

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mason Pilot Elementary School

Carolyn Allston, Principal

9/9/2020

Good evening Mason families,

Below, you will find questions asked by families during the Family Information Session last week on September 2nd at 4pm.

- **Will students be using google meets or zoom?** Teachers can make this decision based on the structure of the class and the needs of the students being taught. The goal is to make sure all students can access the learning, so if you are encountering a barrier with either platform, please let us know.
- **How will the uniform policy look like at this time?** Students will be given a free uniform top the week of Sept 14th, we are a FULL uniform school however due to COVID we will be more relaxed than usual with this. Students should be dressed appropriately during hybrid and remote classes.
- **Will students still swim?** At this time, there will not be a swimming class at the opening of the school year. We are working closely with the pool with hopes that swimming can continue later on in the school year.
- **Are students going to have teachers help one to one online?** Teachers will be providing whole group and targeted small group instruction as the main form of teaching, however one on one instruction can take place during homework help sessions, and on a needs basis.
- **I haven't received any documents for options for hybrid or online, what should i do?** If you still have not received this information, please contact 617-635-9520 or email reopening@bostonpublicschools.org to inform them that you never received or cannot locate the link to the survey to make your choice selection.
- **When will parents get an example of what a typical day of class via remote learning will look or hybrid when it happens?** Welcome packet will have everything you need- suggest remote schedules, uniform information, school arrival and dismissal protocols to ensure social distancing, and other important information we ask that you review with your child in preparation for their return to school.
- **What about the buses of special needs students?** Students with door to door transportation will still receive door to door transportation. All students who have opted in to hybrid and are assigned a school bus will still receive bus transportation.
- **The welcome packet will be mailed to us?**No. You will receive this at the pickup day that will be assigned to your student's grade-level-, if you cannot make the date assigned we will problem solve around that- once you receive the date, we will be keeping track of the families who were able to come by to get their backpack, and problem solving with families who were not so that we can ensure all

students have access to materials they need for home learning.

- **What are the procedures for students with underlying issues?** Asthma action plans will be followed; student health and safety plans will be followed; please be sure we have a copy of it on file so that we can familiarize ourselves with the plans in support of safety.
- **Can students wear decorative masks?** It is very important that we focus on learning in the classroom and with all the distractions already and not being in the building for sometime it will really depend on the student. With that being said, we want to make sure students keep their masks on throughout the school day, and if this is a measure that will ensure this, I ask that parents use their discretion, but please limit distractions.
- **Will the school keep the same hours?** The school hours will be 8:30-2:30 since we will not have before or after school.
- **How will the online learning environment change? Will it be more demanding?** The demand. That is hard to say because I was not present last year- I can only go off of staff and parent feedback from last year. There will be a structure, morning meeting, opportunity for SEL skills and coping with pandemics that will happen whole-group but small groups and individual direct instruction as well.
- **So students will be required to be fully clothed? We had some incidents during online learning last year where students showed up in their underwear?** So this is tricky. Online learning is a situation no one asked for. By asking you- students and families- to do online learning, I am forcing myself into your home. It is hard to tell parents and families what to do in their own home- so we will come up with some expectations for families- what it looks like being ready to learn at home- expectations and requirements.
- **What about IEP services? How are you working that out?** IEP meetings will be taking place via zoom; if a student has a service that can be provided virtually it will be; if it needs to be provided face to face, then it will be. How these services will be delivered will be determined by health guidelines and what is safest for all parties involved.
- **Will there be recordings of lessons by chance?** My preference, YES but this is still being determined by the teacher union- it will need to be made at the union level.
- **Will the windows be open? What about recess?** Yes, the windows in the classrooms will be open, and each classroom will have a box fan to support with circulation. Students will still have gym and recess, however social distancing will be a priority.
- **Concerning the activity out in the field now (the park outside of the school) how are you going to work that out?** I am aware of the activity that has been taking place outside. We are enforcing a no trespassing rule and BPS police are going to walk the building every AM beginning at 7am. We ask that you stay with and supervise your child until the school doors open at 8:20am for safety reasons.
- **Will there be a school video to see the classrooms since we can't go to the school?** Great question, great suggestion we will look into this for sure.
- **Bathroom, I am sure it will be hard- how will you sanitize this? What is the plan?**

Currently, I am working with the custodian to create a plan for cleaning bathrooms and high touch areas. We will work with students to make sure they are using proper hygiene, and we have the hand sanitizer pumps in all classrooms for students to use before and after bathroom breaks.

- **For our remote learners, will they learn at the same time as students in the class?** That is still to be determined- the district is still figuring out what that is going to look like since the hybrid model requires teachers to teach at the same time in the building as students learn online from home.
- **When students are online learning, will parents be able to have students at work with them?** The goal is for students to be on the computer and not need the support of the parents at all. Your child will have a teacher and it is their responsibility to ensure that students are able to engage in the work, independently and with support from the teacher and staff.
- **What is the policy for when a student is sick, will the whole class be quarantined?** If a student is sick, then we will do tracing of who that specific student has come in contact with. The nurse will be able to speak to this in depth- we will check-in with him and see if he can come to the next meeting. Again, he has been trained in these protocols and procedures specifically.
- **I'm concerned, my kindergartener needs help getting online and understanding how to interact with technology--?** The goal is for us to make info videos and have sessions where we can support students and families to get on websites and access different platforms- and understand these platforms. Please continue to check DOJO facebook and the website where everything will be posted.
- **Prior to September 21st will there be a transition period so students can get reacquainted with the computers and zoom?** There will be no required interactions with students and teachers prior to the Sept. 21 start date but we will have the grade-level assigned day to pick up the welcome packet and meet teachers during the 9/14 week.
- **When is the soonest we can get technology for our child?** If you do not have technology right now, by 9/15 a Mason community member will call you to inquire about your needs, all of your needs, at which time you would let them know that you don't have it (or whatever you need, unforeseen barriers etc.). If you need it before then please reach out to the school directly.
- **Will the school use SeeSaw?** Currently, there is no plan to move forward with Seesaw. We will be using google classroom as our main platform to post assignments, provide feedback, and support our learners.
- **How do you get onto Classroom Dojo if you're not on Facebook?** If you type this link in your browser, it will bring you to an instructional video that provides guidance on how to join dojo: <https://tinyurl.com/Howtodojo> . You can also:
 - go to classdojo.com
 - You will see the option to “sign up as... a student, parent, teacher, or school leader. Click parent
 - You will then be brought to a screen to input your name, email address and a password for your DOJO account
 - You will need to click through a short tutorial. You will then have the option to “add a child”
 - Select the second option - add a child through a teacher. You will then be prompted to search for the Samuel W. Mason.
 - Select the school once you have located it. You will then be prompted to identify the student’s

teacher.

- Since this information has not yet been shared, select Ms. Carolyn Allston as the teacher. This way, Principal Allston can add you to the appropriate class, but you are still able to access the Dojo in the interim.

- **What is the Facebook name for the school?** The facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/masonpilot>
- **How do I get a laptop? Will it be delivered to me?** Technology updates will be shared soon. Mr. Mazzola will be our technology person for the school year. If you have any immediate questions, please feel free to contact the school or contact him directly. Our goal is to ensure all students have a working device prior to the September 21 start date.
- **When can I pick up a backpack?** Backpack distribution will take place next week at the Mason. **The schedule will be released tomorrow, September 10th!** Please check back for updates and listen out for a robo call with information regarding backpack distribution.
- **Is there a time frame for when parents can expect to hear from their child's potential teacher with a daily schedule?** Families will receive this information next week.
- **How many people will be on the bus? I want to make sure my child is safe? How does that work?** All school busses will be at half capacity with a skipped row in between all students. This will ensure social distancing guidelines are upheld during transportation to and from school.
- **Can you change your option after you choose?** Yes, this option can be changed, however it takes two weeks for school bus transportation to kick in once a student switched from remote to hybrid, so this is something to keep in mind when making the switch.

We hope to see you on Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 for our second Family Information Session at 4pm!

Please check back tomorrow for information regarding backpack distribution!