



**Astoria School District Parents & Families  
Parent Q & A - August 18, 2020 Meeting  
Concerning Astoria School District 2020-2021 Return to School**

*This Q & A was created using the questions from the 8/18/2020 Parent Feedback Meeting. Please check the [District Website](#) for questions asked and answered prior to this meeting.*

- 1. In the survey, it asks whether we will be remote learning all year, or if we will have our kids attend in-school as soon as we can. Can we change our decision?**

Answer: We are working to finalize our plans for the launch of Remote Learning on September 14th, and transition to on-site learning when it is determined we can. If your family has not completed the important Parent Survey sent out on August 18, 2020, please complete the two-minute survey located on our District website and linked here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QPWVLR5>

Once it is determined that we can return to buildings, if you would prefer that your student continues with remote learning, they can continue in that program. A decision to stay in Remote Learning or to return to on-site learning when possible can always be changed. This survey is designed to get a general idea of families' learning plans for the fall.

- 2. Is the Remote Learning Platform web-based? Will the kids be able to get Chromebooks for the school year? What about cameras/mics for PCs?**

Answer: Astoria School District's remote learning platform **Edgenuity** is a web-based program that supports modern computers including those running Windows 10, Mac OS 10.9+. Chrome would be the preferred web browser, but Safari, Edge, and Firefox are also supported.

The District supplied many students with Chromebooks when we transitioned to Remote Learning in the Spring. Those students can continue to utilize the District devices, and we will continue to assess family needs regarding technology. Our goal would be a one-to-one ratio for students and technology, meaning each student would have access to their own device. This goal hinges on device availability from the manufacturer, as the demand for these types of devices is understandably high. We plan to get the devices into student's hands as soon as possible. At this time, the District is only providing technology in the form of Chromebooks. Please contact the District Office with any questions or specific technology concerns you may have.

**3. My student is wondering whether to make an Edgenuity account now? Or are you sending us login info?**

Answer: The District will be creating accounts for all of our students and providing login information to students and families.

**4. Can you talk about online security for my student using a web based platform to learn?**

Answer: Security for our students, staff and families is very important to the District. The following links address most of the security and privacy information for Google and Edgenuity. If parents have specific questions about security, please contact the District Office.

- [https://gsuite.google.com/security/?secure-by-design\\_activeEl=data-centers](https://gsuite.google.com/security/?secure-by-design_activeEl=data-centers)
- [https://edu.google.com/why-google/privacy-security/?modal\\_active=none](https://edu.google.com/why-google/privacy-security/?modal_active=none)
- <https://support.google.com/a/answer/9822731?hl=en>
- <https://www.edgenuity.com/privacy-policy/#:~:text=We%20consider%20Student%20Data%20to,services%20on%20the%20School's%20behalf.&text=Edgenuity%20will%20not%20use%20Student,Edgenuity's%20contract%20with%20the%20School.>

**5. What time will school actually start for high school students during distance learning? Wondering what the students' days will look like.**

Answer: Each school is working on finalizing a schedule for students for live instructional opportunities. Once this is confirmed, it will be shared with our families. You can expect that your student will have at least 2-3 scheduled opportunities each day and that there will be a consistent schedule for those classes.

**6. If I need a teacher to help my child with a mathematical concept I have difficulty explaining, how could I request one on one help from the teacher? Would there be an opportunity for one on one assisting if needed?**

Answer: Each of our teachers will have at least two designated 'office hour' times each week where they are available to help students/parents either by phone or within a Google Meets. One session will likely be during traditional school hours and one will be offered in the evening as a district for those parents/students who are unavailable during the day. In addition, parents will be able to contact their teachers individually to address concerns or ask questions. Our teachers have traditionally been very good about getting back to parents and students for help.

**7. My student is in 7th grade and in the TAG program. Is there any way she could test out of 7th grade and move up to 8th grade when students are allowed to go back?**

Answer: All students will be assessed in the first few weeks of school starting. The teacher teams will use information from the assessments, TAG plans, past performance data to place students in classes that will meet the appropriate level for each student. If you have a need for student-specific information, please contact the school directly so we can discuss your individual child and their learning plan.

8. **Can you please explain why at the middle school and high school levels content teachers are only checking in with students twice a week? I understand that this isn't a typical school year but these are the core foundation classes and much like we are holding a meeting virtually right now - why wouldn't they be able to meet on a daily basis for 30 minutes no different than their regular class schedule order?**

Answer: Teachers at the secondary level will be checking with students daily. Content classes will have an additional twice weekly opportunity for students to participate in live class discussions/activities. The daily meeting will be conducted through homeroom or advisory classes. A student taking 5 classes will have a minimum of 15 opportunities a week to interact with their teachers.

9. **How will student school work assignments be given? Will they be given a week's worth of assignments at a time to be able to work ahead, so working families can plan ahead? Or will they be day to day assignments like in the spring?**

Answer: We are in the process of setting up our online learning platform. It is our understanding that assignments can be posted a week at a time, with the opportunity for teachers to also designate specific tasks for specific days (for example, a teacher may ask students to read an article prior to a scheduled online discussion session). In addition, teachers will be providing their classes with a weekly template that illustrates the assignments for each day, with additional information to help students navigate their way through the week's assignments.

10. **How will the children k-3 be chosen to return for hybrid learning?**

Answer: When it is deemed safe to begin bringing larger groups of students on site, the district will use a decision making process to determine priorities and schedules for return. This decision making process will be based on a number of factors, and will help us identify the grades, cohorts, groups or individuals whose learning needs are best met with face-to-face, on-site instruction.

11. **I have read that there are neighboring districts who are going to be opening for all students K-3 on September 14th. Could you tell the difference between Astoria district and other local districts?**

Answer: Aside from meeting the state and county health metrics, there are a number of factors that impact a district/school's re-opening plan. When creating our re-opening plan, some of the factors that were required for consideration made it more challenging for our district to bring all students on site together within a building on any given day, based on our space, staffing, and number of students. This included the following requirements:

- Classroom capacity for the instructional day will be no more than 1 person (student or staff), per 35 square feet of usable classroom space. For most classroom spaces within the district, this would be anywhere between 14-20 students and 1-2 adults per room. In our district, this created the need for additional classroom spaces and staffing to accommodate all of our students at each building.
- When developing building cohorts, students must remain in intact contact groups (cohorts) of fewer than 100 students/staff who may interact throughout the school

day per week, and who are required to have limited shared access to the same area of the building, school building entrance, restroom facilities, and use of common areas including play spaces.

**12. Will there be a way to do remote speech therapy? Or other remote supports for students?**

**Answer:** Students supported with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be supported by Special Education staff during Comprehensive Distance Learning. This includes students who have Speech and Language Goals. The Astoria School District has two Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs) and an SLP Assistant through the Northwest Regional Educational Service District (NWRESA). These specialists will be conducting teletherapy to address individual student needs remotely. Parents who have specific questions about Special Education services should feel free to contact Travis Roe at [troe@astoria.k12.or.us](mailto:troe@astoria.k12.or.us) or 503.325.0476.

**13. Will students be getting any textbooks or workbooks?**

**Answer:** The District will be determining student's needs regarding text and workbooks. We are working right now on developing a system to determine what 'hard copy' materials and supplies are needed for students and how they will be delivered to students. As soon as that plan is complete, we will communicate it with our families.

**14. I don't think my middle schooler forecasted last year. How will her classes be selected? For example, she does not want to continue orchestra but wants to take Spanish, if available.**

**Answer:** All of our students will have the four core classes (math, language arts, science and social studies) with a menu of enrichment activities in the form of mini classes changing theme weekly, and/or remote opportunity for physical education, art, and music. The district engagement team is helping to develop a format to ensure students are offered opportunities to participate in elective courses.

**15. How will you continue to keep parents and families informed about the reopening of the 2020-2021 school year?**

**Answer:** In addition to email and social media communication, the District will be conducting a Virtual Parent Meeting every Tuesday at 6:30 PM, to discuss the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. Notice and instruction to join the meeting by computer or telephone will be sent to parents prior to the meeting each week. The district has developed a communication plan that will include weekly updates to parents, once the school year has begun.

**16. Who can I contact if I have any school related questions?**

**Answer:** Please call (503) 325-6441 and District Office staff will provide you with assistance. You can also call the school that your child attends for more information.