content is reflective of what is currently taught which is aligned to the PA State Standards. This means that it is the same skill being taught at the same grade level. The lessons, assignments, resources, textbooks, materials, and activities may be different.

Would cyber lessons coordinate to what is happening in the traditional setting?



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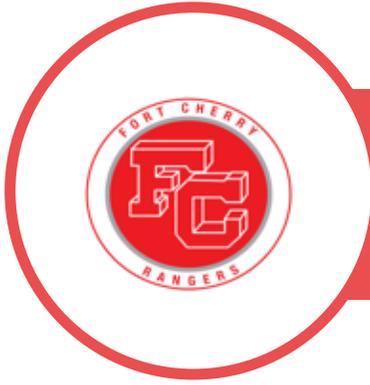
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At this time without knowing exactly how the programming will be arranged, we are not sure lessons can be totally aligned. Curricular content will be the same, however, the actual lesson taught, resources, and activities may vary. In addition, timing of presented content may be slightly different.

Can activities within 6 feet be conducted if students are wearing masks?

With current mandates, activities can only be conducted within 6 ft while wearing a mask; in addition, materials/resources are unable to be shared. Students will be provided individual sets of materials.

Masks are mandated by the state at the current time, are there exceptions?

The PA Dept of Health has articulated the following exceptions:

Schools may allow students to remove their face coverings during the following scenarios:

- 1. Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;*
- 2. Seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart;*
- 3. Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart*
- 4. If individual has a medical condition prohibiting the use of a mask*

What electronic devices are being used next year?

Through the Federal Cares Act, the District is purchasing iPads for all students K-2 and Chromebooks for grades 3-6. Students will be allowed to take these home on a daily basis. If a child is enrolled in FC Cyber, an electronic device corresponding to grade level usage will be provided as part of the enrollment process.

What would be the difference in programming between green vs yellow phase?

Still to be determined

Could a student attend extracurricular activities if they choose cyber?

Yes, if a student attends FC Cyber, he/she can participate in extracurricular activities. Transportation to and from activity will be the responsibility of the parent. If a student attends a PA State cyber/charter school, students may request permission through the Superintendent's Office to participate in FC extracurricular activity so long as their enrolled cyber/charter school does not offer the extracurricular activity.

What about holiday parties?

At the current time, no visitors, parties, and/or field trips are permitted.

How will social distancing happen in hallways and transition times?

All entrances and hallways will be one direction only whereby allowing for proper social distancing throughout the school building.

Where will students eat lunch?

We have decided to not have students eat in their classrooms due to food allergies and the need for a change of scenery. Therefore, the Elementary Center will be using the cafeteria and gymnasium for lunches. The gym will be set up with additional furniture to meet the 6 ft social distancing requirements.

TRANSPORTATION



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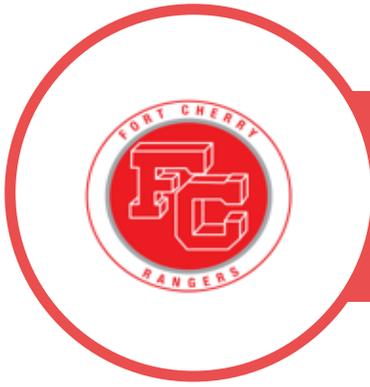
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Do students have to wear masks on the bus?

Yes, under the current mandate, students will be required to wear a mask on the bus.

How many students will be on the bus?

The District is looking to have two students per seat on all FC buses. In addition, the District will provide procedures for those parents who are able and willing to transport their child/ren to and from school.

Will there be an option to have a second adult on buses?

Yes, the District is looking into placing an aide on every Elementary bus run.

Could siblings sit together?

Yes, family members will be required to sit together to assist with mitigation. Also, seats will be assigned by bus stop...first on the bus will move to the back and so on. Kindergarteners will be seated on a case-by-case basis.

Can plexiglass be installed on buses?

No additional alterations may be made on any school bus per PA transportation regulations.

HEALTH

Will temperatures be taken upon entering a bus or the school?

At this time, FC is not looking to take temperatures due to their lack of reliability in a group setting. However, symptomatic students/personnel will be surveyed and temped.

What is the protocol for a student/teacher who tests positively for COVID 19?

At this time, our understanding is that anyone testing positive for the virus must be isolated and quarantined. This would include any student/staff that came into direct contact with the quarantined individual. The District will notify all necessary individuals/families should the situation arise.

Will the District provide masks?

The District will have additional masks if a student forgets, loses, or breaks his/her mask. However, it will be the responsibility of parents to provide a clean face covering on a daily basis.

How will masks be monitored?

School personnel will developmentally appropriately address students who may be displaying difficulty with the mask mandate. Parents will be notified if issues persist. If a student defiantly attempts to create an unsafe environment for others and does not respond to redirection, his/her actions may be addressed through the disciplinary system.

If the hybrid option was selected and a child/teacher in Group A tested positive, would both groups be quarantined?

At this time, our understanding is that only the students in direct contact would be quarantined. This would include all individuals with direct contact with the positive individual including interaction on the bus and in the school building.

If a vaccine becomes available, will students be required to get the vaccine?



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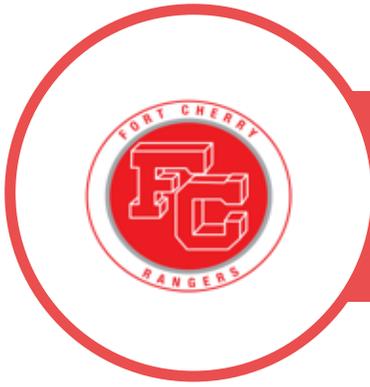
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This decision is not up to individual School Districts; this requirement would be decided at the State level.

What is the protocol for contact tracing?

We are being told that if an individual tests positive for COVID 19, the regional Dept of Health would contact PA Dept of Health and tracing would begin through their office. At the same time, PA Dept of Health would notify the PA Dept of Education who would in turn communicate with the District. In addition, we are also being told that the individual should communicate positive results to the District immediately. However, communication to the District is up to the individual to be upfront and honest.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

What if a teacher becomes ill and needs to be quarantined, how will instruction continue?

Just as in the past, if a teacher becomes ill, a substitute teacher will continue classroom instruction. If a sub is not available, the responsibility will move to a unified arts teacher or other certified building personnel.

FACILITY OPTIONS

Is FC considering plexiglass dividers in classrooms?

Yes, through the Federal ESSER safety grant, we submitted for plexiglass dividers for all classrooms which currently have tables. Therefore, the existing furniture may still be used through protective shields. The offices, cafeterias, and boys' restrooms (urinals) will be retrofitted with protective shields as well.

What would be the desk count and student ratio in rooms?

At this time, we are able to fit 20 desks 5.5ft apart which was satisfactory until July 1. As of July 1, we are being instructed that seating must be 6ft which will decrease the desk number by 5 to 15 desks per a classroom. The set up includes removing all additional furniture such as book shelves, storage units, and the like.

How will desks be cleaned?

Each classroom will be supplied with Purell disinfectant wipes which are safe for students to use. Each night our cleaning personnel will disinfect all surfaces with a commercial grade cleaner which is safe for school use but appropriate for virus disinfecting.

What is the process for cleaning throughout the day?

The District currently has an assigned custodian to each building during school hours, along with a maintenance crew who assists with any daily management needs. The District is looking to add a full time cleaner to the day time team with responsibility for sanitizing high track areas such as door knobs, stairwell railings, and restroom fixtures.

Are outside areas an option?

The District is looking at using outside areas for additional space so long the weather permits.

How will other areas of the school be used?



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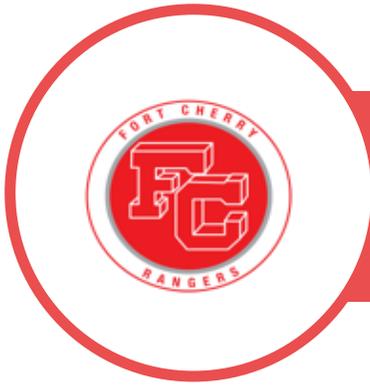
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The Administration is working to be extremely creative in the use of learning spaces throughout the building. The District is striving to get back to normal as much as possible.

Will drinking fountains be available to students?

No, at this time, drinking fountains will not be available for use. Parents will be required to send a filled water bottle to school each day with their child/ren. In addition, students will be allowed to refill their water bottles throughout the day either using sinks or bottle refill stations. Free tap water will also be available during all lunch periods.

Do our schools have proper ventilation and air filtration systems?

The new air ventilation system is up and working. All unit ventilators in the classrooms are new and provide air conditioning, as well as heat. The filtration systems are new as well; air filters are recommended to be changed every 9 weeks; however, at this time we will be changing once a month.

JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL (7-12)

TBA

FAQ High School Section will be added on July 9th after High Task Force Mtg on July 8th



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