

Question & Answer

1.) Q. ***Will there be an option for 100% remote learning?***

A. Yes, the District will offer full remote learning in our Bridger Virtual Learning Academy, with live teacher instruction.

2.) Q. ***If you choose full remote learning for your child, will they have face-to-face interaction with a teacher?***

A. Yes, they will have the opportunity utilizing Microsoft Teams, which will be loaded on school provided technology.

3.) Q. ***What will the remote learning look like?***

A. The district is offering a variety of platforms including Office 365, Schoology, and Seesaw. Remote learning will be with live instruction via Microsoft Teams. There will be multiple platforms used, all facilitated by a teacher.

4.) Q. ***How will Garnet and Gray day groups be determined (education level)? And how will this affect the diversity in scheduling options at the High School level?***

A. A variety of factors will be utilized to determine Garnet and Gray groupings; however, primarily it will be decided by transportation runs and students residing in the same household. Garnet days will be Mondays and Wednesdays and gray days will be Tuesdays and Thursdays.

5.) Q. ***What will the schedule be like for the students who participate BCCTC?***

A. BCCTC is meeting with all School District Administrators from all of the participating schools and will release their official reopening plan upon approval.

6.) Q. ***If my child starts the school year fully remote and wants to change to the blended schedule, will they have this option, and if so, will they have to wait until the end of the semester?***

A. We are going to offer flexibility to transition between the blended schedule and fully remote learning upon request. Building Principals must be notified when a student decides to switch options.

7.) Q. ***What is the plan on moving to 3 days, 4 days, 5 days? If things are going well, no spread, or other Districts are successful with this, will we be making changes toward 5 days in the classroom?***

A. Our reopening plan is available on the website but it is subject to change depending on additional information from the state and the reconvening of the Reopening Committee.

8.) Q. ***What is the difference between remote learning and enrolling my child in the Ambridge Area School District Cyber School?***

A. The Bridger Virtual Learning Academy will offer more opportunity for face-to-face synchronous learning with AASD teachers. The AASD Cyber Academy is asynchronous self-paced learning, with little teacher interaction. For more information, please contact Mr. Barry King at bking@ambridge.k12.pa.us or 724-266-2833 x2269.

9.) Q. ***What are the AASD cyber options and where can parents/guardians locate course offerings?***

A. To gain more information on our Bridger Virtual Learning Academy or our AASD Cyber Academy, please contact Mr. Barry King at bking@ambridge.k12.pa.us or 724-266-2833 x2269.

10.) Q. ***As for remote learning, will the students be in a classroom setting (lectures with video/audio real-time interaction) with a set schedule?***

A. The students will follow a traditional schedule and there will be opportunities for real-time interaction using the Bridger Virtual Learning Academy, facilitated through Microsoft Teams, with other students in the classroom and the teacher.

11.) Q. ***Will the days in person be the regularly scheduled school day?***

A. Yes, it will be a regularly scheduled school day, including an appropriate lunch break. Meals will be provided for curbside pickup for remote students, if you choose.

12.) Q. ***If my child has problems logging in remotely, how are the teachers going to monitor who is missing and how will they be able to assist them, if both parents are at work?***

A. If you have technology issues, please call the AASD Helpdesk at 724-266-2833 x 4357.

13.)Q. <i>If a student is not able to participate in remote learning, due to parent's work schedules, will there be virtual recordings available in the evening, and if so, how will attendance be taken for those students?</i>
A. The district is exploring options to be able to record key components of a teacher's lessons that would be posted for a set amount of time. Attendance for remote learning is contingent upon the PA Department of Education guidance. The district will continue to monitor the guidance communicated from PDE around student attendance.
14.)Q. <i>How will the specials work with only two days in school? Will they be exclusively in school or rotated between in school and remote?</i>
A. Specials/electives will be offered face-to-face/remotely, and we will continue to develop the most effective solution.
15.)Q. <i>How will the District implement teachers teaching students in the physical classroom while at the same time teaching students online? Do you plan to have two teachers in the classroom?</i>
A. There will not be two teachers in a classroom, however the teacher will balance the in-class group while interacting with those that are attending online.
16.)Q. <i>Will the instructional plan be synchronous or asynchronous?</i>
A. The in-person instruction as well as the Bridger Virtual Learning Academy will be synchronous and face-to-face interaction.
17.)Q. <i>Will electives be offered?</i>
A. Yes, electives will be offered. All efforts are being made to provide complete instruction wherever possible.
18.)Q. <i>How will elementary aged students get the brain/play breaks needed for their development and ability to stay focused?</i>
A. Teachers have traditionally provided age appropriate brain breaks for students and will continue to do so in this setting, keeping in line with appropriate social distancing and safety protocols.
19.)Q. <i>Will the incoming Kindergarten class have the opportunity to tour the building and have a practice bus ride before the start of the school year?</i>
A. The principals intend to offer a virtual orientation and then will review the procedures when the students attend the first week of school in person.
20.)Q. <i>Will students transfer from one classroom to another, how will this work?</i>
A. At the elementary level, when possible, students will remain in their room and teachers will rotate. However, when students have to move from one room to another, they will practice social distancing and follow the safety protocol outlined in the Reopening Plan. At the Middle School and High School level, they will transfer while practicing social distancing and following the safety protocol outlined in the Reopening Plan.
21.)Q. <i>What are the plans to transition students to the Middle School and High School this year?</i>
A. The Middle School will offer a virtual transition day and review the procedures with the students in the first week of school. At the High School level, if possible, the 9 th grade students will have an evening transition session in the beginning of the school year. Further details will be forthcoming.
22.)Q. <i>If your child has an IEP plan and you have questions or concerns before the start of the school year what is the process?</i>
A. We encourage you to contact your building principal, who will schedule an IEP meeting, facilitated through Microsoft Teams and or by phone.
23.)Q. <i>If your child has an IEP plan, is there a chance they could go back to full-time school, staying in the Autistic Support Classroom every day, following CDC guidelines?</i>
A. Although the Reopening Plan applies to all students, the IEP team may consider this request. Please let your building principal know if you would like to discuss the possibility and appropriateness of this option for your child.

24.)Q. <i>What are the expectations that the technology will be delivered and ready for the start of school?</i>
A. The K-5 iPads are onsite and will be available for the start of school. We are currently waiting for the shipment of laptops and they will be distributed once they have been configured by the Technology Department. We will update with further information, when we receive the update on technology.
25.)Q. <i>How will technology be distributed to students?</i>
A. We are currently developing a formal process to safely distribute devices.
26.)Q. <i>Will parents/guardians be able to purchase insurance on the laptops/iPads?</i>
A. The district is currently exploring options. If available, the district will share more information on a later date.
27.)Q. <i>Does the district have plans to increase the technology department to handle the large influx of technology issues that will occur with a hybrid program?</i>
A. The district will continue to review and monitor the amount of support necessary throughout the process. (in addition to the AASD technology staff, we currently have a third party contract with Communications Consulting Incorporated (CCI) for additional technology support).
28.)Q. <i>Where will the students eat their breakfast and lunch?</i>
A. When possible, the preference will be for the students to eat their breakfast in the classroom. If not possible, they will social distance and follow all safety protocols in the cafeteria. In the green phase, lunches will be provided in the cafeteria, while practicing social distancing and engaging in the safest possible meal delivery methods. In the yellow phase, the district will deliver meals to the classroom.
29.)Q. <i>Will parents be required to send tissues, hand sanitizer and disinfectant at the beginning of the school year, like previous years?</i>
A. The district purchased as many of these products as possible; however, if you are willing to get some of these items voluntarily, we would appreciate it.
30.)Q. <i>If a district staff member traveled to a hot spot during the school year, will they be expected to self-quarantine for 14 days?</i>
A. We will follow the recommendations from the health department.
31.)Q. <i>Will the district go fully remote for every positive COVID-19 case?</i>
A. The district will review the confirmed case as it relates to the school community. We will request guidance from the health department, and make the best decision for the safety of our staff and students on a case-by-case basis.
32.)Q. <i>What temperature does the district consider a fever?</i>
A. Currently, the district is using a temperature of 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature will be taken daily with a non-contact thermometer.
33.)Q. <i>What is the timeframe for notifying parents/guardians when their child comes in contact with a person that tests positive for COVID-19?</i>
A. Parents will be notified by the PA Department of Health through contact tracing protocols.
34.)Q. <i>Will students be required to wear masks while sitting at their desks?</i>
A. Yes, per the directive of the department of health students are recommended to wear masks. If guidance changes from the department of health, the district will reserve the right to reconsider.
35.)Q. <i>Will students be allowed to wear their own masks to school?</i>
A. Yes, as long as they have one that fits the CDC guidelines and is appropriate for school. If they do not have a mask or forget their mask, one will be provided to them.
36.)Q. <i>If fall sports are canceled, are those sports going to be played in the spring?</i>
A. The district will continue to get updates from the PIAA that will help guide our local decisions on athletics.

We hope these frequently asked questions have addressed many of your concerns.

We will continue to update as we receive further information.