

STARS PRESCHOOL RE-OPENING FAQ'S FOR PARENTS

Q: If the school districts decide to change their plans (go all virtual and no in person learning) will STARS follow suit? Or are you independent of those school district decisions?

A: We are an independent school, as that is why we were able to write our own re-opening plan; however, we contract with at least 21 school districts across Monroe and Wayne counties. We must communicate with them when plans change to determine if they are requesting in-person or remote learning for their students. In addition, we also are required to follow the guidance of the Department of Health.

Q: My child is in the afternoon class, do you know about what time the zoom classes will be and will they occur all 3 days they are not in class?

A: The zoom classes will be scheduled and set up directly by your child's classroom teacher. While we cannot say for certain what times the zoom classes will occur, your child's teacher will be arranging a weekly schedule of events, including the ZOOM links, which will be provided to you ahead of time.

Q: Will the classes be recorded so if I child does miss they could watch it back later?

A: Right now, that is not something that we have a final answer to quite yet. It is something that we can definitely think about and can try as we move through the first part of the year and get used to all that our program will be offering.

Q: Do students who hybrid need to download dojo?

A: We highly encourage it. The Class Dojo app is an easy way to communicate with your child's classroom teacher and therapists. In addition, learning activities will be posted daily for you to review and utilize as you wish. You will also be able to submit your daily health check information via the private message feature.

Q: Are the Zoom sessions for hybrid the other days kids are not in class?

A: Yes!

Q: Will there be an option for remote only students to rejoin the in person classroom at a later date? How will that work?

A: Yes. Our program's reopening plan will be reviewed every 6 weeks, with the first review date being October 16th. At that time, based on the guidance of the county, the Department of Health, and NYSED we receive, this may be the time we determine to add more in-person days to our schedule, keep our program the same, and/or move to remote learning completely. Any changes would be made at the end of the first quarter (late-October/early-November). This would also be the time at which a family would be able to move from remote learning to in-person, if they wish.

Q: What is the cost associated with remote learning for a typical student?

A: There will still be a tuition payment required at a reduced rate for our typical student's attending both the remote only and hybrid options. Please contact our program administrator, Pam Grant, at pgrant@liberty-resources.org to discuss specific rates for your child.

Q: Parent Drop Off: Are kids taken from the car or can the parent walk them to the door?

A: Students will be screened at their car and walked into the building by a designated staff person. Please keep an eye out for parent pick up and drop of specifics that will be part of your welcome packet.

Q: Do we need to supply our child's learning materials for in-person (crayons/scissors?)

A: No, supplies will be provided for your child. Every student will also have their own personal caddy, which has also been purchased by STARS, to store their own set of materials. These materials will be individually labeled.

Q: Will any of the related services be 1-1? Are all services small and large group?

A: Clinicians will evaluate student performance and IEP recommendations in order to provide services based on what your child needs. While the in-person days naturally lend themselves to small group sessions, 1-1 sessions will be provided where needed. In addition, any individualized support can also be offered remotely.

Q: Are there going to be additional in-person 30 minute therapy sessions available like there were this summer?

A: No, unfortunately we cannot offer that at this time.

Q: How effective will physical therapy be if in a classroom with a room full of children?

A: There are many opportunities that naturally lend themselves to gross motor activities throughout the day. Clinicians will be working closely with the classroom teacher to accommodate those needs. For example, a space with a mat may be created in a portion of the room to directly address or model gross motor skills. Given the closure of the large group motor spaces, there will be opportunities for gross motor obstacle courses, yoga groups or other movement activities that target IEP goals/objectives outside or within the classroom.

Q: Would you like us to send extra masks to leave in the classroom?

A: If possible, we would welcome extra masks; however, it is not mandatory. If you do send extras, please be sure to label each one with your child's initials and store them in a Ziploc bag.

Q: How can you make sure children keep masks on?

A: While it isn't something that we can ensure will occur for the duration of the school day, mask wearing will be an integral part of our daily lessons and conversations. Mask wearing will be encouraged through the use of social stories, modeling and exposure.

Q: Is it ok for a child to wear a face shield if they are unable or unwilling to wear a mask?

A: While masks are preferred and highly encouraged, if a child is able to tolerate a shield, we would accept that. Please understand that we would still continue to work on increasing your child's tolerance to wear a mask.

Q: Can you send some tips about encouraging/mask wearing?

A: A list of resources will be sent via email, the welcome packet, and posted to our website.

Q: What if our child won't/can't wear a mask-can he still ride the bus?

A: That is something to clarify with the transportation department. Here are the bus company's names:

- **Monroe County**-Ontario Bus Inc, 585-993-4252
- **Wayne County**-Transpo Bus Services-315-946-5749

Q: Are the kids required to wear a mask all day?

A: Students will be encouraged to wear masks during all times in which they are unable to be socially distant; however, mask breaks will be built into the schedule (i.e. snack time, outside play).

Q: Can my child wear a lanyard (clip on back for safety) with his mask clipped to it?

A: Yes, if this is something that your child is familiar and comfortable with.

Q: How can you distance kids in the classroom when they are not wearing a mask? Is there 6 feet per child set up in the classroom?

A: Yes, all classrooms have enough space for students to be 6 feet apart. Play areas will be limited to the number of students that can be in it at the same time and all seating at tables have been reduced to enforce social distancing. Within the classroom setting, there will be visual supports (pictures of feet taped on the floor, colorful squares indicating personal spaces, etc.) and materials out (hula hoops, child specific seating, center check in/out boards) that will provide additional guidance to promote consistent social distancing.

Q: My child responds best when he can see his speech therapist's mouth. Will speech therapists be wearing see through masks?

A: Yes, our speech therapists will be provided see through masks to utilize during therapy.

Q: If the child shows signs of getting ill while in class will the parents be called to pick them up? Or will the school give a test to my child without me knowing beforehand?

A: Parents will always be contacted if a child shows signs of illness while in class. We are not equipped for and will not be doing any testing. Based on symptoms, families may be encouraged to reach out to their family doctor for follow up.

Q: Will the health screening questionnaire be sent to us via email every day to complete for our child?

A: No, the questions will be sent home in the welcome packet and won't change. You may report answers via the Class Dojo, a note in your child's backpack, via email to your child's teacher, a text to your classroom teacher, or a phone call to the school. Please make sure your answers are dated.

Q: Who do parents/guardians text for the health screening? What is the number?

A: That information will be shared once classroom placements have been finalized and your teachers have shared their contact information with their class.

Q: Does the health questionnaire need to be completed on remote learning days?

A: No, but if your child shows symptoms on a remote learning day, please notify the school and keep him/her home the following day.

Q: What if your child has asthma with a dry cough? Do I keep my child home?

A: We would ask that your child's doctor provide information via a doctor's note related to the asthma and dry cough. Information that we would look from your doctor would include verification that your child suffers from this condition and how he/she presents when having a flare up. If this was provided and your child's symptom's aligned with what the doctor has shared, he/she would not need to stay home. Please remember that if your child has asthma and needs access to an inhaler throughout the day, this is not something that STARS is able to accommodate. Please reach out to our program administrator, Pam Grant, to set up an alternative med plan.

Q: With COVID going on and that the kids will only be in school 2 days a week. Will there be a limit on how many school days they can miss and or zoom classes? As I know before all this the child had to be there at least 80% of the time.

A: Attendance at school, whether in person or remote, is vital to ongoing academic and social emotional growth and development. We continue to encourage daily attendance in both portions of our program. Throughout the school year, STARS will be continuing to take attendance and monitor participation in both of our learning options. Should a concern arise with attendance, you will be contacted by, Pam Grant, our program administrator either in writing or via phone. At that time, attempts will be made to help develop a plan to increase attendance and participation on an individual basis.

Q: How recent does the physical need to be?

A: The physical needs to be within one calendar year. For example if your child's physical date is 10/13/19, he/she is able to start the year with us; however, an appointment and new physical will be needed on 10/14/20. We also need an updated copy of your child's immunization records. They are often not included as part of the physical paperwork. If your child's physical is expiring and you are not able to get an appointment prior, please contact Pam Grant, our program administrator for further guidance.

Q: How can we verify that our physical was received from the doctor's office?

A: You will receive a phone call from a STARS staff member to follow up if a physical has **not** been received.