



**Astoria School District Parents & Families
Parent Q & A - August 4, 2020 Meeting
Concerning Astoria School District 2020-2021 Return to School**

This Q & A was created using the questions from the 8/4/2020 Parent Feedback Meeting. Please check the [District Website](http://www.astoria.k12.or.us) for Parent FAQs and questions asked and answered prior to this meeting.

1. Will my child be able to turn in work to their teacher remotely and get graded?

Answer: Yes. The program, as well as the teacher, will grade the work and the grade will be posted on Edgenuity.

2. Online school is going to be a challenge for special needs kids, especially nonverbal students - What is the plan to meet their needs?

Answer: State guidance for Special Education will be released on August 11, 2020. The District is evaluating the feasibility of small groups for our students that need extra support.

3. Will ParentVue be utilized again so that we can follow up with what is missing etc?

Answer: The District is evaluating the use of ParentVue and other programs we have used in past years. Edgenuity provides the same information to students and parents that StudentVue provides. It is possible that parents, teachers and students will all use Edgenuity to keep track of student progress.

4. So you still want us to be a teacher?

Answer: We know that this is hard for parents. Astoria School District staff want to be in front of students every day, and it is the District's hope that we can get to that point in a safe and healthy manner. Remote learning this fall will be approached differently than it was in the spring. The district plans to provide more support for parents and students, including more contacts and connections with teachers and staff.

5. What about students that are home alone during the day that don't have someone to push them along because their single parent works during the day then comes home and does housework and cooks dinner with no time left to work with their child?

Answer: The District is asking parents to reach out to building administrators for help and support during remote learning. We will be keeping track of student progress and can work collaboratively with parents to help keep their students on track. In addition, the

District is working on plans to have staff available at least once a week for help and support after school hours.

6. How will teachers and parents know a student is on track for required remote instructional time?

Answer: The digital platform (Edgenuity) we are using provides progress information for students, parents, and teachers to review. Their progress, in terms of hours logged, is also tracked by Edgenuity.

7. Will students be able to access some self paced courses if they have an interest in accelerated learning?

Answer: The digital platform the District is using provides students the ability to move along at their own pace, as well as the pace the teacher provides. We are attempting to keep class sizes small so that teachers will be able to work more closely with individual students.

8. How are middle schoolers going to select their electives (enrichment)?

Answer: At this point, electives will not be offered to students individually, but electives will be part of what is provided to all middle level students.

9. You said that there would be teachers and parent training on the remote learning platform Edgenuity. When? When can parents log in to look around and have time to feel comfortable?

Answer: The District is in the planning stages of setting up and scheduling training for parents. The District will notify parents as to when and how Edgenuity training will take place.

10. When do we find out what class our student is in? It's a tradition to go look on the doors. My child is still in grade school.

Answer: This will take place early in September, and we have not yet determined the process. The District will be sending out a survey in the next week or so that will help us plan for student placement. Please look for this survey in your email.

11. When distance learning begins to transition into a hybrid model, can we know how much notice will be given?

Answer: Yes, we are expecting 3 to 4 days to transition into a hybrid model. It is our plan that your student's teacher during remote learning will be the same teacher when students go into a hybrid schedule.

12. We received Chromebooks last year, we opted to keep them over the summer, will this platform be able to be accessed from those Chromebooks or will they need to be returned to have the software updated?

Answer: The same Chromebooks that were provided to students in the spring can be used for remote learning to begin the 2020-2021 school year. The District will be putting contact information out on who to contact if there is a technology problem.

13. Will students be required to attend the synchronous class times, or is there flexibility as to when they can access those? And will those synchronous class times be coordinated between subjects at the secondary level?

Answer: There will be live classes every day, as well as small group live sessions everyday for students. Students can work on individual projects or assignments at any time. The District is working on a schedule so that live instruction will take place either in the afternoon or morning, depending on grade level. The plan is to have elementary and secondary live teaching occur at separate times during the school day.

14. Will substitute teachers be available for tutoring?

Answer: At this point, the District has not looked into providing substitutes to help with tutoring. As we move forward with remote learning, we will look into different services needed to help support our students.

15. For high school students - are there elective classes that they will not be able to participate in this year? For example - fisheries management?

Answer: The high school is looking into the different elective classes that will be offered. More information on what electives will be available will be coming out from the high school.

16. How can parents volunteer for assistance?

Answer: This is a very good question. At this point, the District is working to put the remote learning plan in place. As we move closer to the opening of school, the District may be looking for volunteers, and will reach out to parents at that time.

17. How will registration work for second graders going from Astor to Lewis and Clark?

Answer: If a second grade student was at Astor last year, they are automatically enrolled at Lewis and Clark when you use our online registration system. The District is putting out a press release providing information for new students and who they can contact to get enrolled in school.

18. How does the district plan to help students who have fallen behind, graduate on time?

Answer: The high school has set up learning plans for high school students who have fallen behind. High school staff will be working with individual students on plans to help students catch up with credits needed to graduate.

19. Will students also be instructed in the arts (music, drawing, etc.) in the remote learning model?

Answer: The District is working on what will be offered and how the arts will be provided to students.

20. What about band?

Answer: The District is working on what band will look like in the fall. Band has some health issues related, but we are trying to figure out what this will look like.

21. Are there going to be school sports?

Answer: Oregon School Athletic Association made a decision this past week to not have athletics until after January 1, 2021. The District understands that athletics and other school activities connect students to school. As we move forward, the District plans to provide as many activities as possible that can be done in a healthy and safe manner.

22. In the spring, teachers or staff would not always be available to answer my children's calls for support, understandably so as they can't be in 20 calls at the same time, and therefore they would be left waiting for help. How can we fix this?

Answer: One of the things we are looking at is the possibility of having staff members work a day or more with non-traditional hours. Staff availability after school hours should allow for more educational flexibility.

23. Is there a timeline on when school facilities such as fields and gyms will be reopened, for district and/or public use?

Answer: The District is currently using facilities for selected staff members, and for athletic workouts in small groups. The District will not be opening schools up for outside use until further notice.

24. 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.

25. 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.