



**Astoria School District Parents & Families
Parent Q & A - August 11, 2020 Meeting
Concerning Astoria School District 2020-2021 Return to School**

This Q & A was created using the questions from the 8/11/2020 Parent Feedback Meeting. Please check the [District Website](#) for Parent FAQs and questions asked and answered prior to this meeting.

- 1. What do the cohorts mean for children with IEPs who go to different classes at different points during the day?**

Answer: The District is working on ways to best support our special populations. We are planning to embed the needed support within the cohort, allowing the support to move with the student during the day.

- 2. How long would the school day end up being for K-5 with the hybrid model?**

Answer: We are still determining what the school day will look like for students. Transportation is limited because of the small number of students allowed on a bus at one time. The District will likely stagger start times to accommodate transportation barriers. As soon as we know what the starting times will be for the hybrid model we will let parents know.

- 3. Does the district have access to a discount code for windows OS for kids buying computers and needing an OS?**

Answer: There is not a discount code for parents to purchase windows.

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 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 hands as soon as possible.

4. Do you know if seniors will have to write a senior paper?

Answer: While the Senior Project is not a graduation requirement this year, the Senior Paper will be a requirement as part of their English 12 class.

5. In regards to hybrid, can you say what a day looks like? Are they allowed to go outside?

Answer: The cohorts will move together throughout the day and will be able to go outside. Spaces will be cleaned and sanitized in between cohorts during the day. Further details of the hybrid model will be shared with parents when we know more.

6. How likely is it for the kids to return back to school? And how are you picking the kids to start back when they can go back?

Answer: We are hopeful and encouraged for students to return to school buildings. As we begin to transition to the hybrid model, students in grade K-3 and special populations will likely be the first groups to move into the buildings. We are planning a slow, safe and calculated entry into school buildings.

7. Will classes be on video chat so kids will be held accountable for being present?

Answer: We are using state guidance around student attendance. Every class will have both live video and recorded or web-based components students can access. Attendance will be taken every day using evidence of engagement, including login and progress in the online platform, video chat participation and/or some type of correspondence with their teacher. Attendance will be defined differently than the traditional classroom day. The District is mindful of requiring video chats or other live instruction due to the varying levels of connectivity throughout our county.

8. Are there any options that you know of where kids can go during the day, while parents go to work? Any parent groups working together to maybe take turns with the kids?

Answer: We know that childcare is an issue in our community. Although not school district sponsored, the city of Astoria is coming out with care options in our area. There are community groups that have formed on social media that may be helpful in solving some childcare issues, as well as government funded childcare options. A state resource for child care referrals is <https://www.211info.org/family>

As soon as the guidelines allow, the District plans to assemble and staff tech hubs to allow for small numbers of students to access technology and support.

9. **Can the district post an updated list of what supplies will be needed for the Fall, regarding laptops, tablets, etc., as we have two children in the Elementary school?**

Answer: Please see the answer to question #3 regarding technology, including tablets and laptops.

In terms of traditional school supplies (paper, pens, pencils), the District will be providing all needed school supplies to all students for the 2020-2021 school year. If a student should need school supplies while in remote learning, please contact the school office for assistance.

10. **Is there something for Students with parents that are essential workers and can't take that much time off?**

Answer: Traditional school hours will not always be required. The District is working through ways to provide help and support to students during alternative and non-traditional hours.

11. **For kids that have multiple classes will they have just one teacher or still have multiple teachers for the different subjects for the virtual classrooms and then when they are brought back to hybrid?**

Answer: Students will be assigned multiple teachers based upon the content expertise of the instructor and the course content. Through synchronous and/or asynchronous learning, this will be true in both the remote learning and hybrid models.

12. **Will there be flexibility with drop off times as many working families would need to be able to drop off prior to 8?**

Answer: We are still working on the school day schedule for the hybrid model. Due to cohort requirements and limitations on who students can come into contact with, student drop-off and pick-up will likely need to be based on a schedule to ensure we can meet all of the requirements.

13. **If there is a positive case in a classroom, will the whole class be quarantined? Or will just those kids determined to be in close contact be quarantined? How, then, would the quarantined kids have instruction?**

Answer: If there is a positive case in a cohort, the District will be taking guidance directly from the local public health authority. It is highly likely that the entire cohort will be quarantined and will transition back to remote learning during that time, where they will continue their instruction.

14. **Will pre-k programs as Head Start and Preschool Promise be open and available this Fall due to being in a district building?**

Answer: It has not been determined if the Pre-K preschool program will open in the fall. The Head Start program which is located in the Gray School building will be following the District's lead, and starting instruction in remote learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

15. How will Band look for High School students?

Answer: Astoria High School is exploring ways by which students will be able to explore their instrumental interests through individual settings and online platforms. The health and safety precautions and requirements at this time make whole group instruction prohibitive.

16. When do you think we will have class schedules for High School?

Answer: Due to changes in state guidance, the master schedule and corresponding forecasting has had to be significantly restructured. We are striving to have schedules posted by September 7, 2020, the week prior to school opening. This timeframe is comparable to previous school years.

17. 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.

18. 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.