



OLMSTED AT KENSINGTON

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MRS. CLAUDIO-COTTO, PRINCIPAL

MRS. DULAK, MR. FREDO & MS. POTEPA, ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

RE-OPENING PARENT FORUMS

Grades 5-8: Wednesday, August 19th

Session 1: 1-2 p.m. & Session 2: 6-7 p.m.

Grades 9-12: Thursday August 20th

Session 1: 11 a.m.-12 noon & Session 2: 6-7 p.m.

Questions and Answers



Wednesday 8/19, 1pm Forum Questions:

- Q:** Each school within the district can choose hybrid or fully remote, right? **A:** No, the district will determine what model all schools will use
- Q:** how would the emotional needs of students be meet? **A:** We do have a student support team, Gateway Longview clinic and 2 School Counselors who are available to see students, either remotely or in school, depending on the need. We also would be looking at doing circles with students to give them the opportunity to express themselves in a safe group environment.
- Q:** Comment to be addressed at some point. Our experience with Schoology was not the best when we shut down in March through the end of the year. It was hard to find information and not all the teachers used it the same way or to the same extent. Will there be more cohesion of use by teachers and instruction for parents to help us help our kids navigate the remote work? My now 8th grader is not mature enough to embrace the virtual piece. It was challenging! Thanks in advance. **A:** Yes, the district is telling teachers to use Schoology only. Then they will be placing links such as Microsoft Teams on Schoology that take students to other platforms. The district is offering parents trainings on how to use the technology.
- Q:** With the remote option, will there be a minimum amount of time that teachers will provide synchronous instruction? I would like to see more than was provided in the spring. **A:** for k-5, synchronous instruction will occur 50% of the time, asynchronous will occur 50% of the time. For grades 7-12, 60% will be synchronous instruction, 40% will be asynchronous instruction
- Q:** Does semester mean 10-week quarter here? or 20-week half year? **A:** semester is 20 weeks
- Q:** For parents selecting the remote option, will instruction be taught by Olmsted teachers or district teachers. Olmsted #64 said it would district for them this morning **A:** We cannot guarantee that Olmsted teachers will be teaching your child remotely. The district is currently working on this.
- Q:** Has there been district discussion about changing the model over time, as the COVID conditions in our community change (moving to 100 % in person, or virtual, or whatever is needed)? **A:** That is being discussed and the goal is to eventually get to 100% in person. The focus right now is setting up a plan for reopening and for the first semester. But yes, we will look at how things can and will be adjusted as COVID conditions change.
- Q:** REPOST THE PICKUP TIMES FOR LOCKER BELONGINGS. **A:** Locker Pick-up Monday, and Wednesday, 10 - 12 this week (8/24, 8/26)
- Q:** if 50% of parents prefer virtual, that leaves only 50% left that would attend in person would it be possible for them to be there fulltime? **A:** We do not see that as a possibility currently.
- Q:** My child's school provided laptop is requesting a new Windows 10 license key. Can this be emailed to me? **A:** Contact IT at 816-7100.
- Q:** Will the students be given less work to do virtually? During spring, students were getting way too much work (5-6 hours of online work) and teachers were not always available. This caused a lot of stress for the children as well as parents who would get out of work to try and try to help them. **A:** The district is working to establish guidelines for synchronous and asynchronous teaching. We will discuss expectations with our teachers. For grades k-5, it will be 50% synchronous, 50% asynchronous. For grades 7-12, it will be 60% synchronous, 40% asynchronous.
- Q:** Will you consider in person at all? Some children learn better face to face and want to be in school. **A:** the district and county will be monitoring the data and making informed decisions for school models based on that data
- Q:** For full virtual model, will my 6th grader still be able to do the accelerated math program? **A:** 6th grade acceleration for math is in place

14. **Q:** Can you provide some sort of PE "work" or guidance for when the kids are home to help us keep them moving and healthy. So much easier when school says to do it than their nagging mom
Q: I was disappointed with PE / Gym portion last marking period via remote learning. If 100 virtual or Hybrid I hope this will have improved for more teacher student interaction.
A: For PE, Dr. Sue Baldwin is creating a new curriculum, but students will not be doing PE on the hybrid model. Please reach out to your child's PE teacher directly and they can speak to your child and enforce the importance of physical education.
15. **Q:** Mrs. Dulak, can you share your email for technology related question regarding the laptop that was assigned for my 5th grader? **A:** cdulak@buffaloschools.org
16. **Q:** what are sports going to look like? **A:** sports are on hold until at least 9/21. Gov. Cuomo will be announcing Fall Sports guidelines the week of August 24.
17. **Q:** there was mention of 5th grade orientation and did that already occur? If not, when will it be? **A:** 5th grade orientation was virtual; the link is on our website. For anyone else looking for the 5th grade orientation, here is the link, <http://olmstedatkensington.com/welcome-5th-grade-2020/>
18. **Q:** I know we cannot go from remote to hybrid once the year has started, but can we go from hybrid to remote if the need arises? **A:** the district is looking for a serious commitment, but choosing is not an option currently
19. **Q:** How will the DLI program be managed in the hybrid and remote model. If DLI students choose remote will they receive the same instruction as those who are hybrid. **A:** The Multilingual Department will be disseminating information regarding curriculum and expectations
20. **Q:** We tried to go it without a school laptop. We need to get one still. How do we do that? Is that Mrs. Dulak? Thanks. **A:** please email cdulak@buffaloschools.org
21. **Q:** With the remote option, will there be a minimum amount of time that teachers will provide synchronous instruction? I would like to see more than was provided in the spring. **A:** The district is working to establish guidelines for synchronous and asynchronous teaching. We will discuss expectations with our teachers. For grades k-5, it will be 50% synchronous, 50% asynchronous. For grades 7-12, it will be 60% synchronous, 40% asynchronous.
22. **Q:** Is there a supply list? Where can it be found? **A:** Now that a decision has been made, we will be working with the teachers to create the supply lists and will post them on our school's website at www.olmstedatkensington.com
23. **Q:** For parent volunteers, are you looking for parents to come in before school starts to help prep the building, and looking for parent helpers to execute teams training? just trying to understand the role. **A:** We are looking for parents to contribute ideas/suggestions/provide feedback in the areas outlined in the reopening plan: facilities, health, safety & wellness, technology & connectivity, curriculum and instruction, and transportation. We would meet as groups using an online platform such as Zoom.
24. **Q:** How will the day be structured? On days students are virtual will they have a more structured day? **A:** Yes, teachers and students will have a set schedule
25. **Q:** For full virtual model, will my 6th grader still be able to do the accelerated math program? **A:** yes
26. **Q:** if there is virtual learning, will teachers be required to be available during school hours? **A:** yes, teachers will be required to have office hours.
27. **Q:** Will all teachers be required to use Schoology, or will Google classroom still be used like last Spring? **A:** Schoology is just the platform to launch from. So yes, the district is getting away from google classroom etc. and has

told teachers to only use Schoology. But there will be links on Schoology, so for example, all synchronous instruction will take place on Microsoft teams because it can house all our students, but the link will be placed on Schoology under assignments. For math in grades 5 and 6 teachers will be using Zearn but the launch to Zearn will be in Schoology.

28. **Q:** Will there be better internet access at school? This should not be an issue. **A:** The internet connectivity at school is not changing. Last year we had internet connectivity. We did not see many problems in this area.

29. **Q:** Will the spotty internet pose a problem to remote learning? **A:** Yes, if students have spotty internet at home/connectivity issues, this will pose a problem for remote learning. Please join the technology committee to brainstorm solutions.

30. **Q:** Is it possible to have someone go through all the questions, and post the answers somewhere for the school community to see? **A:** We are taking down all the questions and will post the Q & A on our school website at www.olmstedatkensington.com

31. **Q:** So, a teacher could in theory have links to his/her Google Classroom in Schoology or not at all? Last year my daughter's science teacher had the students trained in Schoology and it was seamless for virtual-well at least for my daughter it was as the kids were used to that platform **A:** Teachers were instructed by Dr. Brown-Hall last night to use Schoology, not google classroom.

32. **Q:** For fully remote, is there a set time for live learning? **A:** The district is working to establish guidelines for synchronous and asynchronous teaching. We will discuss expectations with our teachers. For grades k-5, it will be 50% synchronous, 50% asynchronous. For grades 7-12, it will be 60% synchronous, 40% asynchronous.

33. **Q:** We are just entering BPS into 7th grade, is a school issued laptop necessary or can my son use his own? **A:** if you're comfortable using your own device that is okay

34. **Q:** Is there anything safety wise that the school needs to return to classroom that perhaps the parents can help with? **A:** We will be examining and informing parents and suggesting what supplies will be needed.

35. **Q:** The district is saying each principal decides since each school is unique. **A:** The district decides the model. The principal has flexibility within the school

36. **Q:** how will specials like band and Chorus work? I'm guessing orchestra would be treated the same way then as well. **A:** For specials, yesterday the district said that in the hybrid model, the kids may do encore subjects remotely on the remote days. Mr. Schwanz and Ms. Agosto (art and music) would be directing teachers on how to facilitate those classes. Same with PE, Dr. Baldwin is creating new curriculum.

37. **Q:** how will extracurricular clubs and the middle school musical work? **A:** At this point, all clubs, activities, and sports are on hold. The Governor announced that a decision on sports will be coming out the week of August 24.

38. **Q:** Is there a list of students who still need to pick up locker belongings? **A:** contact jafredo@buffaloschools.org if you would like to know if your child has belongings at school

39. **Q:** thank you for taking the time to answer our questions, I am sure we will have more, is there a preferred method of submitting them? **A:** you can email any of the administrators: gclaudio-cotto@buffaloschools.org, cdulak@buffaloschools.org, jafredo@buffaloschools.org, lrpotempa@buffaloschools.org

40. **Q:** will district assessments such as DBAs still be conducted in the core classes and if so, how will they be weighted in the grading? **A:** We have not had any direction on DBA calendars/grading at this point

41. **Q:** Schoology often froze several times during a school day rendering my daughter unable to do her work at that time. Has the district fully tested and investigated the threshold for Schoology to handle all this increased traffic? **A:** the district moved to Microsoft Teams to handle the capacity for class conferences since this was an issue with Schoology

42. **Q:** Hola. Que bueno. No hablo mucho inglés, pero he visto todas las reuniones que han dado y espero verlas todas. Siempre estoy pendiente de la educación de mis hijos. Mi preocupación es que en mi hogar hay 3 personas con muy alto riesgo con este virus. Si deciden por el modelo híbrido, ¿yo puedo decir que no y pedirlo virtual? **A:** Si. El Superintendente ha dicho que los padres pueden escoger mantener a sus niños en instrucción virtual por el resto del año sin perder su asiento en Olmsted.

43. **Q:** if we have textbooks that were sent home with our children, how and when do you want them returned? **A:** We don't want textbooks returned until school is open.

44. **Q:** We are brand new to the school and I'm told we can use Infinite Campus to see our daughter's schedule for 7th grade. Who can/should I contact for that login information? **A:** please email me at lrpotempa@buffaloschools.org

45. **Q:** are small groups being considered, for fully remote students? And what about peer to peer support or tutoring? **A:** Peer to peer tutoring is a good thought and can be done remotely.

46. **Q:** When will 5th graders hear about homeroom assignments? **A:** All schedules have been uploaded into Infinite Campus. Log on to the parent portal and you can view your child's schedule. If you are a non-BPS student, or are having difficulties, please email lrpotempa@buffaloschools.org.

47. **Q:** my child that goes to another bps school had a reading teacher that read with her every day for an hour in a small reading group, and also took the time to virtually add my daughter from Olmsted to her reading group. It was so nice and motivated both my children. Will you have reading teachers available. **A:** We have a reading teacher who works with the 5th and 6th grades. Her name is Kelly Marsh.

48. **Q:** 8th graders are scheduled to take Regents science I believe, how will middle schoolers taking high school courses be handled? **A:** We are unsure about the Regents science question, we have the same concern, we are awaiting a district decision

Wednesday 8/19, 6pm Forum Questions (66 Parents)

1. **Q:** Will there be another parent meeting? **A:** there will be two more tomorrow, 11-12 and 6-7
2. **Q:** I missed by child's laptop pick up day, is there another day we can pick it up? **A:** absolutely, just email me please and we can get that set up: cdulak@buffaloschools.org
3. **Q:** what was the email address to get your info added? seems like we missed 5th grade orientation. **A:** our clerk's email address is friccio@buffaloschools.org she can update your contact information
4. **Q:** My daughter is going to Olmsted for the first time, she already has a device from her previous school. Can she use the device from her last school, or will we need to get a device from this school? **A:** If her previous school was a BPS; she can keep that device! it will work in any Buffalo school.
5. **Q:** It does not seem that classrooms can even accommodate 15 kids 6 feet apart **A:** the district is providing guidance on appropriate spacing for every classroom
6. **Q:** Do we know assigned 5th grade teachers? **A:** 5th grade students have their schedules in Infinite Campus
7. **Q:** how would swim class be held safely if school reopens? **A:** When the decision to return, PE and Swim classes will follow NYS, CDC and District protocols.
8. **Q:** Is the bus option mandated for a semester? **A:** More info for the hybrid model is TBD by the district
9. **Q:** Will music ensembles be allowed to rehearse? **A:** We are reaching out to Mr. Schwanz, director of the music department
10. **Q:** How will we be notified about opt in or out from Bussing? **A:** More info for the hybrid model is TBD by the district
11. **Q:** Could you define semester 10 weeks or 20 weeks. also clarify the commitment. **A:** semester is 20 weeks
12. **Q:** Is September 8th an actual physical attendance? **A:** September 8th is the first day of school for all students remotely
13. **Q:** Isn't a semester 10 weeks not 20? **A:** a quarter is 10 weeks long. a semester is 20 weeks. the commitment would be 20 weeks
14. **Q:** Will you close the entire school if one student or staff member test positive? **A:** The school and BPS will notify the ECHOD, then a decision will be made by the ECHOD.
15. **Q:** How will your cleaning defer from the past? **A:** Cleaning and sanitizing will be monitored hourly and daily! Protocols and procedures will be reviewed daily with maintenance staff.
16. **Q:** What is infinite classroom and how do I get access? **A:** Infinite Campus is our grading and attendance database. please email me and I can have our counselor get in touch to set you up: cdulak@buffaloschools.org
17. **Q:** How do I sign up for OPTO **A:** for OPTO, please see the contact information in this presentation. I will post it on our site as well on www.olmstedatkensington.com
18. **Q:** So, District will determine how much scheduling structure kids will have? We had less than 1% from March to June. the kids need the structure. **A:** we expect much stronger instruction/grading/tracking than March-June. Teachers and students will have schedules

19. **Q:** are specials part of virtual learning (GT, music, art, etc) **A:** yes, specials are a part of virtual. They will run just like core classes.

20. **Q:** If the decision is made to start out 100% virtual, could it change to hybrid semester 2? **A:** the district and the county will continuously review data to decide when it is safe to move into in person sessions

21. **Q:** May we have a copy of your PowerPoint presentation? **A:** we are going to post the presentation on our school's website at www.olmstedatkensington.com

22. **Q:** how would meals be provided if we are remote learning? **A:** Meals will be provided just like the spring and summer at the community school.

23. **Q:** Are you partnering with CBO'S to provide services to students? **A:** we currently have partnerships with Say Yes and Gateway Longview. Please share any suggestions or information on other partnerships we can create!

24. **Q:** will there be more forums like this after the district makes their starting decision? **A:** yes, we will have committees for each area

25. **Q:** When did you say we can come by to pick up belongings left in lockers? **A:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 10 – 1 the week of August 24

26. **Q:** if the preliminary survey showed that 50% of the parents are okay with hybrid, couldn't those families then have hybrid starting on Sept 8? We would still be limiting the number of students in attendance and the children who do better in person would have that **A:** Whatever the decision the District makes, all BPS schools will follow that, but we will submit that suggestion to the district

27. **Q:** If our student is new to the school this year, will we receive information soon on how to login to Schoology? **A:** IT is working on connecting new students with that platform. Log in to Schoology will be with your child's 900 number and then the formula for password that is universal.

28. **Q:** my son is going to attend 5th grade how he is going to meet his teacher and what are the things he must do? **A:** if we are all virtual, introductory meetings will be set up for students and teachers to meet. We are hoping to have a social distance meeting where students come to the front of the building to pick up materials and at least see their teacher/admin faces.

29. **Q:** Regarding children with SE needs, what option do parents have to commit to? **A:** The district will be looking at bringing back students with special needs first. There is discussion on building time into the schedule for circles/check ins. we have two guidance counselors, a social worker, and a school psychologist who will be working with students. we are also connected with Say Yes and Gateway Longview

30. **Q:** How are 7th graders obtaining student feedback regarding desired World Language? **A:** Please reach out to your child's counselor to confirm course selection, such as foreign language: Mr. Van Remmen: Last name beginning with A – L (GVanremmen@buffaloschools.org), Mrs. Lukasik: Last names beginning with M – Z (ADLukasik@buffaloschools.org)

Thursday 8/20, 11am Forum Questions (31 participants)

1. **Q:** How often will Metro busses be cleaned? **A:** Proper cleaning practices were deemed to be not in place at this time, contributing to the decision to begin the year virtually
2. **Q:** Can you touch base on the status of fall sports? Also, is there any information on what the expectation for physical education classes will look like for 9th grade students? **A:** The Governor did announce that a decision regarding sports will be released next week.
3. **Q:** Will virtual instruction be 5 days a week? **A:** yes
4. **Q:** For seniors specifically, will they receive help and support for signing up for the SATs and applications to college or should seniors and parents work on their own for this? **A:** Yes, this will be a priority of the Guidance Department to meet the needs of all students, from SAT's, College Applications, College Fairs, among other things needed to have a successful year.
5. **Q:** We have a device and did not pick up a device from school is it necessary to have a school assigned device? **A:** if you are comfortable using your home device, that is sufficient. if you change your mind, please let me know!
6. **Q:** Our son has an IEP in a general education classroom, where the Special Education teacher sits next to him through all core classes (reading instructions, simplifying work, etc). Who will be doing that Mon-Fri while my husband and I work our full-time jobs? **A:** the district provided childcare assistance information on the BPS website. The Child Care Resource Network has a free resource that helps parents find high quality childcare. Please call (716) 877-6666 ext. 3064 and speak to a childcare navigator. <https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/93843>
7. **Q:** Should my child log into Schoology first thing on Sept 8 and she'll receive instruction right away? **A:** Directions for the first day of school will go out once things are finalized.
8. **Q:** Will virtual classes for high school students be offered do that they will all attend at the same time? If a group of students wanted to attend with each other (in the same physical space) they would be able to. **A:** This would not be recommended to have students gather for classes. This will not be supported by the school, nor the District.
9. **Q:** Where can my child get her device updated? **A:** 1515 South Park Ave. From 9-3 Monday-Friday
10. **Q:** Are tryouts still occurring? **A:** no
11. **Q:** Will there be any consideration to align younger students with older student cohorts? **A:** For siblings, there will be consideration given.
12. **Q:** My son is in special ed class what about therapies (speech / OT)? **A:** plans for services are being worked on. Information will be forthcoming
13. **Q:** When will student schedules be finalized? **A:** Grades 5-8 are finalized unless the district makes changes or things need to be altered due to error. Grades 9-12 should be finalized by 8/28. Please contact your child's guidance counselor if you have any questions.
14. **Q:** Will preferred names be on remote learning platforms? **A:** we will forward this request to IT
15. **Q:** Will the presentation be posted on the website? **A:** yes, on our school website at www.olmstedatkensington.com

16. **Q:** IEP review was cancelled we would like to do this in person is this a possibility? **A:** the district will let us know the process for meetings.

17. **Q:** will students still be able to add or drop a class like a normal school year? **A:** students should email their counselor or message them through Schoology to determine add/drops. Mr. Van Remmen (Last name A – L), Mrs. Lukasik (last name M – Z).

18. **Q:** how will classes like art classes be handled virtually? **A:** Art will have synchronous and asynchronous teaching, just like a core class. They are going to be amending lesson plans.

8/20/20, 6pm Forum Questions (36 Participants)

1. **Q:** Will there be a tripper bus for am? **A:** There should be a tripper bus in the am. I will email Robin Craddock tomorrow, but I do not see why there wouldn't be. Information on the hybrid model including transportation will be forthcoming.
2. **Q:** Can you elaborate on the semester long commitment if hybrid happens? If it feels unsafe after arrival, parents need ability to change. What are the repercussions of leaving the hybrid model if students feel unsafe? And in a hybrid model, if students' evidence typical symptoms and stay home, will they still be able to engage in distance learning while having a fever or cough, ETC? **A:** information on the hybrid model will be forthcoming
3. **Q:** Will virtual lessons occur every day and for every class? This is a major concern as the end of the last school year there was no remote instruction, there was only assignments given in 9th grade for my son. **A:** For grades 7-12 synchronous teaching will occur approximately 60% of the time and asynchronous teaching will occur approximately 40% of the time. Grades 5-6 will be about 50% of both. Students will be expected to log on at scheduled times for synchronous learning. Specifics will be disseminated once a plan is approved.
4. **Q:** when will the school supply list get posted? **A:** We are gathering supply lists for virtual and hybrid. Those supply lists will be posted soon on the school website.
5. **Q:** What if more kids show up at a metro bus stop than a bus can take because of restrictions? **A:** the bus maxes at 24, that is all it will accommodate. The student would need to wait for the next bus.
6. **Q:** What is there turn around expectation time for teachers to email back parents? Will teachers reach out to student independently when a student isn't performing or is it up to the student to reach out during office hours? **A:** We cannot make teachers respond within a specific time frame but the expectation would be within 2-3 business days. If they do not respond within 3 days, feel free to reach out to guidance or administration for assistance. Teachers will be expected to reach out to students and parents if students are not showing effort or completing work.
7. **Q:** On the students' computers zoom and YouTube is blocked, would you be able to unblock the materials the students need to access? **A:** the district will be utilizing Schoology as the main platform and Microsoft Teams for conferencing. Zoom will not be used.
8. **Q:** I would like to know if it was decided whether school will continue with remote learning? **A:** yes
9. **Q:** Will the teachers virtual meets be in the order of the kids schedule that they were given? **A:** yes, students will follow their schedules
10. **Q:** links will be given on Schoology for the students to click on for remote instruction? **A:** yes
11. **Q:** Once/if in-class teaching resumes, how will ventilation and air exchange be addressed? Does the school have A/C? **A:** we do not have AC. Please join the facilities committee
12. **Q:** are we still doing the survey since it's been decided that school will be remote for the first 4-6 weeks? **A:** yes, please
13. **Q:** Remote instruction will be given every day on a fully remote model? **A:** yes
14. **Q:** is there a chance for hybrid after the first 6 weeks? **A:** the district and the county will continuously look at the data to determine when it will be safe to enter the hybrid model

15. **Q:** if they have one of the typical symptoms, and they stay home out of caution, they can still attend a virtual class **A:** we will make accommodations for students who are out to participate in virtual sessions, but more information will be forthcoming for the hybrid model