SRE 2020-2021

Community Forum - July 16, 2020

As answers are reviewed please keep these points in mind.

* Students, especially younger students, learn better in person. Therefore, a division goal is to maximize the opportunity for younger students to be in school.
* Responses represent our best thinking based on the information we have today.

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| Question | Response |
| STUDENTS | |
| Are you more likely to put siblings of the same age in the same class (even if parents request they are in different classes) to limit exposure? | This decision will be made in tandem with families. There are no protocols at this time that require siblings to be in the same classroom. |
| What are plans for orientation/school tours/k-camp to acclimate both parents and children into a new setting with new teachers? | We are discussing plans now. Decisions will be finalized once we know the designated phase for return. We do know we will not host a traditional orientation, but will work within guidelines to ensure students are welcomed, introduced to teachers and have an opportunity to celebrate the start of their academic career. |
| TEACHERS / INSTRUCTION | |
| What do virtual learning options look like? Will parents be responsible for guiding the learning like it was at the end of the school year? | Virtual learning will be different from the spring as instruction will be synchronous, i.e students will use a digital platform that allows groups to learn together and it will involve new learning.  The role of the parent, especially for older, more independent learners, should be diminished. |
| If the art classrooms, gyms, etc are being used for "class rooms" will our children still have art class and gym? | Specials classes like art, P.E. and music will be integrated into the school day by the classroom teacher with the small cohort. |
| Can you share the results of the Staff Survey? | Our current information from staff members is coming through a variety of avenues from individual conversations to larger Zoom calls. We do not have access yet to the SRE staff survey. |
| Several of the SRE teachers have been quite vocal that they do not want to come to school to teach. How are you navigating that? | We are recommending that everyone make informed decisions that meet their personal and family needs. Human Resources is a primary source of information. We also recommend that teachers consult sources provided by the division that include the CDC, VDOE and National Pediatrics Association. |
| How will the extra classrooms be staffed? | Teachers will be responsible for instruction and they will be supported by shadow teachers who will include RTI, Talent Development Teacher, Specialists and T.A.s. |
| If a family chooses "in person" and the school buildings close again, what will happen for those students? Will it transition into the same thing as the "virtual" option? | If Phase 3 is selected and then we need to move back to Phase 1 or 2, students will transition with their current teacher to virtual learning. |
| How will intervention services be handled? Will that be different if 5th graders are at Burley? | Fifth graders will receive intervention services even if they are moved to Burley. Specific details on who and how will be addressed on a case by case basis. |
| My concern about virtual learning is internet access and many teachers not having good internet so instructional time is not productive. | This will be addressed on a case by case basis. Our goal will be to ensure quality instructional experiences that are not impacted by weak internet connections. |
| How will the need for substitute teachers be handled? | Protocols are forthcoming related to this question. Guiding principles will ensure  student safety when new people are entering the building/classroom |
| Will parents who children are on IEP / special needs be contacted ahead of time to review how this will impact their accommodations? | A child’s case manager will communicate how accommodations will be met. |
| How much parental support is required for virtual learning to be successful, especially for Kindergarteners? | Kindergartners will need support initially since everything about school is new. The goal for virtual learning moving forward, however, involves synchronous learning with the classroom teacher. |
| Will students who begin virtually be able to join an in-person classroom later on? | Structures will be built based on parent requests and because of layers of complexity (i.e. transportation, virtual teacher capacity vs. on-site capacity) will not be nimble enough to support quick movements between the two learning choices. It will be possible to switch, but may take a couple of weeks to complete a transition. |
| How would a teacher do virtual and in person teaching at the same time? Are you going to be streaming classes? | Teachers will either teach on-site or virtually. They will not do both.  There are no plans to stream classes at this time (from the school classroom). |
| On Fridays - or the off day - would there be virtual instruction or just at home work? And if virtual instruction - would it be in real time? | Student work on the day off will reinforce material learned throughout the week and will be completed independent of the teacher. |
| Will there be SOL exams this school year? How will this then be done for virtual learners? | We will wait for confirmation on SOLs for this year. If we do have them, they would need to be proctored on-site at schools. |
| If the school decides “all virtual” will the teachers be required to teach from the school? | Teachers will have an option to teach from school. At this time it is not required. |
| Since it seems likely we might end up in with everyone doing virtual learning given the trajectory of cases nationally, are teachers going to have adequate time to plan virtual learning approaches? How can we best support teachers in this difficult situation? | Teachers will have three full weeks of planning this year and most likely it will be dedicated time for the following.   * Creating new learning spaces * Training on new digital platforms in order to optimize instruction * Collaborating with shadow teacher to plan first few week(s) * Participating in professional development related to building strong collaborative partnerships * Reviewing strategies for supporting students in trauma * Reviewing protocols for school safety |
| Will virtual teachers (both those beginning on virtual platform as well as those who might need to pivot to virtual) be monitored and/or held accountable to their job performance? | The Administrative team conducts daily walk-throughs in a conventional school structure and will continue to “walk” virtually to ensure quality. |
| HEALTH SAFETY | |
| Will health screenings like temperature checks take place for students being dropped off at school? | Protocols are forthcoming. At this time, we are waiting for confirmation on details of temperature checks. |
| With masks being required do we have an idea how often and in what circumstances throughout the day our children will be required to wear them. | Specific guidelines are forthcoming. We expect masks will be required all throughout the day except when students are eating or drinking. |
| If we opt for virtual learning due to high risk individuals in the household, how will social-emotional needs of my kids be addressed? | All students, virtual or on-site, will have access to school experts and can reach out to the front office to schedule a time to meet those needs. |
| Will masks be provided for students or will parents be required to provide masks for students? | The division will provide masks for teachers, but families will need to provide masks for students. If students do not have access to masks, the division will provide. |
| Will health screenings take place when boarding in the afternoon also? | Specific guidelines are forthcoming. We do not have details at this time. |
| How are you all thinking about student trauma and how to balance possibly increased social-emotional needs with academics? | This is always a consideration as we draft our school strategic plan for the school year. This year as we craft that plan we will have the added consideration of the factors this pandemic is likely to have on students and their families. For the last couple of years SRE has had an established goal for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) work with our students and I would expect that will continue to grow and broaden this year. |
| If health screening is already being planned for buses, why wouldn’t it also be considered for parent drop-off or to enter the school in general? | Specific guidelines are forthcoming. We do not have details at this time. |
| What is the protocol when a student/staff member at SRE tests positive for coronavirus? | Specific guidelines are forthcoming. We do not have details at this time. |
| What can we do to ensure there’s adequate PPE/disinfectant supplies for both students and teachers? Will there be a collective effort? | The division is working to supply all PPE needs at this time. We will certainly communicate if the need surpasses demand. |
| Is the division consulting with pediatricians as they make return to school decisions? | Yes. Dr. Vergales, a parent at SRE, is serving on a division-wide Return to School Safely team. |
| LOGISTICS | |
| Will the survey be emailed as well? I currently do not live in Albemarle but will be moving there in a few weeks. | The survey will be e-mailed on Monday, July 20th to all registered families. If you do not receive a copy, please call Cindy Anderson for help at 434-296-3754. |
| Will there be a longer drop off period in the AM to help parents that need to be at work by 8 AM? | The goal is to expand drop-off to include the traditional loop as well as the bus area as we are hoping buses will drop off earlier and open up the space for parents. This should lead to a more efficient process. |
| Do you have a sense why 4 days per week was selected? It seems as though the options (all virtual or 4 days per week in-person) are the extremes. Why no option more in the middle? | The division realizes that virtual learning is not ideal for any learner, but especially younger students. Therefore, a primary goal was to maximize the opportunity for younger students to be in school. |
| Is it all or nothing with the buses - if a child rides in the morning do they have to ride in the afternoon also? | We don’t anticipate having that flexibility, but will monitor to see if that decision changes.. |
| Is a child able to be dropped off in the morning but ride the bus home in the afternoon? | See above. |
| Will every child K-5 be issued a device by the school? | Everyone who needs a device will have access this fall. |
| If 5th graders go to Burley would drop off parents have to drop off and pick up there or would they be bused to Burley from SRE? If so how soon would parents be notified that 5th graders are going to Burley because some of us have kids in 1st or 2nd grade and also a 5th grader? | Details regarding movement to Burley are forthcoming. Considerations are being made for families who have students in multiple grades. |
| FAMILIES | |
| Will another forum be held for SRES parents once the school board makes it's final decisions? | We are happy to host another Community Forum and will keep everyone apprised through *Blackboard Connect* and the PTO website. www.srepto.com |
| Is there anything we parents can do to help get the word out to get more responses for the survey on the 20th? Like a calling web. I am understanding you can not make decisions until you get a better idea of how many families will choose virtual learning. Can we help spread the word friend to friend? | We appreciate your offer to help communicate the request to complete the survey that will be released on Monday, July 20th. We will advise if additional support is needed. |
| What can we do if we are having trouble with the school issued devices? | The service desk can help with any issues. The laptops should not be locked down for assignments number is 434-975-9444 |
| Any idea about Afterschool services? | We are waiting to hear plans for after school services. The division noted they will be in communication with families as soon as they know how services will be provided. |
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