



Frequently Asked Questions for Families – updated 9/3/2020

1. How will mask breaks be accommodated?

Every student will be required to wear a face covering unless a doctor's note is provided. At least one scheduled mask break of up to five minutes, will be made each period per the teacher's direction. Mask breaks are not permitted in the hallways as those are shared spaces for everybody. A student may advocate for a mask break by talking to their teacher directly.

2. What will breakfast and lunch be like for my child?

Students will be allowed to eat breakfast in the cafeteria prior to 8:00am, following all safety guidelines including social distancing protocols. If they arrive after 8am, they will get their breakfast from the cafeteria and take it to their assigned homeroom to eat. Students who will be receiving lunch from school will need to place their orders in advance, via the menu sent home. Students will have an option of a hot meal or a cold meal. During in-school learning days, lunch will be boxed and delivered to the student's classroom. Lunch will be available for pick up for online learning days.

3. Why is Hope Hall starting in a hybrid model?

We spent a lot of time going through all of the guidelines that the NYS Health Department, Education Department and the CDC are requiring of schools. We chose to start very controlled with a limited number of students in the building at one time, until we can see how everything goes. We will closely monitor the situation and if any changes need to be made (100% online or 100% in person) we will notify families as soon as possible. We would rather err on the side of caution.

4. How is transportation going to work?

If you have filled out your transportation request form, your district of residence has it. Each district will be notified by our main office secretary what students will be in the building on what days and each district will transport your child(ren) to and from school. Each district is following guidelines from New York State regarding transportation health and safety protocols on the bus.

5. How will you ensure that my child and other students in their class are following safety guidelines?

We will be spending time in the beginning of the school year on safety procedures and how to keep yourself and people around you safe. Students will be able to practice these procedures and positive reinforcement of the safety requirements will be continuous. Please help us by having these discussions with your child(ren) at home regarding face coverings and hand and respiratory hygiene.

6. How will daily health checks happen for every student?

Before the first day of school, an online form will be sent to you. You will be able to access this form daily and we strongly encourage each family to take a few minutes every morning to do this quick health check at home. We will also be taking every student's temperature before entering the building. Their temperature must be below 100° F to enter. Throughout the day, staff will monitor students for symptoms and send them to the nurse if necessary.

7. Will the start date be delayed as other districts have done?

No. Hope Hall's first day of school will be September 9, 2020. Students will follow the hybrid schedule starting that day so some will be in person and others will be remote.

8. Can my child(ren) participate in 100% online learning even though the school is starting in a hybrid model?

Yes, this is an option. An email was sent out on August 5th with an online form that must be filled out indicating that you want this option for your child(ren). Please note that we can only offer this option while the school is in a hybrid model or 100% online. Once we are able to return to 100% in person learning, 100% online learning will no longer be an option.

9. What will online learning look like?

A team is working on developing our online learning platform and communication will be sent out with more details as soon as we are able to update everyone regarding the specifics. All of the necessary information will be provided to ensure our students will be successful using the online learning platform.

10. How do I stay up to date on pertinent information?

Parent/Guardian updates will continue to be sent via e-mail on a regular basis. In addition, families are encouraged to check the Community Connection page on Hope Hall's website for key information. Specific questions related to safety and school re-opening that are not addressed in these communications can be sent to Safety@HopeHall.org

11. What type of mask is allowed at Hope Hall?

Hope Hall is following the guidance issued from the Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control. Masks with air valves, gaiter masks and flannel masks are currently prohibited. Please make sure the mask your child wears does not have anything offensive on it. Hope Hall will have extra masks in case a student needs to change their mask during the day but we are encouraging families to pack an extra mask in your child(ren)'s bookbag.

12. If the school nurse calls me and asks me to pick my child up because they are exhibiting symptoms from the COVID-19 symptom list, how long do I have to get there?

Our School nurse is only allowed in the room with students who are exhibiting potential COVID-19 symptoms for 15 minutes due to exposure time. Hope Hall asks that if you

receive a phone call, asking to pick your child(ren) up, you make every effort to get them within an hour of the initial phone call.

13. Who do I go to if I have a question about an online assignment or Google Classroom?

Please contact your child's homeroom teacher for all questions regarding online learning and Google Classroom. If they need further assistance they will reach out to administration for support.

14. I see "office hours" on my High School and Middle School student's schedule. What does that mean?

Office hours are a time for students to get extra help on any assignments they may be struggling with. It is also a time where teachers can require students to attend if they feel the student needs more time with a concept. It is not mandatory for everyone unless the teachers makes that request.

15. If I am picking up my child(ren) at the end of the day what will that look like?

Dismissal will start promptly at 3:15pm. We will not be dismissing students earlier as they will all be in their 9th period class. Please park in a spot where you are not blocking busses, this is typically closer to the road. Walk to the main High School door and Hope Hall staff will come out at 3:15pm with a clipboard for you to sign your child(ren) out to leave for the day. Please remember to maintain 6 feet social distancing during this time.

16. Am I allowed to switch my child(ren) from 100% remote to hybrid or vice versa?

One switch is allowed while Hope Hall is following a hybrid schedule. If you start off 100% remote and you want your child(ren) to follow hybrid, please let the main office know and contact your district's transportation department ASAP. If you start off in our hybrid model and you want to switch to 100% online, please contact the main office and let your district's transportation department know if they have been transporting your child(ren).

17. Do students still need to hand in their electronics daily?

Yes, students are going to be handing in any electronics to their homeroom teacher every morning. Their homeroom teacher is going to keep the electronics in a secure location for the day, within the classroom. Students will be given their electronics back before they leave for the day.

18. What are the bathroom procedures for during the school day?

There are signs on all bathroom doors that say "please knock before entering". One student is allowed in each bathroom at a time. Outside of all bathrooms are circles saying "do your part, stand 6 feet apart". If the bathroom is occupied, the student can stand on the wait dot until the person leaves. If someone is on the wait dot, a student must go to another bathroom or go back to class until it is empty. Bathrooms will be cleaned frequently and in addition to soap for hand washing, there are hand sanitizer dispensers inside each bathroom by the door.