



**Astoria School District Parents & Families  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Concerning Astoria School District 2020-2021 Return to School**

- 1. What will school look like for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, and when will school start?**

Answer: The first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year will be September 14, 2020. The school year will begin in Remote Learning.

- 2. What happens between now and October 1, 2020 for students and teachers? Could Remote Learning last longer than October 1, 2020? Will parents have the option to stay online full time?**

Answer: The school year will start in Remote Learning on September 14, 2020. Students will learn from home using the District's Remote Learning platform.

From now until October 1, 2020, the District will begin immediately in the development of a plan that allows us to slowly and strategically phase in the recommended on-site learning models. This will ensure we are able to implement all of the safety protocols and requirements and adhere to all required state guidelines around on-site instruction. It is my hope that, absent a spike in the spread of coronavirus in our local area, we can begin phasing small amounts of students and staff to onsite learning by October 1st, and that we can create a guide that will allow us to increase on-site learning over time.

Yes. Parents may choose to remain using the online Remote Learning Platform, even after students are phased to on-site learning.

- 3. How will this Remote Learning program differ from the one we used in the Spring? What is the District focusing on for Remote Learning?**

Answer: When the District implemented Distance Learning in March 2020, District Staff had about a week to plan. The District learned from this experience and will provide a much more robust remote learning experience in the Fall. The following are areas the District is focusing on for remote learning.

- Remote Learning will be focused on engaging students and advancing the academic success of all.
- Remote learning will follow the same progression as the district's adopted grade-level learning standards and curriculum.

- Remote learning will provide students and parents with a clear schedule, expectations and timelines for work completion, and clear expectations around grading.
- Students' instruction and learning will be guided and supported by Astoria School District staff.
- Remote learning will include multiple structured opportunities for 'live' connection and instruction with teachers and peers each week. The admin just had this discussion and wants to provide live lessons to the greatest extent possible.
- Teachers will closely monitor student learning and work with students and families to help all students make progress.
- Remote Learning will be hosted and offered through a new, user-friendly online learning platform.
- All instructional materials and activities K-12 students need will be provided via the online platform, or will be provided by the district.
- The Remote Learning opportunity is available for all students regardless of what model is being offered on-site.

**4. What is the name of the platform that will be used?**

Answer: The name of the digital platform that staff and students will be using is EDGENUITY.

**5. Are you working with, and learning from other school districts that are utilizing Remote Learning?**

Answer: District staff have spent quite a bit of time reviewing other District's plans for the opening of school as well as sitting in on virtual meetings where there are discussions about possible remote learning strategies to assist us in the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. District staff continue to learn new strategies and will implement new strategies as needed.

**6. What type of training will be provided to teachers and staff?**

Answer: Training and communication is the key to how remote learning will work in the fall. As part of remote learning, the District is going to provide ample and necessary time for staff members to be trained and get to know both the digital platform as well as methods and strategies around remote learning.

**7. Will you be training parents and families to use the Remote Learning platform as well?**

Answer: Yes, the District plans to train students and families to use the Remote Learning Platform as well. A schedule for training will be provided to students and families in August.

**8. What type of technology will be needed for Remote Learning? Will the District supply my student with the needed equipment? Is there enough to go around? Can you recommend a brand or device if we purchase our own equipment?**

Answer: For students, Astoria School District uses Chrome OS, if you choose to purchase your own equipment, the current device the District is purchasing is the Acer Chromebook 311 (both touch and non-touch versions). The cost for these runs in the \$300 range. HP, Dell, ASUS, Samsung, and others all make devices that are similar. Availability and other options such as screen size and the ability to fold into a tablet that would be major differences.

Google provides support for Chrome OS devices based on the first date of manufacture. Google maintains an “end-of-support” site for all Chrome OS devices at the website: <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en>

Astoria School Districts 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.

**9. I don't have a good internet connection where I live. How will the District help with connectivity?**

Answer: On July 15, the District put out a survey that provided information specifically for each student as to their internet needs and possible connectivity issues. District staff will be reaching out to those families individually to help them with access. If you did not complete the survey, please call the District Office.

**10. How will the District support my student during Remote Learning? Will there be adult interaction, live instruction and student accountability?**

Answer: Remote Learning will be focused on engaging students and advancing the academic success of all. As of now, the District is in the process of creating the remote learning plan (which will be different than in the spring). It is our intent that live instruction be included in that Remote Learning Plan.

**11. How will the District support Social Emotional Learning?**

Answer: Astoria School District is very concerned with the emotional and mental well-being of students and families. As part of the remote learning program, the District has created a workgroup that will design a Social Emotional Learning plan for when students

return to school remotely in September. The plan will include daily lessons around the Social Emotional Needs of students.

**12. How will the District support at-risk students and students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs)?**

Answer: The District is committed to providing at risk students and students with individual education plans with the best possible services. This may include both remote, and in some cases, on-site learning in small cohorts. We are still waiting for guidance from the Oregon Department of Education surrounding Special Education. We expect to have this guidance by the middle of August.

**13. Will the District provide student meals during Remote Learning? Do children have to be enrolled in Astoria Schools to receive meals?**

Answer: Yes. The Astoria School District will be providing both breakfast and lunch during Remote Learning. Similar to last spring, the District will be running bus routes, 3 hours later than the usual bus route times. Please go to [www.astoria.k12.or.us](http://www.astoria.k12.or.us) for information about meal routes. The meals that the school district is providing are for **ALL** children up to age 18 that live within the Astoria School District.

**14. Will the District be providing childcare to Health Care Providers and First Responders? What about childcare for District families and District staff?**

Answer: The Governor's Executive Order mandating the school districts to provide childcare to First Responders and Health Care workers is no longer in effect. The district will be working collaboratively with staff, families and community entities to help solve childcare issues that will arise from starting the school year in Remote Learning.

**15. Are the school district indoor facilities open to the public?**

Answer: The District indoor facilities are not open to the public at this time. It is expected that outside groups will not be able to use indoor school district facilities for a while based on the pandemic and having to maintain cleanliness of buildings.

**16. What is happening with middle school and high school extracurricular activities? What about fall sports?**

Answer: The District is following the guidance from the State of Oregon and OSAA on sports. There has been very little guidance released about this.

**17. What are you doing to clean and sanitize the School District buildings? Does the District have the needed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for students and staff to return to buildings?**

Answer: Cleaning and sanitizing all of our school buildings and equipment is a major priority for the District. As part of the reopening plan for the District, we will provide a

schedule for staff to adequately clean the buildings and all necessary facilities. The District budgeted for additional custodian time to help with cleaning and sanitizing.

The District is monitoring the requirements of PPE for the reopening of school. The District has also begun the process of collecting and storing necessary PPE supplies. At this point, we do not foresee a shortage, but the District will continue to monitor PPE supplies.

District staff and students will wear face coverings while in the buildings in accordance with State guidelines. The buildings will also be equipped with additional handwashing stations and available hand sanitizer.

**18. Where can I find all the communication the Astoria School District has provided about Coronavirus and school reopening information?**

Answer: Astoria School District has provided information about the Coronavirus as well as all communication concerning school closures and reopening on the District website at [www.astoria.k12.or.us](http://www.astoria.k12.or.us).

**19. 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.

**20. 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.