

Quarterly Newsletter  
August 3, 2020



Laurel Springs School: (856) 783-1086  
Summer Hours: 8:30am – 2:00pm  
Tuesday - Thursday

## LAUREL SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Superintendent Message: Thomas F. Attanasi

Dear Laurel Spring Families:

This letter is intended to communicate the Laurel Springs School Districts reopening plan for September 2020. I want to thank Mrs. Manny, President of the Board of Education, board members, administrators, teachers, parents and the many stakeholders of Laurel Spring that gave up their time to share their concerns, ideas, viewpoints, and data to help strengthen implementation of the reopening plan. **Please understand that this reopen plan is fluid and may change at any time.**

The importance of In-person learning is well documented and there is already evidence that shows a loss of learning after schools were shut down last March. The disruption has impacted academics, social and emotional well-being, physical activity, and food security. Laurel Spring's reopening plan will be able to maximize the health and safety for all our teachers, students, and staff when they return while providing an environment for student success at the Laurel Springs School.

This letter includes three major areas of information: Reopening Plan and Learning Options, Health and Safety Procedures for In-person Learning, COVID Cases in the District and Prevention, and Other Topics such as food services, special education, and transportation.

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*Reopening Plan & Learning Options for instruction during the 2020-21 school year*

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On July 24<sup>th</sup> Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education announced that parents in New Jersey will have the option to choose all-remote learning for their children for the upcoming school year. Therefore, Laurel Springs will offer two options of learning for the 2020-2021 school year. We fully expect that the data and guidance for how education occurs will change over the school year and the course of this pandemic. The Laurel Spring School District is committed to adapting to changes as they occur for the sake of the education of the children of the district, as well as the health and safety of them, their families, and our staff. For opening in September the two options being provided are **Hybrid Model of Learning** and **Full Remote Learning**.

## Laurel Springs Reopening Plan:

### Option 1: Hybrid Model of Learning.

This format offers both in-person and remote instruction to avoid crowding buildings and to adhere to social distancing. In-person instruction will be made available Monday – Friday from 8:30-12:30pm. Students will be split into two groups known as Group A and Group B.

1. **Group A** students will always attend school on Monday and Tuesday.
2. **Group B** students will always attend school on Thursday and Friday.
3. **Wednesday will be known as the “Flex Day”** where students in each group will alternate every other Wednesday.
4. Siblings will all be positioned in the same group.

**Week A, B, & Neutral:** Every week will be identified as either A-Week, B-Week, or Neutral Week. A Neutral Week is when there are only (4) days to that week due to a holiday or teacher in-service. A/B weeks will always have (5) days to the week which one group will attend three days of school having in-person instruction and the other group attends two days.

**Hybrid Remote Instruction:** Remote instruction will be offered to the group of students who are not attending in-person instruction on those given days. Hybrid Remote instruction will be delivered to each grade level in a variety of ways such as: pre-recorded lessons, power point lessons, google meet sessions, etc. Remote instruction will be made available to the group of students not in school from 1:10-2:40pm. (*Note: assignments will be posted in the morning.*) Teachers will be in communication with their students to give more in depth details, as every grade level will vary with the delivery of remote instruction.

**September Calendar:** The September calendar will open up with a **Neutral Week** because Monday is Labor Day. Therefore Group A and Group B will each get (2) in-person school days that week. It will then follow with A-Week, followed by B-Week and then close out the month with A-Week. (*See Chart Below*) Group A will receive (10) days of in-person instruction while Group B will receive (7). This rotation throughout the months will provide both Group A and B a total of (35) in-person days of instruction from September through December. (*Revised school calendar attached.*)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <b>Neutral</b>	7 Labor Day	8 Group A	9 Group A	10 Group B	11 Group B	12
13 <b>Week-A</b>	14 Group A	15 Group A	16 Group A	17 Group B	18 Group B	19
20 <b>Week-B</b>	21 Group A	22 Group A	23 Group B	24 Group B	25 Group B	26
27 <b>Week-A</b>	28 Group A	29 Group A	30 Group A	1 Group B	2 Group B	3

**Option 2: Full Remote Learning:** This learning forum consists of all remote learning with no in-person instruction. Students will receive academic instruction virtually utilizing a variety of platforms including but not limited to: posted assignments, pre-recorded lessons, google meets, etc. Families choosing Full Remote Learning must adhere to the procedures and fill out the attached form and submit back to the school district no later than **August 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The following procedures must be followed:

1. Fill out the attached form requesting said child to take part in Full Remote Learning and submit it to the school district no later than **August 14**.

2. Questions or concerns regarding Full Remote Instruction, parents are to contact the Laurel Springs School. (856) 783-1086
3. Students will receive additional information in the form of a letter from the building principal regarding schedule, technology device, meals, etc.
4. A student with an IEP may need to coordinate with the Child Study Team to determine if an IEP meeting or an amendment to the student's IEP is needed for Full Remote Learning.
5. Once a student is approved for Full Remote Learning they may not switch over to the Hybrid Learning platform until approved.
6. Requests for students to transfer from All Remote Learning to Hybrid Learning must be submitted to the principal 2 weeks prior to the end of the marking period. Students will only be allowed to transfer to one or the other platforms of Learning at the beginning of a new marking period.
7. Families opting for their child to take part in the Hybrid Learning format **DO NOT** need to fill out the form. The form is **ONLY** if you plan to have All Remote Learning.

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### *Health and Safety Procedures for In-person Learning*

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**Operational Protocols/Procedures:** Protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is our top priority. On the first day of school, students will be educated on all health and safety features put into place in our schools. Face coverings, social distancing, and hand washing will be the district's top mitigation strategies to fight against COVID-19

Students and staff will be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Posters with signs and symptoms will be posted in each classroom and at the school's main entrance continuously being updated (dissemination of resources will be coordinated with the county office of education). Students and staff must go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic. Each school will provide an isolation room to hold student or staff who are symptomatic before they exit the school or while waiting to be picked up from school.

**Face Coverings:** Face coverings are a powerful tool to slow the spread of COVID-19. Students will be required to wear face coverings when on school campus, arriving to school, exiting school, walking the halls, etc. Extended usage of face coverings often leads to discomfort, distraction, or mishandling/misuse, triggering a child to touch their face more frequently and causing contamination and/or rendering the mask ineffective. It is necessary to acknowledge that the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities. Face coverings also make it difficult to speak or ask questions in a classroom setting. However, as per the directive of the Governor of New Jersey as of August 3, 2020, **all students will be required to wear their face covering** while in the classroom during the delivery of instruction. If students cannot wear a face covering, they must provide a doctor's note. **Nevertheless, it is highly encouraged to wear your face covering at all times.**

The Board of Education has purchased a face covering for every student. Students may wear their own face covering if they prefer along as they are appropriate for wearing in schools.

**Social Distancing:** To allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable, students will be seated at least 6 feet apart while considering the flow of student traffic around the room. When the weather allows, windows will be open to allow greater air circulation. High-traffic hallway use will be limited when feasible, by either staggering the end of classroom periods to reduce the number of students in the hallways and by requiring face coverings. In addition to wearing a face covering, social distancing will be a best practice for our students. Desks positioned in classrooms in the same direction, lining up to enter and exit the buildings, walking the halls, etc., will all follow the social distancing practice of 6 feet apart. (Two arms lengths)

**Hand Washing/Hygiene:** Hand washing is the best way to eliminate germs and avoid getting sick. All entrances to the buildings will have hand sanitizers mounted on the walls. Each classroom is equipped with

hand sanitizers mounted on the walls as well. In addition, hand pump sanitizers will be made available in all classrooms. Students will be required to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day.

**Student Arrival/Temperature Check:** Students will enter the school at designated entrances and be screened for temperature checks. Each grade level will have its own entrance and will also exit through the same doors at the end of the school day. Upon entering the building, each student will undergo a temperature check. **If a temperature is 100.4 or greater, the student will be sent to the nurse's office for further evaluation.**

Students who are to be sent home will wait in the Quarantine/Therapy Room until their parent/guardian arrives to pick them up. A Teacher/Aid will be designated to supervise the room.

**Visitor Screening:** Temperature checks and health assessment screening will be required upon entrance to the school for any visitor. A list of symptoms will be posted for visitors to review (such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, and/or sore throat). A no-touch thermometer will be used to take visitor's temperature, along with wipes for disinfecting before and after use, and hand sanitizer for visitor usage.

**Classroom Set-up:** To reduce density, each classroom will operate at 50% capacity each day. Desks will be faced in the same direction 6 feet apart from the next desk. The instructor will have 6 feet of room up front from the first row of desks. To improve indoor air quality, clean air filters will be replaced more frequently in addition to ventilating classrooms with clean outdoor air when feasible.

Face coverings or face shields will be worn by the instructor during the day while instructing. Students are encouraged to wear their face coverings in class but may opt to remove them as social distancing will be in effect. To help mitigate transmission, classes will not be switching to other classes during the month of September. This practice occurs at the Samuel Yellin School. For the month of September, teachers will rotate to classrooms and provide their daily instruction.

**Cleaning/Disinfecting.** All high-contact surfaces will be disinfected regularly, including door handles, light switches, playground equipment, and student desks. Additionally, the Laurel Springs School will undergo a deep, intensified cleansing each night in preparation for the school day the following morning.

**Students Sick:** Students are encouraged to stay home if they are not feeling well. Any child who has been sent home from school of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease must present to the school nurse when coming back to school written evidence of being free of communicable disease, in accordance with Policy 8451.

A student while at school has a temperature equal or greater to 100.4 will be sent home and cannot return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without using a fever reducing medicine.

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### *COVID Cases in the District and Prevention*

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#### **Reporting of confirmed cases/contact tracing:**

1. School administrators will notify the Camden County Department of Health about positive COVID-19 cases related to a school. All positive cases of COVID-19 in Camden County will be electronically reported through the state portal to the Camden County Health Department to commence contact tracing and case investigation.
2. During contact tracing, if the health department identifies a positive person with contacts in any school district which has not been reported by the school administrator, the health department will notify the school administrator.
3. The Camden County Department of Health will take the lead on contact tracing, isolation/quarantining of ill students and staff, and any further actions needed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

4. The School district will not be doing contact tracing of positive cases related to the school. However, the school administration will be contacted during the contact tracing procedure for information regarding a case. Each school will have to keep records of students, including cohorts that the Health Department will require during contact tracing.
5. **The Camden County Health Department will handle all contact tracing and have staff available to perform contact tracing and case investigation with the information provided by the school. The school is not responsible for contact tracing.**

**Symptoms of COVID-19: The following symptoms of COVID-19 are as follows:** They will be posted at the main entrance and in all classrooms.

1. Fever or chills, Cough
2. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
3. Fatigue, Muscle Aches
4. Headache, Loss of taste or smell
5. Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose
6. Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

**Positive Cases:** All cases of COVID-19 whether positive or negative, symptomatic or asymptomatic, close contacts of others will all be reported to the Camden County Health Department. **The Camden County Department will review and guide school administration to the protocols and procedures to follow per each case.** Some examples include:

1. Symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 10/14 days after symptom onset and have been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine and improvement in other symptoms.
2. Asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 10/14 days after their positive test result.
3. If they test positive, close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases can return after completing the required isolation period described above. (10/14 days)
4. If they test negative, close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases can return after completing the required 10/14 days.

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### *Other Topics*

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**Meal Distribution:** Students eligible for free meals will be able to pick them up every **Thursday beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-6 pm at the Samuel Yellin Cafeteria.** Students will be given one week of meals for both breakfast and lunch. Students who are not eligible for meals may purchase them using the school payment portal. Nutri-serve will be sending out a letter with more information in the near future.

**Special Education and Related Services: Special Education and Related Services:** Full day in person instruction will be offered to the following program: **Pre-school Handicap.** This will be offered to students during the hours of **8:45-12:15 Monday through Friday.** This will give the students who are deemed the highest risk of regression in-person instruction daily. The additional special education classes (Inclusion, Self-Contained) will follow the Hybrid Model of Learning and be put into either Group A or Group B unless Full Remote Learning is requested.

1. **Related Services:** In order to comply with the frequency and duration of the student's IEP, related services may be provided during the school day, remotely or a hybrid of both in-person and/or remotely. These services include Speech, OT, PT, and Counseling.
2. **Child Study Team Evaluations:** Evaluations will continue following social distancing guidelines, temperature checks, masks/shields and will be scheduled through the Child Study Team secretary. In

the event that we operate fully remote, the Child Study Team will continue to schedule testing dates and times for students who require evaluations and we will conduct these evaluations in-person utilizing our Child Study Team office located at the Samuel Yellin School. All Child Study Team meetings will continue to be held remotely until further notice.

**Pre-School:** Our Pre-K program will operate under the aforementioned A/B hybrid model. Your Pre-K student will be placed into either the A or B cohort, with sibling coordination being taken into consideration. Pre-K will occur from 8:45-11:15, providing the same time length of 2 ½ hours per day as it has previously. More details will be coming soon.

**Technology Devices:** The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress afforded schools to purchase resources for the upcoming school year. The Stratford School District incorporated the purchasing of additional chrome books to provide every student in grades K-8 to have their own chrome book for the school year.

**Child Care:** Understanding that child care will be a challenge to families throughout the entire state as schools look to reopen. Below are child care centers in close proximity to Laurel Springs..

Center	Town	Website	Phone Number
Under The Sun Learning Center	Stratford	<a href="https://www.utslc.com">https://www.utslc.com</a>	856-783-9715
Above & Beyond Learning Center	Stratford	<a href="https://www.aboveandbeyondlearningcenter.com">https://www.aboveandbeyondlearningcenter.com</a>	856-282-6207
New Generations Kids Academy	Stratford	<a href="https://newgen102.com">https://newgen102.com</a>	856-534-6427
Royals Learning Center LLC	Stratford	<a href="https://www.royalslearning.com">https://www.royalslearning.com</a>	856-825-9570
The Goddard School	Laurel Springs	<a href="http://www.goddardschool.com">http://www.goddardschool.com</a>	856-566-5600
Children of America	Clementon	<a href="https://www.childrenofamerica.com">https://www.childrenofamerica.com</a>	856-270-7869
BEH Learning Center	Voorhees	<a href="http://beh-learningcenter.com">beh-learningcenter.com</a>	856-795-4997
Mother Goose Learning Center	Gibbsboro	<a href="https://mothergooselc.com">https://mothergooselc.com</a>	856-784-8300
Mother Goose Learning Center	Blackwood	<a href="https://mothergooselc.com">https://mothergooselc.com</a>	856-227-0012
Forever Young Childcare	Lindenwold	<a href="http://www.foreveryoungschoolandcamp.com">www.foreveryoungschoolandcamp.com</a>	856-783-1400

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### *Final Thoughts*

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**Final Thoughts:** All the necessary standards and features to protect the health and safety of our students and staff are in place for reopening in September. Guidance from the NJ DOE, Camden County Health Department and the CDC have been followed and implemented into our plan. I am extremely excited and cannot wait to see our students back in the classroom where they truly belong. It is my hope, that we will see much success with our reopening plan and be able to eventually convert from single session school days to full time school days.

There is no plan throughout the state of New Jersey that is going to be perfect. However, I am confident that our Learning Formats being offered meet our needs and will bring success to our students. I want to thank everyone in advance for all your cooperation, perseverance, flexibility, understanding, and kindness during these most unprecedented and challenging times.

Sincerely,

Thomas Attanasi  
Superintendent