

Hardyston Township School District

2020 Restart Plan



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Letter from Mike Ryder, Superintendent

August 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well as you enjoy your summer. I would like to apologize for the length of this communication, but I want to be sure I thoroughly explain the major components of Hardyston School District's Restart Plan that is to be reviewed and approved at our next Board of Education meeting. Please visit the district website, www.htps.org, in order to review the submitted plan in its entirety.

To create this plan, a 45 member committee of teachers, custodians, administrators, Board of Education members, and parents met throughout the month of July. In addition, meetings were held with county Superintendents, the Executive County Leadership team, our bus companies, Maschio's food service, the county Nurse's Association, the school physician, and the county Department of Health. Although this is not a perfect plan (no plan is), I feel it provides our staff and students with the greatest opportunity for success and safety.

It is my hope that the accompanying document provides you with a clear understanding of Hardyston's plan for the return to school in September. Now that the plan's details have been shared, I will ask you to please complete a survey at the end of this document that will allow parents to choose between in-person or virtual-only learning. This survey must be completed by **August 12, 2020**.

I welcome an open dialogue and communication with the community. If you have any questions, please contact me. I am looking forward to a successful return to school in just a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Mike Ryder
Chief School Administrator
Hardyston School District

Health and Safety

- Parents are asked to take the temperature of their child(ren) before leaving for school. A health protocol will be released prior to the start of school. Should your child have any of the symptoms identified in the protocol, we ask that you keep your child home.
- Transportation - the number of students on each bus has been reduced with the creation of cohorts
 - Students must wear a mask while waiting at the bus stop and while riding the bus
 - Social distancing on the bus will be enforced, when possible
 - Windows on the bus will be open, weather permitting
 - Parents also have the option of driving their child(ren) to school
- Temperature checks - all students and staff will be screened daily
 - Students will be scanned for a temperature before entering the building
 - Staff members will be required to screen themselves before coming to work each day
 - Students with a temperature of 100.0 will be placed in a quarantine area while they await parent pick up
- Masks - students and staff will be required to wear masks
 - Parents must send their child to the bus stop/school with a mask
 - Teachers will have the ability, when children are socially distanced from one another, to provide water breaks or snack-time for students
 - Face shields are not a substitute for a cloth face covering as they do not provide enough protection from aerosolized particles
 - We realize that children are not used to wearing masks for extended periods of time. Please work with your child on building mask endurance
- Handwashing - frequent handwashing will be part of the daily schedule.
- Air exchange/Air Quality - Each classroom has a properly working and well maintained univent system that circulates air in each room. The filters have been replaced with a higher quality product and the frequency of replacing those filters has been increased.
- Classrooms - students will enter the school and report to their homeroom where they will remain for the day (with the exception of gym and recess).
 - Desks have been spaced out for social distancing
 - Students will not share supplies or gym equipment
 - Students will not be changing for physical education classes
 - Students will not have access to lockers. Book bags will be allowed in all classes
 - Students will eat lunch in their classroom at their desks. Maschio's will continue to offer a variety of lunches that will be available for purchase and for our students eligible for free and reduced lunch services. Students will also have the option to bring their own lunches from home. If lunches are purchased from Maschio's, they will be delivered to each room in a manner that ensures best food service practices.

- Traffic in hallways - all instruction will occur in one classroom. Students will not travel through the building to attend their special classes (art, music, etc.) or lunch. This eliminates students traveling through the building and passing others in the halls.
- Visitors - will have limited access to the buildings. Visitors will be able to drop off and pick up items without fully entering the buildings.
- To every extent possible, meetings with parents and outside agencies will take place remotely utilizing an online platform, such as Google Meet. If it is determined that a visitor must enter our building, the visitor will be required to have their temperature taken and wear a protective face covering at all times. If a visitor refuses to wear a protective face covering, the district will not allow the visitor to enter the building. Any person entering the building will be required to sign in. This will ensure the security of our building as well as secure the visitor's contact info for contact tracing purposes, if necessary.

Sanitizing/Disinfecting

- Schools will be fully cleaned and sanitized at the end of each school day
- Each school will receive extra thorough cleaning and sanitizing between each cohort. Custodial schedules have been adjusted so extra workers can do this on Wednesday and Friday afternoon/night.
- Schools will not be open to outside organizations at night or on the weekends
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular daily basis and we are currently working with our contracted bus provider as well as the rest of the regional districts to ensure the buses are cleaned and sanitized as often as possible between runs.
- [Hardyston Cleanliness Manual](#)

Schedule for Hybrid Students

We will begin school on Tuesday, September 8, in Stage 2 of Hardyston's Road Back plan. This means that students will follow a hybrid schedule (combination of in-person and virtual instruction). A hybrid schedule consists of attending two days of full day, in-person instruction, one day of live virtual instruction on an early dismissal schedule, and two days of independent learning. Students will be split into two cohorts, Blue or Gold. This will reduce the number of students in the building each day and allow us to adhere to safety and health protocols.

- On Monday and Tuesday, Cohort Blue meets in school for a full day of in-person instruction. Cohort Gold is home for independent learning.
- On Wednesday, all students (blue and gold cohorts combined) will have live virtual instruction following Hardyston's early dismissal schedule
- On Thursday and Friday, Cohort Gold meets in school for a full day of in-person instruction. Cohort Blue is home for independent learning.
- Independent learning will include: videos, review, practice, and assessment.

- Students in some of our special education programs (MD, BD, and preschool programs) will be offered in-person learning four days per week to accommodate their specialized learning needs. If this applies to your child, you will be contacted.
 - All other students with an IEP will follow the hybrid student schedule
- Community Pre-School students (tuition students) will be assigned to a cohort and will only attend in-person instruction two times per week. The tuition rate will be decreased from \$275 to \$110 per month.

Sample Schedule for a Hybrid Student

Cohort	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Blue	In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction	Live Virtual Instruction (blue and gold cohorts combined)	Independent Learning	Independent Learning
Gold	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Live Virtual Instruction (blue and gold cohorts combined)	In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction

* all hybrid students have three live days of teaching per week and two independent learning days per week

Opt-in to Virtual-Only Learning

Parents can opt-in to virtual-only learning. This means that your child will not come to school and will not receive in-person instruction in school. You may choose this option if there is a medical concern at home, if there is a medical concern for your child, or if you are uncomfortable sending your child to school.

- You may opt-in to virtual-only learning at any time. However, once you opt-in, you may only change to in-person instruction at the end of the marking period.
- Virtual-only learning students will be assigned to either the Blue or Gold cohort and will join that cohort remotely for live instruction two days per week.

Schedule for Virtual-Only Learning Students

- On Monday and Tuesday, Cohort Blue joins their class virtually for live, synchronous instruction. Cohort Gold works independently.
- On Wednesday, all students will have live virtual instruction on Hardyston's early dismissal schedule.
- On Thursday and Friday, Cohort Gold joins their class virtually for live, synchronous instruction. Cohort Blue works independently.
- Independent learning will include: videos, review, practice, assessment.

Sample Schedule for a Virtual-Only Learning student

Cohort	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Blue	Live instruction	Live instruction	Live instruction (blue and gold cohorts combined)	Independent Learning	Independent Learning
Gold	Independent Learning	Independent Learning	Live instruction (blue and gold cohorts combined)	Live instruction	Live instruction

*all virtual-only learning students have three live days of teaching per week and two independent learning days per week

Cohort Assignments

- Siblings will be assigned to the same cohort
- Cohorts are created according to class size and bus seats on all routes

Virtual Instruction

During the summer months we have worked diligently to make improvements in virtual learning. We will be providing consistency for both parents and students through the use of Google Classroom as a platform for all assignments and Google Meets for video conferencing and office hours for parents and students. More guidance on virtual learning (expectations, schedules, etc.) will be released in a separate communication.

Tutorials for parents, caregivers, and students will be provided so that all understand how to access virtual instruction.

Please note that it is possible that the district will need to pivot to 100% virtual learning for all.

Technology

- All students will be allowed to take their Chromebook and charger home.
- Devices must come to school each day charged.
- Families with no internet access, or limited connectivity, at home should contact the school.

Before and After Care

Although this is not part of the our Restart Plan, I am happy to inform you that the YMCA is planning to offer both before and after-care for students. All health safety protocols will be followed in accordance with the Hardyston Restart Plan.

In addition, the YMCA is able to provide full day care for families at the YMCA location when students are not in school, Monday-Friday. So students in the Blue Cohort can attend the YMCA daycare on Thursday & Friday, and the Gold Cohort can attend Monday & Tuesday. The YMCA is also available on Wednesdays for their virtual learning. Please contact the YMCA directly to inquire and register.

Survey

Parents/guardians must choose either Option 1: In-Person Learning or Option 2: Virtual-Only Learning for your child(ren) **no later than Wednesday, August 12, 2020**. After reviewing the Hardyston Restart Plan, please complete the appropriate survey below:

- Surveys are now closed. Thank you.