



Reopening of Schools FAQs for Parents

Below you will find a list of frequently asked questions from parents regarding what the opening of schools will look like for the 2021-2022 school year. Please keep in mind that guidance from the State of Connecticut or from the Orange Public Health Director may change as we move closer to the opening of school, and therefore, impact the answers provided at this time. Feel free to reach out to your child's principal with any questions.

As with all information, these answers are based on current factors and can change at any point throughout the year.

Arrival/ Dismissal

1. How will arrival and dismissal work this year?

- a. MLT: will stagger arrival and dismissal for the first two weeks of school by homeschool and then move to 8:20-8:35 arrival and 2:20-2:35 dismissal.
- b. PPS: Students will continue to enter and exit through the exterior doors located around the building. Parents will pick up from the same locations.
- c. RBS: Students will continue to enter and exit through the exterior classroom doors. Parents will continue to pick up their child at your classroom door.
- d. THS: Students will continue to enter and exit through the exterior classroom doors. Parents will continue to pick up their child at your classroom door.

2. What is the arrival time for students?

- a. Grades 1-6: 8:15 a.m. - 8:25 a.m.
- b. MLT: 8:20 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.

3. What is the dismissal time for students?

- a. Grades 1-6 - 2:55 p.m. for parent pick-up; Buses will leave by 3:05 p.m.
- b. MLT: 2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.

4. Is 21st Century Before and After School Program open this year? Yes, before and after school care is offered through the 21st Century Program. Please contact the individuals below if you have questions.

- a. **Turkey Hill:** Mrs. Stephanie Middleton - smiddleton@orange-ed.org
- b. **Peck Place:** Mrs. Myra Napier - mnapier@orange-ed.org
- c. **Race Brook:** Mrs. Jackie Esposito - jesposito@orange-ed.org
- d. **MLT:** contact the site manager at your neighborhood home school (see above)

Cohorting/Student Structures:

1. **Can classes go to recess together?** This can change as the year goes on. We are starting the year with one grade going to the recess at a time - those classes can play together/ intermix on the playground.
2. **Can classes go into specials' rooms?** Yes. Band needs to be outside for the time being. For Music - if they are singing they would need to move outside or be 6 feet apart inside with masks on.
3. **Can lockers, cubbies, or coat hooks be used in the classrooms?** Yes

Classroom:

1. **Are we cohorting this year again?** We will continue to cohort to the extent that is feasible. Students will attend specials in the specialists' rooms. A grade level will be able to mix at recess - we will monitor distance of students to the best of our ability.
2. **Are students bringing chromebooks to and from school again?** At this time, Chromebooks will remain in school.
3. **How far apart do students need to be?** Currently, all desks are at least 3 feet apart.
4. **Do shields need to be up on the students' desks during whole group instruction?**
No
5. **How can my child celebrate their birthday in school this year?** Parents can send in non-food Goody bags for each student in the class or they can arrange to read a story to the class through Google Meet
6. **Can I drop something off at the school if my child forgot it at home?** You may drop items off to the front security monitor and they will get the item to your child. We strongly encourage checking with your child daily to ensure they have their items needed for the school day.
7. **How will emergency drills work?**We will follow the guidance from the State of Connecticut and our local first responders for conducting safe and practical emergency drills. Our response actions will follow district protocols while allowing for COVID-19 mitigations. Fire drills will occur as they always have on a monthly basis.
8. **Are we able to see what the classrooms will look like virtually?** Yes, classroom teachers recorded a video of their classroom on Friday, August 27th to share with their students.
9. **What will the typical school day look?** Students will attend class in all major content areas as well as specials. Mask breaks will be periodically built in at the teacher's discretion. Recess will be outside unless there is inclement weather. Lastly, the teacher will build in time for hand washing/ sanitizing throughout the school day as well.

Lunch/Snack:

- 1. How will lunch waves work this year?** Each school will be able to have one grade level at a time eat in the cafeteria. Students will be seated 3 feet apart. This means some students will rotate between their classroom and the cafeteria. Each school will set up a rotating schedule so that all students will have an opportunity to eat in the cafe throughout the month. All MLT students will eat in the cafeteria every day.
- 2. How will my child get their hot lunch if they are eating in the classroom?** The lunches will be delivered to your classrooms. This does not apply to MLT.
- 3. Is lunch free again?** Yes, all student lunches are free again this year. Please consider offering this option to your children.
- 4. Will students be assigned seats at lunch?** Yes, for contact tracing purposes, students will be sitting in assigned seats in the cafeteria..
- 5. When students eat in the classroom do desk shields need to be up?** If students are eating outside on the grass they should sit 6 feet apart and no shields need to be up. If they are eating inside at their desks the shields will be used..
- 6. Do shields need to be up when students are eating in the cafeteria?** Yes, while masks are off, the students will have shields up in the cafeteria.

Masks/ Quarantining

- 1. Is the district consulting with a medical professional for guidance?** Yes, we continue to consult with [Dr. Amir Mohammad](#), Orange's Director of Health.
- 2. How will families be informed if a child or teacher is diagnosed with COVID-19?** The families and staff of the students in the classroom cohort where a positive case of Covid-19 has been diagnosed, will be informed through an eblast. Please keep in mind that the privacy of staff and students will be honored and names of anyone who has contracted the virus will not be shared.
- 3. How will families be informed of the number of people who tested positive or are quarantining at each school?** Every Friday the COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated on our district website. The link is [here](#).
- 4. Will students be wearing masks?**The executive order from the governor remains in place until September 30th. It states that staff and students need to wear masks during the school day. We will await further guidance from the CSDE/DPH and then discuss with Orange's Director of Health.
- 5. Will staff be wearing masks if they are vaccinated?** The executive order from the governor remains in place until September 30th. It states that staff and students need to wear masks during the school day. We will await further guidance from the CSDE/DPH and then discuss with Orange's Director of Health.

Student or Staff Travel

1. **If a student or staff member travels within the United States, do they need to take a test when they return?** No test is needed to return, however it is strongly recommended.
2. **If a student or staff member travels internationally, do they need to take a test when they return?** Yes

Events/ Visitors

1. **Will Open House be in person or virtual?** Open House will be virtual this year. Teachers will conduct two open house sessions back to back. Teachers will conduct the virtual Open House sessions from school. Your child's teacher will share a Google Meet Link with you.
2. **Format of Parent Teacher Conferences?** Parent Teacher Conferences will be virtual for October. The format is TBD for March.
3. **Will PPT/ 504 Meetings be virtual again this year?** Parents will be offered an option. for a virtual or in person meeting.
4. **Are visitors/ parent volunteers allowed in the building? (i.e. library, book fair, Art Goes To School, etc).** Yes, as long as they are vaccinated. MLT will not have lunch/recess parent volunteers. However, there are other opportunities which will be shared by the PTO/A at each school.
5. **Can we go on Field trips?** TBD
6. **Can we have concerts for musical events?** TBD
7. **Can families come watch the Halloween parade outside?** As of right now, families can come watch the parade outside - this is subject to change.
8. **Can parents attend class parties?** As of right now, only 2 room parents can attend the class party. Room Parents would need to be vaccinated.