

Ottoson Middle School
Planning for Full Reopening
Spring 2021

Presentation to Arlington School Committee
March 11, 2021

Reopening at OMS

- Where we are now
- Current Tasks and Timeline
- Needs & Questions
- Next Steps

How do we return to full in-person learning & provide transitional supports while maintaining health and safety?

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Hybrid and Remote Academy:
How did we get here?

Typical Pre-Covid Schedule (7-period day)

On-Team Classes

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies

Academic Support classes happen on-team.

Cross-Team Classes

5. Specials (Art/Tech/Music/FACS)
6. PE/Band/Chorus/Orchestra
7. World Language

There are other cross-team classes that do not affect the entire student body (CS, ACE, Reading, Math Support).

Covid Constraints & Ground Rules

- **Spacing**
  - Desks need to be spaced at least six feet apart - a major factor in determining how many students (12) could safely be in each usable classroom
- **Cohorts**
  - Students would remain with their Learning Community and cohort (A or B) for all of their in-person classes
  - For safety reasons, some classes could not be held in person and went remote for all students (World Language, PE, B/C/O, Computer Science, ACE)
- **Parity**
  - In order to offer all classes to students in both programs, some teachers teach in both programs (Latin, Mandarin, Computer Science, ACE, B/C/O)

Hybrid and Remote Academy Schedules

Hybrid Schedule

600 Students (approx)

- Six-period schedule
- Two cohorts (AA/BB) for each LC
- Synchronous classes on at-home days (cross-teamed classes)
- WIN period for asynchronous World Language and Academic Support
- Asynchronous lessons on at-home days

Remote Academy Schedule

300 students (approx)

- Seven-period schedule
- Three to four synchronous classes/day
- Three to four asynchronous classes/day
- Same course offerings as hybrid program

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Current Tasks

- **Room measurements [complete]**
  - Each classroom can have maximum 22-24 desks at 3 feet apart
- **Ventilation [in progress]**
  - We have contacted Facilities to determine how many additional rooms are useable
    - Three rooms: ventilation broken
    - Two rooms: very small window; not used for ventilation reasons
    - Seven interior rooms
- **Commitment [to do]**
  - Surveying families
- **Schedule [in progress]**
  - New schedule must be built, hand-scheduling 600+ students

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Decisions to be made

1. **Number of students returning to full in-person learning**
    a. Each in-person team can only have **100-110** students due to spacing guidelines
    b. If we have more than 30-40 students choosing to move from RA to full in-person, we may need to call a Remote Academy team back into the building
2. **Cross-teaming**
3. **Simultaneous Instruction: in-person and online**

Number of students returning to full in-person learning

Each in-person team can only have **100-110** students due to spacing guidelines

a. If we have more than 30-40 students choosing to move from RA to full in-person, we may need to call a Remote Academy team back or partially back into the building

Cross-Teaming

We have 16 teachers who teach cross-teamed classes

If we CAN Cross-Team

- The 16 teachers return to the building and teach their classes, as they would in a typical year (with masks). Some of these classes have 2 students; some have 24
- **The issue:** If there is a positive case, it could knock out students in multiple Learning Communities, and we currently have no live remote option for students who are missing in-person learning

If we CANNOT Cross-Team:

- The 16 teachers will stay remote
- **Staffing**: will need to hire 6 classroom monitors to cover in rooms while students log on to synchronous instruction with those cross-teamed teachers.
- **The issue:** Students attending different synchronous classes will be in the same room (ex: French, Spanish, Computer Science, etc.)

Simultaneous Instruction

- Currently, when students are in quarantine, they do not have the ability to access their classes live (no live-streaming from the classroom)
- Geometry, Seventh-Grade Algebra and Reading classes currently serve students simultaneously (via online synchronous instruction) in both the Hybrid and Remote Academy.
    - If these teachers are in the building, teaching live in front of students, will they be able to simultaneously stream to students in the Remote Academy?
- If students are quarantined, are we going to allow them to access classes via simultaneous live streaming from classrooms?

Urgency of Decisions

- **Staffing**
  - Caring for staff: The longer our staff sits with uncertainty, the more their anxiety increases
  - The staff who have been fully remote may have childcare concerns, need time to set up their rooms
  - Will all the staff be able to return?
- **Scheduling**
  - We are going to have to manually change the schedule of all 600 students currently in the Hybrid program.
  - PowerSchool: Usually PowerSchool does this for us; we cannot have PowerSchool do this without losing all of our grading, attendance, and discipline information for this year
  - Thus, we have to manually schedule every student to accommodate this change
  - This will probably take 60-80 work hours
  - Additional 40 work hours to overhaul the actual schedule
  - We may need to also change schedules of students in the Remote Academy
- **Rearranging** the school (desks, lunch spaces, outdoor spaces)
  - Custodians need time to get these spaces adequately prepared

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Next Steps: Required Tasks

- Surveying families
- Building the schedule
- Rescheduling 600 students
- Resetting rooms
- Teacher planning and prep time
  - Professional Day
- Student transition time
  - Monday, April 26 (cohort A) & Tuesday, April 27 (cohort B)
  - Days above would also include transitional programming for students returning to OMS from RA.