

Denville BOE Q and A August 24, 2020

Lakeview

Is there any further information on Kindergarten Orientation scheduled for 8/31? **Yes, a mailing went out on Friday, August 21st.**
Any further information regarding student drop off/pick up? **Information will be sent in the coming days.**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

Is the virtual learning going to be held live for the students enrolled in full virtual? **The majority of the instruction in the morning from 8:40-12:40 will be live with some independent work as well.**

When will be getting more information on students class placement and the schedule for full virtual students? **On August 28th parents will be able to see on parent portal their virtual teacher. The beginning days they will receive a more detailed schedule.**

Lakeview

Are the kids allowed to wear shields? **According to the Department of Health- face shields are not permitted in place of face masks.**

Lakeview

Will the kids who are starting the school year 100% virtually be assigned a classroom together with a full time virtual teacher ?

Yes

In reference to Lakeview and the last update, the board estimated the in person classroom sizes to be 13-14 students.

Correct

Lakeview

As of August 22, many elementary through high schools across the country have attempted in-person learning within their schools and have abruptly shut down because of growing Covid-19 outbreaks within their classes or sports and extracurricular activities.

What is Lakeview doing different than these schools to not go down the same path? **The Denville School District is working closely with the Department of Health, Department of Education as well as our school physician to create a plan that is as safe as possible. See this link for information**

<http://www.denville.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=81962&pageId=27298588>

Riverview and Riverview Annex

1. Are there enough virtual first grade students for a dedicated virtual teacher/class? **Yes**
2. If a dedicated virtual class is established will the instructor be teaching from the school to utilize the technology available or from their home? **This will be decided on a case by case basis.**
3. If from their home what is the school district doing to ensure the appropriate/equivalent technology is in place at the teachers home? **Our technology team will work with staff members to provide the appropriate technology.**
4. When will we find out who our teacher will be? **Information will be available on the parent portal on August 28 if parents fill out all opening day forms**
5. Are there any known or potential staff shortage issues due to teachers giving notice or teachers unions communicating planned strikes/walk-outs? **Not at this time**
6. If a state decision is made at any time leading up to the first day or anytime after the school year starts to close schools for in person learning and go back to virtual learning do you have the technology bandwidth to accommodate that for all students? **yes**

Lakeview

Are there enough 5th gr students to do a virtual class? **Yes**

And if we begin virtually and see that the threat of the virus is subsiding, can we "change our minds" and allow our child to attend in person? **Yes - see this link for more information <http://www.denville.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=81962&pageId=27298588>**

Lakeview

Will the virtual/in person idea be re-visited every month? **Everything will be revisited as needed.**

Lakeview

Are vaccine exemptions still accepted? 64 Peer Place Denville, NJ Valleyview

Are vaccine exemptions still acceptable? **Information on vaccines**

https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/imm_requirements/vaccine_qa.pdf

Religious and medical exemptions are still accepted with documentation.

Valleyview

How will parents be notified when a student or staff member tests positive for Coronavirus? **Information on notification and positive tests**

http://www.denville.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_81878/File/District/COVID19/NJDOH%20Aug%2013%20COVID%20Notice%20Summary.pdf

Will there be a community wide notification of all current cases (protecting individual privacy) providing numbers **The DOH determines when the community is notified.**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

Do we still have enough teachers to have in-person learning? **As of August 24- yes**

If there is a lack available to teachers to teach in person classes, will we be able to reassign aides that are currently certified to teach in their place to fill vacancies? **We are utilizing all available staff members.**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

How would the decision to close school be made? **The Department of Health and Department of Education will guide us if there is a need.**

Valleyview

How will testing be done in a fair way for both in school students and those that choose all virtual?

Will testing be eliminated?

As virtual students would have the chance to have adult help, or books/notes To look at. **At this time we do not have information about NJSLA in the spring, but course tests and quizzes will still be administered. We have contracted with a new assessment company for more secure digital testing. Some assessments have been modified to allow for use of notes for all students. Other measures of understanding besides tests will also be utilized.**

Lakeview

Is it possible to modify the reopening plan so that some of the mandated social distancing can be implemented? **The plan at this point is for all students who opt for in-person learning to attend school for four hours in the AM and work virtually in the PM. We are providing as much distance as possible in the classrooms as well as on buses and in hallways.**

Transportation

1. If I chose to have my child take the bus home, Can a 3rd grader get off the bus alone and walk home? **Yes**

If he's the only child in our neighborhood attending school, can the bus drop off/pick up at our house? **No, transportation routes must maintain consistency with pick-up/drop off to accommodate new students.**

2. Are drop off and pick up times Staggered? Or will I have to wait in a long line of cars to pick Up my child? **Information regarding drop off and pick up will be provided by each school in the coming days.**

3. Can someone else pick up or take my child or does it have to be the same parent or can a family member or neighbor drive/pick up? **Please work directly with the school on issues like this. Contact the school office.**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

For the people who elected in-person, What will the morning schedule look like? **8:40-12:40 live instruction (ELA and Math) PM starting at 1:27 rotating specials, science, social studies and small group**

What will the afternoon virtual schedule look like? As a working parent, I need to know what to expect due afternoons. **There will be some specials and some small group instruction as needed.**

Health Services

What is a child is sick — e.g. fever and cough. Do they have to go to the dr and have a Dr's note on whether it is COVID or not? do they have to be symptom free for 72 hours before returning to school?

Will they be able to continue with school work from home while sick?

Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider for evaluation on whether testing is needed. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for persons with COVID-19 symptoms.

If COVID-19 risk is low (or COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix, green), ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should follow the NJDOH School Exclusion List. No public health notification is needed UNLESS there is an unusual increase in the number of persons who are ill (over normal levels), which might indicate an outbreak.

If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure OR if COVID-19 risk is moderate or high (COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix, yellow or orange), they should be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria.

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

Valleyview

Will kids attending Valleyview be required to bring a pack of disinfecting wipes so they can wipe down their desk and chair when they change classes? **Students may bring wipes if they prefer but the district will provide wipes for desks.**

Valleyview

Since they will not be using lockers, will kids take their backpacks with them from class to class? **Yes, students will be allowed to carry bags this year.**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

What is the plan to notify parents of positive Covid cases in the district (particularly in school students) and what is the threshold to move to all virtual schooling? **This link has the information**

http://www.denville.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_81878/File/District/COVID19/NJDOH%20Aug%2013%20COVID%20Notice%20Summary.pdf

Valleyview

Will there be a virtual tour for incoming 6th graders who chose to start 100% virtual? **We will be recording the open house on Aug. 27th and posting it to our website.**

Also, when will additional, specific information be provided for virtual students along with a schedule? **We expect students that are virtual to follow their given schedule. All students are expected to be online for the virtual portion of the day in the afternoon. More information will also be sent in the coming weeks.**

Valleyview

My kids are new to the school district and starting 6th Gr with the hybrid schedule at Valleyview. How and when do we find out about their class schedules, bus schedules and how to access the virtual part of the tuition schedule? **Schedules will be released for students through the Genesis Parent Portal on Wednesday, Aug. 26th by 3pm.**

I can't find this info on the Genesis portal and have not received any communication from the school as yet. **This information was sent part of the Open House letter.**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

Can teachers of fully virtual students photocopy worksheets a week in advance for pickup for families who do not have access to printers? **Teachers will provide students with workbooks and some materials but will be unable to send weekly worksheets**

to students. Many of the assignments will be through Google Classrooms in which students can share with the students and printers will not be necessary.

Lakeview

How can we be sure that families that go on vacation during Labor Day are going to quarantine for two weeks before sending their children to school. I know a lot of families that are going away and will not have a two week quarantine. Before sending their children to school. **This letter was sent to all families, posted online and in social media for the better part of August.**

http://www.denville.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_81878/File/District/COVID19/Reopening/Parent%20Letter%2014%20Day%20Quarantine%20aug%209.pdf

Valleyview

If kids that live across town ie in my area being ready for virtual afternoon classes at 12:30 will be an extreme rush to get home (either bus or parent driving) and have lunch before class starts. The kids won't have a minute to breathe. Is there flexibility in the start time for these kids ? **Yes the staff will be flexible.**

Other

When will we get a complete layout of what our remote learning platform will look like . Our experience with VV last year was wonderful. **At Valleyview the expectation will be that students who are fully virtual and for the virtual portion of the afternoon will follow their assigned schedule.**

Transportation

Are there any other plans to help deal with the additional congestion at dropoff and pickup for the extra parents driving their kids to school? **The building and district administration has been working closely with the Denville Police Department Traffic Bureau to allow for the best drop-off possible. Given the fact that many more parents will be dropping off children at school this year we do expect there to be more congestion than usual.**

Technology

For those of us doing virtual learning who requested to borrow school chrome books , when will we be able to pick them up? **You will receive more information from your child's school this week for pick up information.**

Lakeview

Duke University recently published a study on the effectiveness of facemasks. Several facemasks failed to prevent the transmission of droplets and some are determined to advance the spread of Covid. Gators are considered to be worse than not wearing a mask at all. Does the school intend to provide a list of masks that are acceptable and effective? **Our district follows the guidance of the NJDOE and NJDOH - this document provides pictures of what is acceptable.**

http://www.denville.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_81878/File/District/COVID19/Reopening/2020-21%20Denville%20Reopen%20Plan%20Summary.pdf

Lakeview

What is the percentage, by grade, that will be in person verse virtual? **Approximately 70% in person and 30%**

Lakeview

How does the school intend to handle fever related illnesses that deliver identical symptoms to Covid like the flu, pneumonia, bronchitis and viruses etc. Will the school require Covid testing for every single case a fever?

-Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider for evaluation on whether testing is needed. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended for persons with COVID-19 symptoms.

-Parents should not send students to school when sick.

CDC recommends that students and staff with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, eye redness/drainage or runny nose; OR**
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.**

Curriculum

Are there enough students who selected all virtual learning, to have a virtual teacher/class for each grade? **Yes**

Will students from both RV and LV be in the same virtual class? **In some cases yes**

Other

What is the average in person class size for elementary and middle school? **In the 13-14 range**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

Is there a plan in place for transitioning virtual students back into the classroom if parents choose to opt out of remote instruction? If so, can you provide details? Thank you. **We will require 10 school days or more to make changes and accommodations.**

Valleyview

Denville has had some challenges in the past having a sufficient number of substitute teachers. Is there a contingency plan for a large portion of our teachers being sick or utilizing long term FMLA leave? **We are working with temporary agencies as well as working to hire long-term permanent substitutes.**

Valleyview

Why was the decision made to open school at 100% capacity? This is a major outlier in comparison to other schools in our area. **There are several districts doing the same plan. The committee felt it was the best plan for our district.**

Transportation

Is Valleyview going to open? If not when will we be notified? Bus info? Teacher info? Childs schedule? **Yes information will be sent in the parent portal August 26**

Valleyview

How do you intend to limit the spread of germs and student contact with students changing classes and being exposed to different students and classrooms due to leveling in math and ELA particularly without the use of cohorts? **We will be providing wipes in all classrooms. We will ask for the students assistance to clean their desks when they enter the classroom.**

Riverview and Riverview Annex

What is the maximum amount of students that would be allowed in a virtual class? Once max is reached how will students who want to switch to virtual learning be placed? **There is not a maximum.**

Valleyview

Will the afternoon classes be live stream everyday? **The expectation is that the students will be logging on during their assigned class time as this is still part of the school day.**

Curriculum

When the virtual program was implemented last school year, I as a parent struggled to understand the needs of my children's academic progression at home. While I understood what the kids should be learning based on the weekly assignments, I did not have a full picture on what the benchmarks were for development throughout the year and by the end of each marking period. It would be helpful as a parent at home supplementing in class learning, to know what the kids are expected to know/accomplish by the end of each marking period. Having a curriculum outline accessible for the parents with a timeline for what the district standards for each grade are would be very helpful. Is this something Denville could provide parents with? **Yes our curriculum guides are posted on this website.** <http://www.denville.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=81962&pageId=165546>

Valleyview

Is there an onsite or other "aftercare" available at VV for afternoon virtual learning for children that attend class "in-person"? **Yes go to this website for information.** <http://www.denville.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=81962&pageId=165490>

Valleyview

With the anticipated larger numbers of students being driven to/from school, how are the logistics of that process going to work? **We had a meeting earlier this summer with Sargent Jackson of the Denville PD. We will still use Muriel Hepner Park for student drop off. After the public safety worker crosses the students, they will then enter the building through Lower B. We will have staff outside the first few days to assist with this.**

Valleyview

In regards to passing time between classes at Vallleyview, what is the specific plan to insure and maintain social distancing in the hallways? It is my understanding that many schools that are set up in a "square" formation are able to institute one way hallway use. Valleyview does not have this configuration. How will passing time specifically work? **We will stagger dismissal times at the end of each class period by grade level to assist with this. We have placed tape, arrows, and signs in the hallway to remind students to stay to the right and keep their distance.**

Valleyview

What is the exact procedure to socially distance during entry and exit for dismissal? How will drop off work with the increase in cars for those driving students? Will extra time be allotted? **We had a meeting earlier this summer with Sargent Jackson of the Denville PD. We will still use Muriel Hepner Park for student drop off. After the public safety worker crosses the students, they will then enter the building through Lower B. We will have staff outside the first few days to assist with this. Students will begin entering the building at 7:20.**

Health Services

If a student does not submit at home COVID check, what is the procedure upon arrival to school?

The students will be flagged when attendance is done and sent to the health office. At that time, the parent will be called to submit the form in Genesis and student assessed for symptoms.

Riverview and Riverview Annex

Can we record live classes for full virtual students? **Recording of classes is only permitted by the teacher.**

Regarding the filtration system, are you using MERV 13 filters or something else? **Yes all rooftop units will be outfitted with Merv 13 filters prior to the opening of school.**

Valleyview

What is the specific schedule for those who are opting for 100% virtual as well as a plan for if/when we have to go all virtual. Does this apply if a student begins as an in person learner and then opts to a virtual learning model? What will the schedule look like? Will class be held at it's scheduled in person time and will attendance to that time frame be mandatory? Will the academic rigor be maintained virtually as well as grading expectations and work expectations? Will the afternoon virtual classes be with the same expectation or will they be able to be completed entirely at the family discretion of timing? **The expectation is that a student who has decided to go 100% virtual is that they will follow their daily schedule. If the district has to go 100% virtual the plan will be shared at that time. The current afternoon scheduled virtual classes are still part of the school day and the expectation is that the students log onto the assigned meet with the understanding that we may have to be flexible for some.**

Facilities and Grounds

How can a parent be assured that our current HVAC system can support the new CDC minimum requirements to maintain air movement, filtration, and quality? Can parents have access to the data of the existing systems at all buildings? **Our HVAC system has the recommended filters for the units. All units that can handle Merv 13 filters will have them installed by our vendor prior to the opening of school. Any documents that we currently have can be requested.**

Facilities and Grounds

In regards to maintaining social distancing requirements, are parents going to be provided with the maximum number of students allowed in each educational space in all buildings based on available square footage? **We are working to provide as much distance as possible for students. We expect to be able to provide 6 feet in most classrooms.**