

# FORT CHERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING SCHOOL FOR 20-21 SY

ISSUE #2

JULY.9.2020

## SCHOOL YR CALENDAR

Teacher Inservice August 24  
First Day for Students August 31

## CONTACT INFO

Dr. Jill M. Jacoby, Superintendent  
[jjacoby@fortcherry.org](mailto:jjacoby@fortcherry.org)  
Call/Text 724-298-8061

Ms. Dawn Smith, Pupil Services  
[dsmith@fortcherry.org](mailto:dsmith@fortcherry.org)  
Call/Text 724-298-8090

Dr. Trisha Craig, HS Principal  
[tcraig@fortcherry.org](mailto:tcraig@fortcherry.org)  
Call/Text 412-568-3096

Mr. Dan Mayer, Elem Principal  
[dmayer@fortcherry.org](mailto:dmayer@fortcherry.org)  
Call/Text 724-506-6569

### Summer Hours:

School Office are open by  
appointment only

Elementary Center  
Tami Goddard, Secretary  
[tgoddard@fortcherry.org](mailto:tgoddard@fortcherry.org)

Jr/Sr High School  
Jodie Partozoti, Secretary  
[jpartozoti@fortcherry.org](mailto:jpartozoti@fortcherry.org)

## 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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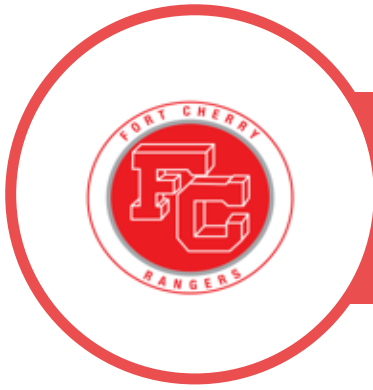
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## FAQ

### INFO REGARDING REOPENING OF 20-21 SY

#### PROGRAMMING (K-12)

**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*

**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 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.*



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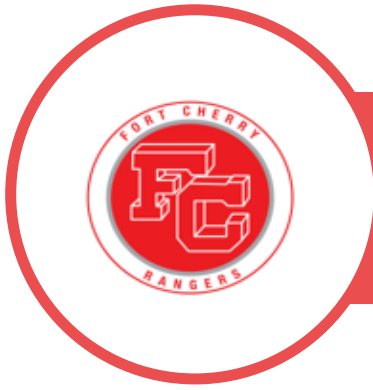
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*[Neither of these scenarios were authentically offered during our recent closure from March – May; Fort Cherry offered instruction through an emergency scenario of grab and go activities/lessons.]*

### **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 Cherry 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*

### **What is the grading system for next year?**

*All grading, regardless of the school model, will use the Fort Cherry grading system of %.*

**If a hybrid option is 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 is selected, how would students be assigned to the Groups?**

*Many factors will be considered in creating the groups, student count per classroom, bus capacity, student schedule, student needs (IEP/504/GIEP), and attempt to group siblings together.*

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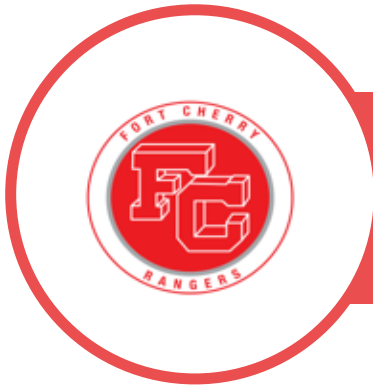
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*Due to the financial cost of running two extra bus runs per a day; it would be extremely costly to add mid-day runs. In addition, in order to meet hourly regulations, students would need to work at home on the off hours.*

**With hybrid, are the days at home distance learning or cyber?**

*The days students are off would be distance learning with Wednesday being some type of synchronous format. The other days would be asynchronous.*

**In the hybrid scenario, would teachers be teaching according to student schedules?**

*For Wednesday when all are off that is a possible scenario. On the other days the instruction would be asynchronous. [Asynchronous learning may include the use of email, screencasts, flip classrooms (recorded lessons), videos, blogging, and lesson recordings; students learning at different times at their own pace; permitting students to work at their own pace using their own daytime routine.]*

**Can classes be live streamed on hybrid days?**

*We are working on live streaming; however, due to our current band width and hardware, live streaming on hybrid days may not be feasible. Therefore, we are planning a more asynchronous teaching/learning environment.*

**What would hybrid and FC Cyber look like for kids with IEPs?**

*Students with IEPs will gain the same instruction as they would traditionally; a certified special education teacher would manage their instruction and accommodations.*

**Would it be more cost effective to do FC cyber for all students?**

*Per PDE guidelines, schools must attempt to offer some type of in-person, as well as, an online option as part of the reopening plan.*

**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.*

**If regulations change and schools are allowed to return to normal?**

*As mandates and regulations change, we will modify the education plan and programming. However, any parent who chooses FC Cyber and would like to continue, even if a regular school day is possible, will be welcome to continue throughout the entire year.*

**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.*



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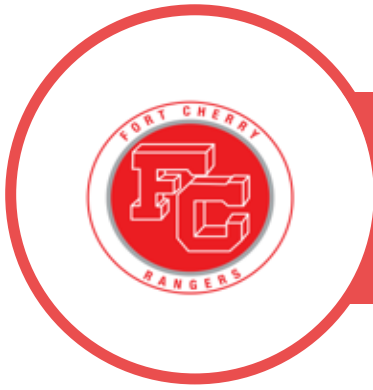
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## **If cyber is offered, could a family decide to change to traditional at any time?**

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

## **If a child enrolls in the traditional model and the state or county shuts down for a long period of time, what will happen with instruction?**

*All students would be rolled over to cyber instruction or distance learning using synchronous instruction.*

## **Are there concerns that FC Cyber may have issues being so new?**

*There is always potential for challenges when beginning a new program; however, the benefit may completely outweigh any challenge that may happen.*

## **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?**

*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.*

## **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.*

## **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.*

## **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.*

## **With all concerns about safety, how can sports be allowed?**

*The PIAA/WPIAL have jurisdiction over sports. We follow their mandates which are approved by the Governor's Office, PA Dept. of Health, and PA Dept of Education.*



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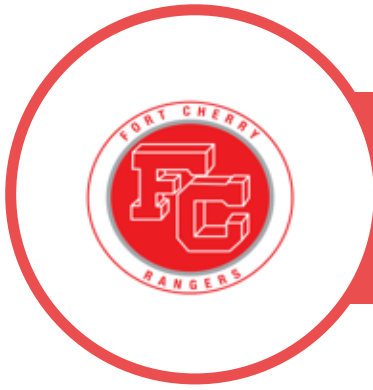
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## **How will social distancing happen in hallways and transition times?**

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

## **How will cafeterias work?**

*The cafeterias will run using social distancing protocols and separation seating. The Elementary Center is looking to serve one class at a time. The District is extending seating into other areas to accommodate social distancing seating.*

## **Where will students eat lunch?**

*The District has 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.*

## **Can classrooms be used as extra cafeterias?**

*For the HS, cafeteria areas will include cafeteria, courtyard (with tent options), and learning commons. As weather changes, additional spaces may be used to accommodate needs as not to use outdoor areas during cold weather months.*

## **How will lunches work for distance learning days and/or FC cyber students?**

*The FC Food Service Department is working on a plan for meal provisions for students either attending FC Cyber or on a hybrid distancing learning day. All students may obtain lunches, free/reduced/pay. The cost will be deducted from a student's meal account. [More information on distribution will be provided in coming weeks.]*

## **Will visitors be allowed in schools--parent volunteers, outside agencies, colleges, recruiters, and the like?**

*At this time, no volunteers will be permitted in the building setting. College and recruiters will be asked to meet virtually with our students. Outside agencies in which we contract services, such as Washington Drug and Alcohol and Washington Communities Mental Health, will be allowed to continue necessary programming in the school setting through abiding by social distancing protocols.*

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

*Still to be determined*

## **What happens on snow days?**

*Snow days will be treated as in past years for students in a traditional setting. The District will use Flexible Instruction Days (FID) days to fulfill educational hour requirements.*



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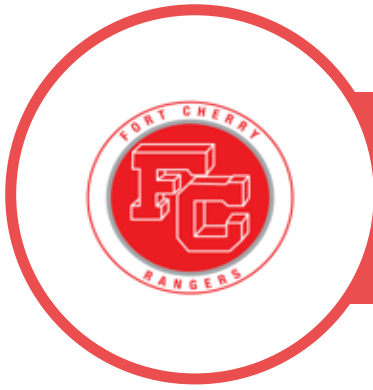
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## HEALTH & SAFETY

**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 exempts a child from the mask mandate?**

*Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition - including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing; a mental health condition, or disability; and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance - are not required to wear face coverings. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask. However, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield. Per DOH order, the student is not required to show documentation that an exception applies.*

**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.*

**Because the school is unable to ask for documentation for not wearing a mask, do you feel people will take advantage of this exception?**

*We truly hope parents and students will be honest and truthful about existing conditions. For the common good of all, families need to do the right thing and demonstrate integrity.*

**Does the 6 ft apart apply to teachers as well?**

*Yes, teachers must wear a mask or face covering if they are within 6ft of another individual (adult or child).*



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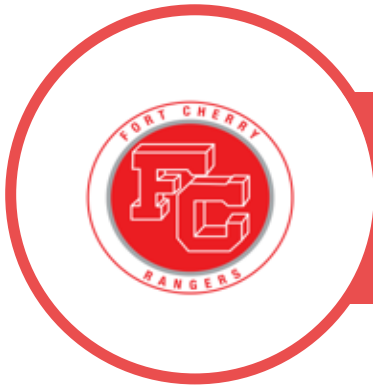


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## **Will temperatures be taken upon entering a bus or the school?**

*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. Surveying parents again regarding this question.*

## **What are the symptoms which would send a child home?**

*A student will be sent home if he/she has any of the following: fever of 100.4 or more, chills, persistent cough, sneezing, sore throat, shortness of breath, diaherra, vomiting, loss of taste/smell.*

## **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.*

## **If a student must be quarantined for any reason, and they are in a traditional learning model, how may they gain instruction?**

*The teachers will modify distance learning to provide instruction to that child through the quarantine period. (If it is a prolonged absence of more than 10 school days, flipping to FC Cyber will not be an option.)*

## **Would quarantined days be excused per attendance guidelines?**

*Yes, so long as the child is gaining instruction through distancing learning the days may count as attended. An online attendance form will need to be completed to track the attendance.*

## **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.*

## **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.*

## **What happens if a child is mildly sick, i.e. cold?**

*At this time, the child will need to remain out of school 3 days fever free and with no symptoms. A student can return with a doctor excuse if there is no fever but symptoms.*



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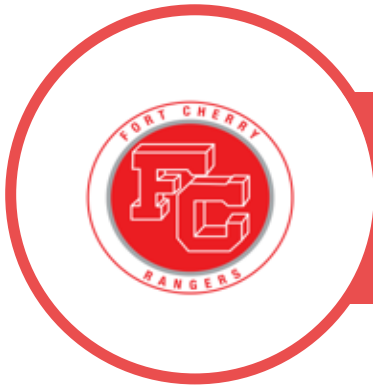


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## **What happens if a student comes to school with known symptoms or is positive for COVID 19?**

*If a student is aware of another individual having COVID and found to be in school, they must tell an adult immediately. If a student shows up to school with symptoms, he/she will be isolated in the “sick area” of the nurse’s office. Parents will be notified, and he/she will be sent home as soon as possible.*

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

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

## **Would having school one week on and one week off help with contact tracing?**

*At this time, from discussions with the DOH, week to week will probably not make that much of a difference in regards to contact tracing*

## **With concerns about school violence, how will students be recognized when wearing a face mask?**

*We will work with our employees including bus drivers to create a protocol for identifying our students as they enter the bus/school setting. This could be accomplished from anything from the use of student IDs to temporarily removing masks for identifications. All students including Elementary will have student IDs next year.*

## **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.*



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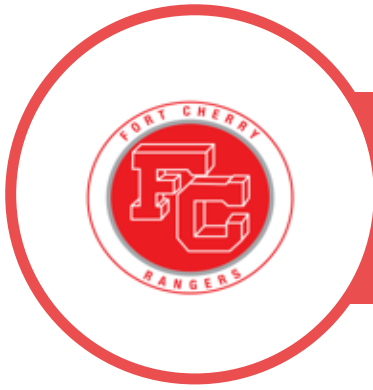
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## How will desks be cleaned?

*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?

*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.*

## Is the AC fully operational?

*Yes, the new AC system is fully operational; therefore, there is AC in all areas of both schools.*

## 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.*

## Will classrooms without windows be provided air purification/filtration systems?

*All rooms, even those rooms without windows do have air conditioning and air circulation systems. If we find the need to add purification systems to those rooms, we may do so.*

## TRANSPORTATION

### 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.*



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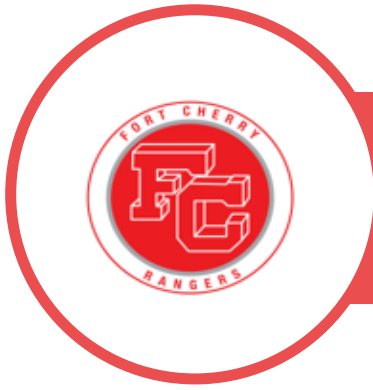
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## How many students will be on the bus?

*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.*

## Is there a way to stagger arrival times to make drop-off quicker including parent drop off?

*Yes, a protocol for parent drop-off/pick-up will be created due to an anticipated increase in parent's transporting both Elem and Junior High Students.*

## Will there be opportunities for more students to drive to school?

*Yes, any student with a current driver's license may drive to school. Permits will be issued just to keep track of cars on campus for safety, but the parking fee will be waived for this school year.*

## SPECIFIC TO ELEMENTARY CENTER (K-6)

### 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*

### 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.*



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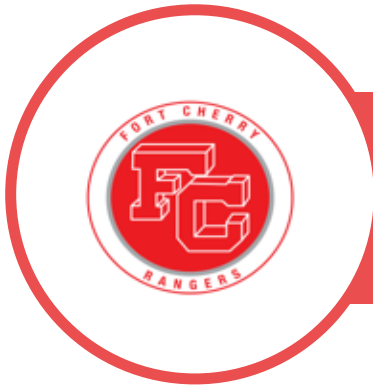
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## **What about unified arts (music, library, art, gym, STEM)?**

*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.*

## **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 about holiday parties?**

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

## **SPECIFIC TO JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL (7-12)**

### **When will schedule selection happen for Jr/Sr High School?**

*The FC Admin is hoping to roll out a schedule inquiry the first week of August. If all goes as planned, parents will most likely receive a survey beginning July 21 and closing July 31 to choose a learning model (traditional/FC cyber). Once numbers are set for the model, scheduling can begin.*

### **Will electives be offered for Grade 7-12?**

*At this time, we are not completely certain what electives will be offered. There is a good chance not all courses will be offered for the 20-21 SY.*

### **What will happen with VoAg programming moving into the 20-21 SY?**

*The District will work with Mrs. Hoover, the VoAg state organization, and the FFA organization to keep all programming progressing while following all state health and safety mandates.*

### **What is the plan for Western Area CTC/Parkway West CTC? Are our students still able to participate?**

*The District anticipates that both Western Area CTC and Parkway West CTC will be available for eligible students. More information will be provided once the District receives plans from the CTCs.*



JJACOBY@FORTCHERRY.ORG



@FCSINFO



724-298-8061



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