

Back to School Night 2020-2021

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Question: Are there plans to run sports this winter (i.e. basketball, cheerleading, bowling)?**
Answer: Our district athletic director is awaiting direction from the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association regarding winter sports.
- 2. Question: Will students get afternoons with no live instruction in which they can detach from the screen and just work?**
Answer: On Mondays, our Cooperative Learning Day, students will work asynchronously and have the option for vocal and instrumental music lessons. Our teachers are cognizant of screen time concerns and are attempting to adjust their instruction.
- 3. Question: Will there be in-person extracurricular activities besides sports such as Drama, Bridge, etc. ? Will bussing be supplied for extracurricular activities?**
Answer: Currently we are communicating with our Central Office about extracurricular activities. If they were to occur, they would not be in person but would be virtual. We hope to have more information to share soon.
- 4. Question: How do you want us to handle disruptions in remote learning (example-Internet outage)?**
Answer: The student can send a message to the teacher via Google Classroom or the family member can email the teacher when it is convenient. Please know that we realize that these situations are out of the student's control and are not viewed as a disciplinary event.
- 5. Question: Is there a make-up plan for 6th graders to attend Mt. Misery?**
Answer: There is currently no plan for 6th graders to attend Mt. Misery.
- 6. Question: Some teachers have been adamant about keeping cameras on during instruction. What happens if there is a personal matter in which a family member directs the child to turn off the camera?**
Answer: Keeping the camera on during instruction helps the teacher take roll (which is done period by period) and helps them see who is paying attention. However, teachers know there are limits to remote instruction when it is being done in the child's home. Please contact the teacher if there was a concern about the camera being turned off or any other matter. Teachers are flexible enough to make every consideration for students and families.
- 7. Question: How do teachers address mixed ability groups within the remote learning format?**
Answer: Teachers offer a variety of assignments that differentiate instruction for different types of learners.

8. Question: We are having connections concerns as it relates to the classes? How do we let the teacher know this is the issue rather than the student choosing to not participate?

Answer: Please contact your teacher (s) by email so they can help you with your concern. If it is a technology concern you can contact our technology department at support@chclc.org

9. Question: What is the best way to contact my teachers?

Answer: You can contact your teachers through the Rosa website at <https://www.chclc.org/rosa> and go to the tab "Contact Us".

10. Question: Will there be more ice-breakers and opportunities for students to get to know one another?

Answer: Yes. Our teachers will be working on ways to help students get to know one another even within the remote learning environment. They will use lessons that center on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) . These lessons provide more opportunities to get to know one another. These lessons will be done within 6th grade Advisories.

11. Question: Other districts have a shortened day for their classes to minimize screen time. What considerations are being given to this concern?

Answer: The amount and extent of screen time is a consideration by our faculty. We have built in breaks throughout the school day and teachers will be monitoring the need for additional breaks as instruction occurs. Families are encouraged to reach out to us if the children are experiencing difficulty with the allotted time on screen. Accommodations can and will be made according to student need.

12. Question: Are you able to start clubs virtually or in person?

Answer: We recognize the importance of clubs for middle level students as an opportunity to socialize with their peers. We are hopeful that clubs can begin virtually at first and eventually in person as the parameters of the school day structure are revised. These decisions will be based on health and safety concerns first and will be applied to all middle schools in the district.

13. Question: Will there be homework?

Answer: Homework and classwork are integral components of learning to reinforce new concepts. Consideration will be given to helping students complete both within the scheduled teaching timeframes of the school day. We are aiming to keep homework to a minimum to reduce screen time and allow for time at home with families.

14. Question: Could teachers specify homework or classwork in Google Classroom?

Answer: The best place to see the breakdown among classwork, homework, and assessments is in Genesis under the "grades" tab which will specify within which category the assignments fall.

15. Question: Will things missed due to the Covid Pandemic be considered later in the year or next year instead of cancelling?

Answer: Decisions on resuming activities or rescheduling them will be seriously considered and reviewed once in-person school resumes full time. These decisions will be considered one at a time and guided by directives from Central Administration.

16. Question: If my child has an internet connection problem which prevents him/her from attending class, will discipline be issued?

Answer: No, there are no disciplinary consequences for lost class time due to connectivity issues or for issues outside of a student's control. We are cognizant of the complex nature of online learning and want students to feel supported and engaged, rather than punished for missed time or incomplete work.

17. Question: What are the expectations regarding a response from a teacher on an email?

Answer: The expectation is that the teacher will respond to you within 24 hours if it is during the school week. If you do not receive a response, please reach out to one of our administrators who can help determine the cause of the delay as well as obtain the information you may need about your child.

18. Question: If my child is confused or not sure about information posted in google classroom, what should we do?

Answer: There certainly will be times when information may be confusing or dates not made clear. Please email the teacher for clarification. If it is a recurring problem, please contact the grade level counselor and administrator for support.

19. Question: Is there any class information that is posted on Genesis and not in Google Classroom or vice-versa?

Answer: Yes, there are different types of information posted in each. Generally speaking, Google Classroom centers on daily classroom assignments and instruction guidelines. Genesis provides a portal for grades and other important student forms.

20. Question: How does remote learning work for Middle level Students? Can you explain the differences in instruction, depending on the day?

Answer: While there is live student-teacher interaction each day, the format may vary. Certain days will provide instruction of new material while others will center on review and support. We have set up instruction so there is a more concentrated presentation of Science and Math on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a more concentrated presentation of ELA, Humanities and World Language on Wednesdays and Fridays. The following link will also provide a general view of how remote learning works for middle level students:

[CHPS Middle School Remote Learning](#)

21. Is attendance taken and, if so, how is attendance taken?

Answer: Yes, attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. This is used as a check-in to see which students are participating. Attendance is not framed as a disciplinary event. If your child is having consistent difficulty engaging in classes, please email their grade level counselor so a plan can be developed.

- Grade 6: Diane Bonano - dbonanno@chclc.org
- Grade 7: Natalie Alonso - nalonso@chclc.org
- Grade 8: Jay Young - jyoung@chclc.org

22. Where can we find written expectations as to what skills our children should know by the end of the school year?

Each content area has a curriculum map and identified standards and goals set by the district and state. These can be found on Cherry Hill School District's website under the Curriculum tab at [CHPS Curriculum](#)

23. Will there be virtual extra-curricular activities in order for our children to stay connected while providing social emotional support?

We recognize the need for extra-curricular activities to promote our students' social and emotional functioning. Presently, we have begun to provide virtual clubs such as Drama, Peer Leadership, Student Council, Newspaper, Band, Orchestra, and Vocal Music.

24. Will there be some guidance socially and emotionally for our children during these trying times?

Social and emotional guidance are extremely important during remote learning. Our Student Support Grade Level Counselors and our Student Assistance Counselor meet daily with our teachers to review student needs. They can provide counseling and support services to your child. Our Student Advisors are also key in this area. Daily Advisory lessons are directed at Social and Emotional Learning skills.

25. Will the old ventilation systems in school be able to be replaced ?

The district Buildings and Grounds staff is working with Rosa to make sure our HVAC systems support proper ventilation.

26. Will there be 504 meetings to review student status so that services can be reviewed and accommodations made during remote learning?

Our grade level counselors serve as Case Managers for all students receiving 504 based services. Annual reviews are currently being scheduled. Please contact the following staff with any questions regarding 504 status:

Grade 8 Counselor	Jay Young	jyoung@chclc.org
Grade 7 Counselor	Natalie Alonso	nalonso@chclc.org
Grade 6 Counselor	Diane Bonanno	dbonanno@chclc.org
Student Assistance Counselor	Gina Demonte	gdemonte@chclc.org
Student Support Secretary	Emily Olivares	kolivares@chclc.org
Student Support Office	616-8787, extension 3310	

27. Will Back to School Night presentations be recorded and available at a later time for parents who have two student schedules to follow and cannot attend every session?

The link for all Back to School Night presentations will stay live and can be viewed at your convenience over the next month. This will allow you to conveniently watch the presentations on your own time schedule.