

Questions for Parent Forum - Thursday, August 13	Response
Column1	Column2
How we plan to educate Kindergarten children virtually and what does that plan look like?	They will be expected to use Google Classroom and access teacher directed instruction.
I'm likely not sending my child back to school. Will I be able to have her do an online only model or learning?	Yes. Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information.
schools should open 5 days a week. The proposed plan doesn't make sense from an infection control perspective. The data doesn't support a risk.	School districts all across NYS are required to follow the guidance from the Department of Health and the NYS Education Department. Currently, the requirements we have to follow include 6 feet of social distancing. Pursuant to NYSDOH Guidance, schools must ensure that appropriate social distancing (i.e. 6 feet/barriers) is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds (inclusive of students, faculty, and staff), unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance. Schools must maintain protocols and procedures for students, faculty, and staff to ensure appropriate social distancing to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when on school grounds and in school facilities, including the responsibility to configure spaces so individuals can maintain social distancing. As a baseline, face coverings are required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. Further, face coverings are "strongly recommended" by the New York Department of Health at all times, except for meals and instruction with appropriate social distancing.
If I am not comfortable sending my child to school will he be able to continue to do online learning like he did for the rest of last school year and during the summer?	Yes. Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information.
Thank you so much for all the hard work you have invested into coming up with potential plans/solutions to deal with the unknowns along the way, and ahead of us. Your dedication and commitment Island School District is commendable. We appreciate you.	Thank you.
With the hybrid plan, how will children be supported while remote learning when they have questions or need assistance	Teacher directed instruction will be available every day. Teachers will have office hours on Wednesday to connect virtually with students.
What is the rationale behind the decision for parents to attest everyday versus the school taking temperatures everyday? What will be the procedure if someone in a classroom tests positive - does everyone need to quarantine?	Schools must establish policies in consultation with the local health department(s) about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment. This returning to learning protocol must include at a minimum, documentation of evaluation by a healthcare provider (healthcare provider note clearing a person to return to school), negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution, or if COVID -19 positive, release from isolation as required by DOH and NYSED
What is the expectation for working parents to be able to ensure the child gets adequate schooling on the days they are not actually in the classroom?	It is recommended by the Department of Health that remote health screening (e.g. By electronic survey, digital application, or telephone, which may involve the parent/legal guardian) before any individual reports to school, is strongly advised.

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Why is a 100% virtual option not being given? Parents should have the choice to keep their kids home if they are uncomfortable sending them during a pandemic, but would still need/want the district to provide the education/support that we pay for. 4	There is a 100% virtual option. Children will access Google Classroom for teacher directed instruction. Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information.
Will there still be before school programs for the elementary school kids? My daughter would need to go to a before school program before school starts.	Yes. Just for Kids will continue to offer before and after school programming.
How will hybrid learning work exactly?	Students with the last name beginning with the letters A-E attend school 2 days (Mon-Thurs) while the students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z are home. • The students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z who previously were home, would come to school and attend for 2 days (Tues-Fri) while students with the last names beginning with A-L are home. • Wednesday would be a day where all students are home but teacher directed instruction continues.
How will testing occur	I am assuming this question is related to the Testing of COVID-19. There are currently no requirements for students or staff to be tested unless the treating physician recommends COVID-19 testing as a result of the child displaying symptoms of COVID. If individuals want to get tested at an ECDOH specimen collection site, they can call 858-2929 to schedule. Also, COVID testing information throughout Erie County is available at https://milton-web.wnyric.org/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5lcmllLmdvdi9DT1ZJRHRlc3RzaXRlcw%3D%3D&_s=YnVmZmFsbw%3D%3D&_c=fe29af63 .
Any chance of different schools following different models? (Sidway 5 days vs High School hybrid) If using distance learning, will tablets or laptops be provided? I'm looking for more information about the level of support parents are to provide. This is mostly so I can negotiate alternate working arrangements with my employer.	Not at this time. Things could change though as it relates to keeping the density of students at or around 50%. Please email your principal, myself or Cheryl Cardone so we can fully understand your question.
What will be the masking policy for the students?	Face coverings are mandatory. We will build in mask breaks as appropriate.
If a child is sick will they need to be tested every time they have any Covid symptoms even if it's just a fever or cough	Parents should follow "normal" protocols for keeping their children home when they are sick and then provide a written note to the school upon the students' return. http://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov/health/files/uploads/pdfs/home_from_school.pdf
Hoping for more information on the upcoming school year.	I hope this Frequently Asked Question document will help clarify your questions.
What will be the expectations for elementary students for work at home?	There will be teacher directed instruction available in Google Classroom every day. Students can access Google Classroom asynchronously. There will be scheduled office hours for students to connect with their teacher on Wednesday as appropriate.
What will happen when 1 person in the school tests positive?	There is a 100% virtual option. Children will access Google Classroom for teacher directed instruction. Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information.
Procedures for picking up and dropping off children	These procedures will be communicated by the building principal.
Most WNY districts are offering distance learning options for parent who are uncomfortable or have children with health concerns. What is Grand Islands plan for these families?	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information.

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Will there be instructional lectures/lessons given by their assigned teachers on days where they are not in school. In other words, if a student has a 9AM math class on Monday and Wednesday on campus, will that math instructor be meeting with the students online on Tuesday and Friday at 9AM?	There will be teacher directed instruction available in Google Classroom every day. Students can access Google Classroom asynchronously. There will be scheduled office hours for students to connect with their teacher on Wednesday as appropriate.
Wouldn't it make more sense for the kids to attend 2 days in a row then clean then send the other kids? Will their be choir?	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
Will the online schooling portion be more structured? Last year I felt that my younger students did not have any structure. As I work from home all day I am unable to constantly help with what is supposed to be taught.	With a Hybrid model, the student and teacher have more opportunity for in-person contact. Additionally, the Wednesday office hours provide additional personalized contact.
How will you ensure a child who presents with Covid-19 symptoms can have immediate access to testing? What will the protocol be for students who may have been exposed during the time the symptomatic student's awaits test results?	Please refer to the Flowchart for our Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Students or Staff. There are currently no requirements for students or staff to be tested unless the treating physician recommends COVID-19 testing as a result of the child displaying symptoms of COVID. If individuals want to get tested at an ECDOH specimen collection site, they can call 858-2929 to schedule. Also, COVID testing information throughout Erie County is available at https://milton-web.wnyric.org/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5lcmllLmdvdi9DT1ZJRHRlc3RzaXRlcw%3D%3D&_s=YnVmZmFsbw%3D%3D&_c=fe29af63 .
How will wind ensemble & concert band be safely practiced while social distancing?	The music department has been working diligently to ensure that lessons and ensemble work will be conducted following the NYSDOH guidance. Band and Choir require 12 feet of social distancing. We are looking to purchase special choir masks as well.
Would the district consider what other districts are doing and eventually allow the kids to attend 5 days? Ex. Niagara Wheatfield	I have communicated with a few districts who are able to have school open for 5 days. I have learned that they have reassigned Teachers who are considered Instructional Coaches or Teachers on Special Assignment to return to the classroom. This means they had empty classrooms as well. Here in Grand Island, we do not have any Teachers on Special Assignment or empty classrooms to reduce density.
Will there be after school care, JFK, for essential (teacher) workers?	Yes.
Will remote learning be revamped with more teacher/student interaction?	With a Hybrid model, the student and teacher have more opportunity for in-person contact. Children will access Google Classroom for teacher directed instruction during the days they are not in session. Additionally, the Wednesday office hours provide additional personalized contact.
Why did the district choose the alphabet split versus other options and why wouldn't they break it up Monday, Tuesday group A and Thursday Friday. What's the plan for instructor led online learning?	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
Are Wednesday's TRULY going to be on line learning? Instructor led learning not the way "on line learning" was treated last year?	Children will access Google Classroom for teacher directed instruction during the days they are not in session. Additionally, the Wednesday office hours provide additional personalized contact.

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What is in place for children who have underlying medical conditions and are at high risk for covid as per doctor. I was wondering if remote is the option for these	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information.
How are u going to teach my child better than last year	Please contact your child's principal to share specific concerns related to last year. Your child's principal will be able to assist.
What will the students be required to do on the days they are not in school?	See above.
When students are quarantined due to exposure how will students get work? Will absences count against them? Also as teachers get sick and quarantined how do you plan to fill their spots? There was already a sub shortage.	Thank you for your question. Google Classroom will continue to be the source of teacher directed instruction in the event a child is healthy enough to utilize this system. Additionally, depending on the health of the teacher, Google Classroom will continue being the tool to support teaching and learning if the teacher is quarantined. We will also use substitutes as appropriate.
No questions at thus time.	Thank you.
There are many causes for a slight fever. What if my child gets to school and he then has a fever, what happens then? Does the bus return children, do they have to be tested for COVID before returning?	If a child has a elevated temperature of 100 degrees or more...they will be sent home. The student will need a note from his/her pediatrician to return. (See flowchart)
What is going to happen on virtual days. Actual learning or just videos posted?	Teacher directed instruction will be available every day. Teachers will have office hours on Wednesday to connect virtually with students.
What cleaning will happen between A and B days? I'd feel better sending a student on A days vs B. Will there be an option for 100% virtual education?	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
I don't have faith in the plan you designed. It leaves you ill prepared.	Please feel free to contact myself or Cheryl Cardone so we may address your concerns.
How many students in each classroom?	This will vary depending on the classroom. Our goal is 50% reduction in each classroom.
Our household has members that are immunocompromised. What will the district be offering as a 100% virtual option? When/how do we sign up?	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information.
Instead of kids attending on Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday, why can't the same groups go Monday and Tuesday, cleaning day on Wednesday and then the other group of students go Thursday and Friday? You can rotate the weeks so that I fair but this way we aren't mixing up the kids in two days.	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
How is the proposed schedule of every other day helpful in keeping student contact limited. will classrooms and buildings be thoroughly cleaned every Monday and Thursday for the Tuesday -Friday students?	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
Is it still a regular full day of school or is it a shortened school day?	The day is shortened slightly...Elementary and MS is 6 hours and 10 minutes...High School is 6 hours and 20 minutes.

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Realistically, will the kids get back to school full time this year, in your opinion?	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
Tbd	Thank you.
Why aren't the schools opening 5 days for the elementary kids like some other districts are. The HS kids can do 100% virtual as they can be home by themselves and use the HS for the elementary kids if needed for space. If the hybrid plan is going to be imposed on us, will the district or our school taxes be contributing to the cost of the additional daycare costs for the 3 days the kids are not in school? This plan does not work for working parents and our kids need structure. This is a very sad way to introduce my poor son to school as he will be starting kindergarten.	Thank you for your comment. Please know that my own son is a junior at the high school and we want five days of in-person instruction. We do not have extra teachers and extra rooms to reduce the density in a classroom to maintain 6 feet of social distancing. If the Department of Health changes this requirement...we will be able to bring back more children on more days.
N/a	Thank you
Distance learning for my child with asthma	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information.
Bus safety	By changing the start and end times we have reduced the density on our buses. Typically we schedule 1,600 MS and HS students to be transported to school on 31 buses. Now, with a new start time for our MS...we can schedule buses for 675 MS students on 31 buses. This reduces the density to approximately 22 students per bus. The density is reduced significantly in a hybrid model because we are transporting 338 MS students daily using 31 buses.
How many children per class , what will the bus situation be like , lunch , PE , if one child gets sick in the class - does the entire class/bus have to quarantine for 14 days , how many hours will my child have to wear a mask for , Will the hours of the school day be different?	Our goal is to reduce density in each classroom by 50%. Please review my responses above as they should address your other questions.
How will wind ensemble & concert band be safely practiced while social distancing?	The music department has been working diligently to ensure that lessons and ensemble work will be conducted following the NYSDOH guidance. Band and Choir require 12 feet of social distancing. We are looking to purchase special choir masks as well.
Are the Teachers prepared?	We have 3 staff development days on Sept 2, 3 and 8th. This will help our teachers and staff.
All children are off on Wednesday and the plan is to minimize spreading germs to kids on other groups. How is the going to help when parents of these kids are sending their children to the same daycare as the kids in the other group. My son hangs out with several children who are not in his letter group. The concern is kids are losing their social skills and being shuffled from one school to another daycare all week long, this is going to affect a lot of kids including mine who can not adjust to change like this daily.	If we were able to add Wednesday for a cohort of students (A-L) and (M-Z) it would need to be equitable. I wonder if that helps or makes childcare more difficult? We will investigate this further.
Thank you	Thanks
What options to parents have for schooling completely at home if we aren't comfortable sending our children?	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information.
What is the plan for UPK?	Thank you for yur question on UPK. At this time we have some ideas but I would want you to connect with Denise Dunbar for more information.

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What will the days students are home look like? Are we looking at more worksheets and videos? How is that going to be enough?	Teacher directed instruction will be available in Google Classroom daily. (For our K-1 students it will be a mixture of paper packets and Google Classroom. (Until such time our devices for the primary students are delivered.)
How will the remote learning be structured and will there be a schedule that the kids need to maintain on the days they are not in school?	Remote learning is asynchronous. In some cases there may be synchronous teacher/student opportunities as appropriate.
Will there be ANY restrictions placed on children attending school?	There are restrictions based upon the health of the child. Please email or call Cheryl Cardone to assist you with additional information.
Full time school.	Thank you
When students are quarantined due to exposure how will students get work? Will absences count against them? Also as teachers get sick and quarantined how do you plan to fill their spots? There was already a sub shortage.	All teacher directed instruction will be in Google Classroom.
Will there be an option to do full distance learning if parents want to opt in for it?	Yes
The days my child is suppose to attend school is a challenge for me. Is there availability to switch in person class room days? Will I be allow to drop my daughter off for her first day of school or are kindergarteners going to be asked to enter their first day without ever meeting anyone? I understand the precautions but have concerns how it will look for her first year of attending school.	Yes. Please call your child's principal.
Will Sidway students also receive a device, such as an ipad or chromebook, to complete their distance learning days?	The District has ordered mobile devices for the children at Sidway. They will arrive by the end of October due to the high demand across the United States. To begin the school year, students will receive a combination of paper packets and Google Classroom resources to support learning from home.
School is NOT a daycare. Please reinforce that sick students - and staff for this matter as well - stay home until we'll.	Thank you
Is there going to a full distance learning option	Yes
What will happen for students going to BOCES?	BOCES will work with our students in the HYBRID model.
Is it possible to have school days, 2 consecutive days in a row instead of broken up?	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
Logistically how will drop off and pick up be handled?	Your principal will describe the drop off and pick up of students.
Will K-1 be receiving technology for remote learning? Will K-1 remote learning be synchronous or asynchronous?	The District has ordered mobile devices for the children at Sidway. They will arrive by the end of October due to the high demand across the United States. To begin the school year, students will receive a combination of paper packets and Google Classroom resources to support learning from home. The teacher directed instruction is asynchronous.
How will students switch classes during the day? How will services such as speech and OT take place virtually or in person?	Speech and OT can occur in person or through TeleHealth.
How will the school handle "runny nose" in little kids? Will there be an option for parents to choose distance learning only?	We are asking parents to communicate with the school nurse if a child has symptoms of illness. Google classroom will be used for families who choose to keep their child home every day.
If the schools are going hybrid model it should be a full day of classes online. These kids need structure and teaching.	Thank you for the comment. As you might imagine there are several obstacles in providing synchronous teaching and learning online.

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What processes will be used for disinfecting, and how will enforcing of appropriate face covering (over both nose and mouth) and hand-washing take place?	Students will be instructed everyday on face covering etiquette as well as hand washing procedures. Every cleaner will be trained by the Hillyard company in COVID-19 cleaning duties. Additionally, each classroom will have its own disinfectant, gloves and microfiber cloths.
Buses. IEP special ed.. elementary kids	By changing the start and end times we have reduced the density on our buses. Typically we schedule 1,600 MS and HS students to be transported to school on 31 buses. Now, with a new start time for our MS...we can schedule buses for 675 MS students on 31 buses. This reduces the density to approximately 22 students per bus. The density is reduced significantly in a hybrid model because we are transporting 338 MS students daily using 31 buses.
What will happen once someone tests positive? What will the quarantine process be?	Please refer to the Flowchart for our Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Students or Staff. There are currently no requirements for students or staff to be tested unless the treating physician recommends COVID-19 testing as a result of the child displaying symptoms of COVID. If individuals want to get tested at an ECDOH specimen collection site, they can call 858-2929 to schedule. Also, COVID testing information throughout Erie County is available at https://milton-web.wnyric.org/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5lcmllLmdvdi9DT1ZJRHRlc3RzaXRlcw%3D%3D&_s=YnVmZmFsbw%3D%3D&_c=fe29af63 .
Given the fundamental importance of reading and writing instruction at the primary level, and given that our child will have to be at daycare when not at school in-person, can reading and writing instruction please be prioritized on the two in-person school days? The skills and experience needed to properly teach phonics, reading, and writing (particularly so that the instructional methods remain relatively aligned with subsequent years...) exceed those possessed by most of us parents, or child care centers. Thank you.	Thank you for these comments. I know our Teaching and Learning committee is exploring this very carefully.
What exactly will Wednesday remote learning entail?	Teacher directed instruction will be available every day. Teachers will have office hours on Wednesday to connect virtually with students.
What will happen with my senior who should be attending Bocees	BOCES Occupational and Vocational programming will still be available. They will adjust to each districts Hybrid models.
None	Thank you.
What will students do if/when their teacher is out? Will there be enough substitute coverage?	We are constantly hiring substitutes throughout each school year. In some cases it is difficult to find specialists (like Physics and French) but in other cases the pool of substitute candidates are better.
What are the protocol for safety.	We have a robust set of health and safety protocols. Please refer to the reopening plan that is posted on this web page. www.grandislandschools.org/reopening
I'd like to know how your every day sicknesses will be handled. Colds, sniffles I'm afraid normal things like this will be villainized in the eyes of the schools/ teachers	We are asking parents to communicate with the school nurse if a child has symptoms of illness. We know that common sense will prevail especially when communication includes the primary care physician.
When will students and staff be tested...daily, weekly, or only if symptoms occur?	Students and staff will not be on a testing schedule.
Will Grand Island offer a remote option for parents who feel unsafe sending their children back? If not, why?	Yes...Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information.
What are the plans for band students?	The music department has been working diligently to ensure that lessons and ensemble work will be conducted following the NYSDOH guidance. Band and Choir require 12 feet of social distancing. We are looking to purchase special choir masks as well.

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There are many causes for a slight fever. What if my child gets to school and he then has a fever, what happens then? Does the bus return children, do they have to be tested for COVID before returning?	We are asking parents to communicate with the school nurse if a child has symptoms of illness. We know that common sense will prevail especially when communication includes the primary care physician.
How quickly can testing turn around be? What happens if there becomes a lag time in testing?	If COVID-19 testing is needed for a symptomatic person, the results of testing could vary. There are currently no requirements for students or staff to be tested unless the treating physician recommends COVID-19 testing as a result of the child displaying symptoms of COVID. If individuals want to get tested at an ECDOH specimen collection site, they can call 858-2929 to schedule. Also, COVID testing information throughout Erie County is available at https://milton-web.wnyric.org/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5lcmllLmdvdi9DT1ZJRHRlc3RzaXRlcw%3D%3D&_s=YnVmZmFsbw%3D%3D&_c=fe29af63 .
I would like to learn more about the options for parents who choose to keep their children at home. What will the 100% virtual model look like? How will teachers communicate with parents and students? What platform are you planning to use? What will the daily schedule look like? Will it be synchronous or asynchronous learning? How long of a period do I need to commit to virtual learning? Will my child still have special education services and related services available to them if we choose the virtual learning model?	Good questions. There is a 100% virtual option. Children will access Google Classroom for teacher directed instruction. Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information. The teacher led instruction would be asynchronous.
Will masks be required all day? Is the hybrid model what we are returning to or is there a chance it will change?	As a baseline, face coverings are required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. Further, face coverings are "strongly recommended" by the New York Department of Health at all times, except for meals and instruction with appropriate social distancing. We will build in mask breaks as appropriate.
What will be expected for the kids to do when they are on the remote days? Will teachers be available those days? Also, will the hybrid plan be re-evaluated and possibly resume school 5 days a week?	When children are home they will use Google Classroom for teacher directed instruction. The classroom teacher your child has is teaching all day with half of their class. School districts all across NYS are required to follow the guidance from the Department of Health and the NYS Education Department. Currently, the requirements we have to follow include 6 feet of social distancing. Pursuant to NYSDOH Guidance, schools must ensure that appropriate social distancing (i.e. 6 feet/barriers) is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds (inclusive of students, faculty, and staff), unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance. Schools must maintain protocols and procedures for students, faculty, and staff to ensure appropriate social distancing to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when on school grounds and in school facilities, including the responsibility to configure spaces so individuals can maintain social distancing. As a baseline, face coverings are required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. Further, face coverings are "strongly recommended" by the New York Department of Health at all times, except for meals and instruction with appropriate social distancing.
What exactly is the plan for the two remote learning days? For example will they be joining via Zoom at specified times?	Remote learning is asynchronous. In some cases there may be synchronous teacher/student opportunities as appropriate.
Will students go back full time. IF our numbers stay down.	We do not have extra teachers and extra rooms to reduce the density in a classroom to maintain 6 feet of social distancing. If the Department of Health changes this requirement...we will be able to bring back more children on more days.

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<p>I think it is INEXCUSABLE to split the days which you have. It is only sensible to have the kids attend for two consecutive days. No matter how you explain the cleaning procedures, you cannot convince me that the entire second half of the alphabet is being put at greater risk. I have heard that this is being done to prevent special ed students from having five consecutive days without in-person instruction. Since when is the entire district controlled by the special ed department?! This is very poorly thought out. MANY other districts are having students attend in two consecutive days instead of this ridiculous schedule. Grand Island made the wrong decision here.</p>	<p>The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.</p>
<p>How does this hybrid situation help those kids who can't learn via computer</p>	<p>The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday.</p>
<p>We would prefer online education, since we are a medically compromised household.</p>	<p>Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.</p>
<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>First and foremost, as educators I greatly appreciate all that you do. What is the theory behind the two days of in school instruction. Also, can you please review the protocol of when a student, teacher or staff test positive for COVID. Again, that's for all you do!</p>	<p>Thank you. The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day. Schools must establish policies in consultation with the local health department(s) about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment. This returning to learning</p>
<p>Kids wearing masks at school. Also, isn't it more work for the school to have them not go 2 days in a row?</p>	<p>The main reason for Hybrid is the requirement for 6 feet of social distancing. If that were to be reduced by the Department of Health we would be able to have more children within each classroom.</p>
<p>Will the schools be hosting live virtual classes for the days that students are not in school?</p>	<p>For a great majority of time...the virtual teaching and learning sessions will be asynchronous. In some cases there will be synchronous teaching and learning depending on the specific need or content. A good example may be as follows: a musical instrument lesson, speech and occupational therapy, counseling, etc.</p>
<p>If Weds is for "deep cleaning", why are students attending on Mon & Thurs, for example, instead of Mon & Tues? Doesn't it make more sense to clean the building thoroughly on Weds BETWEEN different cohorts/groups? Also, I was APPALLED at the MS teachers' use of Classroom. Not only did the majority seem to have no idea how to use it, there didn't seem to be any self-improvement by teachers over the spring session. My child, who will be in the HS this year, should not just be doing Kami worksheets so how do you plan to appropriately train your teachers to provide interactive, engaging lessons during remote days?</p>	<p>Many teachers have been taking professional development in the area of Google Classroom over the summer. Additionally, on September 2,3 and 8th we will be offering staff development in Google Classroom for all teachers.</p>
<p>How will students be accommodated in the cafeteria and gym?</p>	<p>PE requires 12 feet of social distancing. Our PE teachers have been meeting on a regular basis in order to change units of instruction that will accommodate these requirements. We are purchasing plastic dividers for our cafeteria tables. These plastic dividers will allow children to remove their face coverings to eat their meals.</p>
<p>N/a</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>

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<p>Is there a fully virtual option? If so, how will it be graded? What will be needed to notify the school of the child's return to school once the parent feels it's safe? Also, I'm confused as to why the middle school children would be sent to school before the high school children causing them to be returned home between 1:30/2pm. Many working parents are already going to struggle with the schedule, but to bring the younger children home an hour before the elder children seems backwards. Some will just be learning to stay home alone and others are not ready to be left home alone yet. This creates a larger time frame for them to be alone. Can we switch this schedule?</p>	<p>If a parent chooses to have their child participate in a 100% virtual model, when we are in a Hybrid model of operation, we may need that child to participate in unit tests and other summative assessments at the public library. We would send a substitute teacher to the public library to proctor the test or exam.</p>
<p>How will IEP students get full services?</p>	<p>Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.</p>
<p>What's difference in nightly cleaning vs Wednesday? What are you doing about high risk students? What does home day look like, do they zoom in? Is zoom an option? How are you handling increased absences for attendance and workload? What about after school activities on homes days? Sports?</p>	<p>Currently all HS sports are postponed until September 21st. We canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.</p>
<p>The Governor now wants student and staff tested... how and when will that happen?</p>	<p>There are currently no requirements for students or staff to be tested unless the treating physician recommends COVID-19 testing as a result of the child displaying symptoms of COVID. If individuals want to get tested at an ECDOH specimen collection site, they can call 858-2929 to schedule. Also, COVID testing information throughout Erie County is available at https://milton-web.wnyric.org/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5lcmllLmdvdi9DT1ZJRHRlc3RzaXRlcw%3D%3D&_s=YnVmZmFsbw%3D%3D&_c=fe29af63.</p>
<p>Just wondering what precautions you're going to take for the kids that have family at home that are sick like having a weak immune system</p>	<p>Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.</p>
<p>Remote learning</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p>What about a child with specific IEP needs</p>	<p>Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.</p>
<p>How will my son's IEP be appropriately implemented by the Distirct if he attends school in person only two full days per week?</p>	<p>Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcardone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.</p>
<p>What will the at home days look like? Are students really expected to keep a mask on for the full school day even when distanced? Are teachers days going to be filled with telling students to put their mask back on? Will there be an option for full virtual learning?</p>	<p>Yes, there is a full remote learning option. See notes and responses above.</p>
<p>None at this time</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Help for working parents</p>	<p>To the extent possible we are working with the local child care centers to assist with food and nutrition services and other PPE purchases as requested. We are also considering using ECO Island as a site for the Just for Kids program to be housed there 5 days a week.</p>
<p>Will there be an online-only option, regardless of the plan the district has for the majority of the students?</p>	<p>Yes, see notes above.</p>
<p>What exactly will Wednesday remote learning entail?</p>	<p>Teacher directed instruction will be available every day. Teachers will have office hours on Wednesday to connect virtually with students.</p>
<p>Why is the school trying to force me to petition to homeschool my child when governor clearly stated that distance learning had to be an option for parents. Distance learning does not = Home Schooling</p>	<p>There is a full remote learning option. See notes and responses above.</p>
<p>Will my second grader have an opportunity to visit Kaegebein before the first day of school?</p>	<p>Yes. The principals are developing a plan for this to occur on September 8th.</p>
<p>What will the class size limits be capped at? Will parents have the option to opt in for 100% distant learning if they feel there is an increased risk due to household members being more vulnerable? What precautions will be in place during gym, and otjer hands on or contact activities?</p>	<p>This will vary depending on the classroom. Our goal is 50% reduction in each classroom. We will have a 100% option for remote learning. See notes above.</p>

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Will we have an option to do a full remote learning for this school year?	Yes, see notes above.
With children only going to school 2 days a week how are parents suppose to work? If a parent could afford daycare that introduces a whole new set of germs the kids will be exposed to. Not to mention some people can not afford daycare	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
Will the hybrid model be continuously re-evaluated to move toward 100% all kids back in school?	Yes. Additionally, it is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
Why are the younger elementary grades only two days? Some districts are doing 5 days for k-2 or k-5 for their educational needs. Some are doing 5 half days which seems more consistent as well	The only way you can maintain 6 feet of social distancing and offer 5 days of instruction is if you have extra teachers and extra space.
What is the protocol for when someone in my sons school becomes ill? What if he isn't feeling well during the day? Do you really expect 1st graders to wear masks all day?	I have communicated with a few districts who are able to have school open for 5 days. I have learned that they have reassigned Teachers who are considered Instructional Coaches or Teachers on Special Assignment to return to the classroom. This means they had empty classrooms as well. Here in Grand Island, we do not have any Teachers on Special Assignment or empty classrooms to reduce density.
None at this time	Thank you
Na	Thank you
Will there be a Before and after school program for working parents. Is school going to be full time ?	School will be a hybrid model. We will continue to work with Just for Kids. We are considering letting Just for Kids use Eco Island 5 days a week for childcare.
Nothing	Thanks
Will Sidway kids get outdoor time/playground access	We are looking to purchase 2 tents for each elementary school. The tents would possibly be 20 feet by 40 feet each. We want kids outdoors more.
If the schools open with the hybrid plan, how often will it be reassessed before deciding to move to 5 d per week in person classes. Monthly, biweekly, assuming community covid rates remain low?	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
Can our family choose to go fully online for a period of time during the winter months and then go back to hybrid in the spring?	I believe we will need a commitment of at least a semester for families who choose 100% remote when we are in a Hybrid model.
What do we need to do to register our 8th Grade student for all virtual learning classes?	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.
Just want to be informed	Thank you

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I am curious if it has been discussed if enough families choose to not attend in person school, is it possible to open up more days for elementary aged children as other districts have done.	It may be possible.
With the hybrid plan, how will children be supported while remote learning when they have questions or need assistance	See notes above
Why is Grand Island not offering families the opportunity to 100% Durant learn in September like many other school districts are doing, such as Lewport, Niagara-Wheatfield, Starpoint, North Tonawanda, Buffalo ect.? If and when distant learning is an option how will it be delivered?	I may be misunderstanding this question. If you are referring to 100% of elementary children in schools please see my response about the extra teachers and extra space. If you are referring top 100% remote...we are offering that option.
-	Thanks
Will lockers be used?	Lockers will be used on a very limited basis.
It does not seem possible that K and 1st grade teachers will be able to provide a full day worth of educational instruction. How will the teachers be able to provide appropriate support or know what each child requires if they are only in the classroom 2 days per week?	The principals are working closely with their teaching teams to offer access to the full curriculum.
Is grand island still doing the hybrid model or will they go fully back with social distancing?	Still Hybrid. It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
What is the plan for students on virtual days? Will they be expected to join their classes via google meet?	They will be expected to use Google Classroom and access teacher directed instruction.
What does the instructions consist of on the days the kids are home. How is the typical day going to be run when kids are in school?	They will be expected to use Google Classroom and access teacher directed instruction. Most of the Google Classroom experience is asynchronous.
We did distance learning at the end of last year and it did not work at all for our pre-schooler, how will it work for our now kindergartener? Sidway needs to be full day everyday. We don't have the ability to facilitate virtual learning in our household, we are not trained school teachers.	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart.
Why can't the kid go 2 consecutive day's then deep clean then next group... it would be the same germs easier to trace if there is an outbreak	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
Can students learn online if they are kept home for what appears to be just a cold?	The child's Google Classroom will have Teacher directed instruction available each day.
What is the final option?	Hybrid
Why are all the grades being lumped into the same plan? Sidway (Kindergarten & 1st Grade) should be full go. Two days a week will not work. This age group needs full time in-school learning. Personal interaction with other children and adults is critical at this age. Please open Sidway as it would be any other school year.	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart.
Will a full virtual option be offered, and if not, what will the first week look like, in terms of getting our new student acclimated?	The principals are working on an orientation plan for their new students.

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Help for working parents	Thank you. We are doing our best to work with local childcare providers.
Will specials such as art, music and gym be a part of the curriculum?	Yes.
If infection rates continue to decline or plateau in our area, does the district have any plan or intention to switch from hybrid to full-time in person learning?	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart.
Plan for mask breaks, will kids walk in hallway, how do band	Yes, we will have mask breaks. The music department is working hard on developing a plan for Band and Choirs.
Do students have to wear masks while seated at desk? I don't want my kids to have to wear them the whole day, with just breaks.	We will have mask breaks.
My concern if kids have online classes ,it should be some structure like online school from 9-3,is that possible?	It is not possible to have synchronous learning occur all of the time.
Will children be allowed to do part time hybrid learning from home?	They will be expected to use Google Classroom and access teacher directed instruction. Most of the Google Classroom experience is asynchronous.
None	Thank you.
What happens if the kid does not have internet at home is Spectrum going to waive the fee	Please communicate your concern about internet needs with your building principal. We have a plan to assure for digital equity.
The days my child is suppose to attend school is a challenge for me. Is there availability to switch in person class room days? Will I be allow to drop my daughter off for her first day of school or are kindergarteners going to be asked to enter their first day without ever meeting anyone? I understand the precautions but have concerns how it will look for her first year of attending school.	Yes, please contact your child's principal to discuss your unique needs.
How are the children suppose to get a proper education if their barely in school, parents have to work too to provide. What about child care?	They will be expected to use Google Classroom and access teacher directed instruction. It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart.
If first group of kids goes Monday and Thursday and the second group goes Tuesday and Friday, when does the second group get the deep clean since they go the very next day?	I am very optimistic that our community will embrace the requirements of masks, social distancing, hand washing, and following our screening protocols. NYS has done a very good job decreasing the rate of infection as well as decreasing the rate of hospita
Is there a choice between in-class school and online schooling	I need more information with respect to this question.
Why is there not an option to open five full days and parents who would like virtual only, keep their children at home? 2) Why hasn't the medical director for our district been communicating any education to the parents/teachers on COVID and he absolutely should be made to put a 3-4 symptom criteria into place (if a child is isn't feeling well) before they get sent home on one of the only two days they will be present at school. 3) Why hasn't the district offered any truing to our teachers on virtual learning and how they can be a much better asset to our children during this time of complete uncertainty? 4)Why will "virtual learning" not even be live (why is the district not giving more educators to just focus on this specific teaching)?	I have met with the medical director. He met with myself, our lead nurse, our principal representative and our Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services. He was very helpful. Please refer to the responses shared above.
How are you going to give the children masks breaks. You can not expect a chold to wear a mask for 8 hours a day.	We will give mask breaks. We are purchasing plastic barriers that will be installed on every school desk. This will assist us to schedule a mask break, especially if we have 6 feet of social distancing in the classroom.
Can students learn online if they are kept home for what appears to be just a cold?	The Google Classroom will be the tool to assist a child when they are home from school.

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How is distance learning going to be done? Is it the same way as in the spring?	It is different from the spring. See notes above.
Will girls varsity soccer be held in the Fall?	All HS sports have been postponed until September 21. If they end up being postponed again...they will be moved to March.
Will there be a Before and after school program for working parents. Is school going to be full time ?	Yes.
How will classroom changing be handled at the middle school	It depends on the grade level. Mr. Fitzpatrick can explain in greater detail.
On the days the students don't have in person class do they follow their same schedule or are they just to do their assignments as assigned?	They will be expected to use Google Classroom and access teacher directed instruction. Most of the Google Classroom experience is asynchronous.
Consistent virtual curriculum throughout the district for each grade level, Will speech and reading services occur for those who typically receive services, will PE occur mask free, will the kids be allowed on the playground?	Speech and OT can occur in person or through TeleHealth. We are looking at more PE outdoors. (They need to be 12 feet of social distancing for PE.)
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Are Wednesday's TRULY going to be on line learning? Instructor led learning not the way "on line learning" was treated last year?	They will be expected to use Google Classroom and access teacher directed instruction. Most of the Google Classroom experience is asynchronous.
Which plan are we going with, in school, partial, or at home learning	Hybrid
1. How long do you expect the schools to be in hybrid before resuming normal hours? 2. Can my child go to school with a runny nose, no fever? He has a cold a majority of the winter months anyways so mostly absent.	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
Will masks be required all day? Is the hybrid model what we are returning to or is there a chance it will change?	There will be mask breaks. It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart.
What's going to happen with Boces?	BOCES will continue. They are also working with other districts that are using a HYBRID approach.
1. What will happen if a student in my child's class has been exposed to a COVID positive individual? 2. I would like to see visuals of that a typical classroom will look like, what the cafeteria will look like, the "specials" rooms, etc... 3. What will the virtual days look like in terms of instruction? 4. What does a teacher do if a student refuses to wear a mask? 5. Will parents be going into the building for pick up? 6. Will services such as Speech and PT be given on the days the students attend school? 7. Is an all virtual option being offered through GICSD? 8. If a teacher is in their room on Wednesday for "deep cleaning" and they go out to lunch and come back into the room after, can the room really be considered "deep cleaned"? 9. Will students be given academic tests only on their in person days? 10. Will random COVID tests be given to students? 10. How can my child interact with their teacher on their virtual days when the teacher has the other group of students in person and must instruct them?	We will have a Flowchart posted on our website that will explain how we will work with the Erie County Department of Health. We will do our best to create some videos on what a classroom looks like with the new plastic dividers. We just ordered them. See notes above regarding Google Classroom. Wearing a mask is mandatory. Our principals will work with students and their families to assure compliance. IEP related services will be provided in person and online as appropriate. Please see my response above regarding cleaning. Students will be given assessments in person as appropriate. There are no random COVID tests. Google Classroom is asynchronous. There may be office hours or other synchronous opportunities as appropriate.
Type of schedule for Huth 4th graders	The schedule for students will be developed by the principal and their teachers.
Type of schedule for Huth 4th graders	The schedule for students will be developed by the principal and their teachers.

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Any chance of different schools following different models? (Sidway 5 days vs High School hybrid) If using distance learning, will tablets or laptops be provided?	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart.
Covid questions	Thanks
No question at this time	Thanks
What will be happening with special activities such as band and chorus? What length of time will students be expected to where masks for, and what sort of mask breaks will be worked into the day?	Face coverings are mandatory. We will build in mask breaks as appropriate.
What is the rationale behind the decision for parents to attest everyday versus the school taking temperatures everyday? What will be the procedure if someone in a classroom tests positive - does everyone need to quarantine?	Thank you for this question. We are exploring all options as it relates to health screenings, however, it is recommended by the Department of Health that remote health screening (e.g. By electronic survey, digital application, or telephone, which may involve the parent/legal guardian) before any individual reports to school, is strongly advised.
Expection Sidway kids to wear during the day? All day? Will there be Partitions in the room so they do not have to wear masks all day? What is the expectation on the remote days? Do they differ from Wed when all kids are at home? How long will they need to be active on the computer on the at home days? If my child is sneezing does he learn remotely? If so, how does that work?	We will build in mask breaks when we can. Here is the language from the Department of Health on face coverings...face coverings are required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. Further, face coverings are "strongly recommended" by the New York Department of Health at all times, except for meals and instruction with appropriate social distancing.
What is the schedule going to be? What precautions are you going to take to keep covid from it children and your faculty?	We are starting in a Hybrid model. • Students with the last name beginning with the letters A-L attend school 2 days (Mon-Thurs) while the students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z are home. • The students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z who previously were home, would come to school and attend for 2 days (Tues-Fri) while students with the last names beginning with A-L are home. • Wednesday would be a day where all students are home but teacher directed instruction continues. We are taking several precautions. They are outlined in our Draft Reopening Plan, which can be found at www.grandislandschools.org/reopening
When and how will the plan be re-evaluated to determine if students can return to school in-person full- time?	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the density for each classroom.
What happens when a child or staff shows signs of an illness?	We have a very specific protocol. Please visit this website and review the flowchart. https://www.grandislandschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=16007&dataid=32937&FileName=BOCES_Symptomatic%20or%20Positive%20COVID%20Protocol.graffle.pdf
Nothing	Thank you.
Remote learning—how will it work?	Remote learning is asynchronous. In some cases there may be synchronous teacher/student opportunities as appropriate.

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Based on all the GI residents I see in public places not wearing a mask I am very concerned with how responsible they will be to temp their children daily, ensure that they wear masks etc. Will there be repercussions for parents who do not do these things? Since they are not modeling the behavior and most likely are not taking the pandemic seriously based on their behavior in public I am very concerned about their non compliance. I know the school will do everything it can, I do not have confidence that all of the parents in the district will be proactive, honest and follow the proper protocol.	I am very optimistic that our community will embrace the requirements of masks, social distancing, hand washing, and following our screening protocols. NYS has done a very good job decreasing the rate of infection as well as decreasing the rate of hospitalization. Visit this webpage to see how WNY changed the infection rate over time. https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-region-dashboard
Will you accommodate blended families with last names in opposing schedules	Yes - please contact your principal.
How will you ensure no child will enter the building without a temperature above 100? Other districts are requiring bus drivers to check before the child gets on the bus. Parents lie about the health of their child all the time. It is completely unacceptable and unsafe to rely on parents to do this each morning accurately and truthfully.	Please let me know which districts are requiring the bus driver to conduct a temperature check. I would be very interested to know. I am sure you are aware that there are many situations now where parents are asked to complete a health screening tool before entering the dentist office etc. Our health screening tools are posted on our website. https://www.grandislandschools.org/reopening
Will students' performance be evaluated/graded in the same way? What will be done to ensure students aren't sitting and in front of a screen all day on virtual days? What services/resources be offered for students who are not adapting well - e.g., refuse to participate in virtual classrooms, are not succeeding in the virtual learning environment, etc.?	Excellent questions. Teachers will give tests/quizzes for summative grades in-person to the extent practicable. The hybrid model is asynchronous...so a child does not have to be in front of a screen for 6 hours.
To prevent spread and avoid cross contamination, why aren't students attending Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday with Wednesday as a deep clean? Having 5 days at home in a row is not an excuse. You are exposing the Tuesday/Friday group to any pathogens left from the A cohort from the previous day. Students should attend M/Tu or Th/F.	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
What should parents expect for the 3 days of virtual learning? When will that information we outlined? What is the plan WHEN there is a positive diagnosis?	There will be teacher directed instruction available in Google Classroom every day. Students can access Google Classroom asynchronously. There will be scheduled office hours for students to connect with their teacher on Wednesday as appropriate. Click this link for more information on a person testing positive. https://www.grandislandschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=16007&dataid=32938&FileName=IsolationandQuarantineFlowChart.pdf
Why is it St Stephens is going to have class 5 full days a week and you are not?	I can't speak to how St. Stephens is maintaining the 6 feet of social distancing.
If we do not feel comfortable sending our child to school can they do the learning from home? Also I was wondering why not send the first group of Kids Monday and Tuesday, and the second group of kids Thursday and Friday? I feel like more germs would be introduced to the classrooms with the way the schedule is set up for now.	Yes. The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
will the BOCES programs run?	Yes
There are many causes for a slight fever. What if my child gets to school and he then has a fever, what happens then? Does the bus return children, do they have to be tested for COVID before returning?	A child with a fever of 100 degrees or more will be sent home. A parent or guardian would need to come and pick up that child. In the scenario you are proposing we would need a doctor's note indicating that your child is safe to return to school. We know that common sense will prevail especially when communication includes the primary care physician.

Questions for Parent Forum - Thursday, August 13	Response
Will you have remote learning option for families that choose to keep their children home.?	Yes
If the beginning of the alphabet attends in person Monday & Thursday, they are getting the school at the cleanest. If the end of the alphabet goes Tuesday and Friday, it has more germs. Assuming the building is deep cleaned Wednesday & weekends. Also, we have a blended family, Cich & Mroz	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
Why is it Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday and not mon/tues and thurs/fri also do you intend to go back to school full time at some point.	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
We have a blended family, Cich & Mroz. Are kids are coming from the same house, but going different days. That' subjects our household to more exposure	Please contact your child's principal for help with the blended family alphabet.
Thank you for everything you are doing. I can't imagine what kind of nightmare this is to figure out.	Thanks
Given the need for masks, polycarbonate dividers, and social distancing, what is the advantage in terms of academics, socialization, and mental health in attending two days a week; it seems to me to only create more anxiety for students and staff and potentially exposes them to COVID?	We believe in-person instruction is very important. We will build in mask breaks as well to help decrease any uncomfortableness.
On the days the students don't have in person class do they follow their same schedule or are they just to do their assignments as assigned?	There will be teacher directed instruction available in Google Classroom every day. Students can access Google Classroom asynchronously. There will be scheduled office hours for students to connect with their teacher on Wednesday as appropriate.
How will you ensure no child will enter the building without a temperature above 100? Other districts are requiring bus drivers to check before the child gets on the bus. Parents lie about the health of their child all the time. It is completely unacceptable and unsafe to rely on parents to do this each morning accurately and truthfully.	Please let me know which districts are requiring the bus driver to conduct a temperature check. I would be very interested to know. I am sure you are aware that there are many situations now where parents are asked to complete a health screening tool before entering the dentist office etc. Our health screening tools are posted on our website. https://www.grandislandschools.org/reopening
If school is happening, at what point would you reclose? What percentage of kids/staff would have to test positive before closing?	The governor has set a metric, which indicates schools are closed with a 9% or greater infection rate over 7 days. With respect to a person testing positive in a school...please click this link for more information. Any school in any community might need to implement short-term closure procedures regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building. The District will coordinate with local health officials if an infected person has been in a school building. If an infected person has been in a school building the CDC recommends that we dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.
Will there be a complete online option regardless of which model is selected	Yes. Email cherylcadone@gicsd.org

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Why is school only closed 3-5 days after an out break . Business have to close 14	If an infected person has been in a school building the CDC recommends that we dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19. This link may help as well.
How will testing occur	I am assuming this question is related to the Testing of COVID-19. There are currently no requirements for students or staff to be tested unless the treating physician recommends COVID-19 testing as a result of the child displaying symptoms of COVID. If individuals want to get tested at an ECDOH specimen collection site, they can call 858-2929 to schedule. Also, COVID testing information throughout Erie County is available at https://milton-web.wnyric.org/canit/urlproxy.php?_q=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5lcmllLmdvdi9DT1ZJRHRlc3RzaXRlcw%3D%3D&_s=YnVmZmFsbw%3D%3D&_c=fe29af63 .
How will hybrid learning work exactly?	every day. Students can access Google Classroom asynchronously. There will be scheduled office hours for students to connect with their teacher on Wednesday as appropriate.
My special needs child will not keep a mask on all day. Are self contained classrooms mandating the use of masks all day? Even with social distancing being easy in those classrooms?	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.
Will the kids be expected to learn the same amount of new concepts as a normal year?	Yes
When will we get the school supply list?	Check with your principal.
What needs to be done in order for the kids to return to school 5 days a week?	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
How often will the hybrid schedule be re-evaluated to see if the kids can return 5 days	See note above.
Distance learning for my child with asthma	Email Cheryl Cardone at cherylcadone@gicsd.org for more information. Cheryl is the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.
what are the parents expected to do with remote learning if they work full time?	Choosing a Hybrid model was a very difficult decision. It is linked to the social distancing requirement of 6 feet. If that requirement is relaxed by the Department of Health that will give more flexibility to schools.
No question	Thanks
No question	Thanks
Thank you for everything you are doing. I can't imagine what kind of nightmare this is to figure out.	Thank you.

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Thank you	Thank you
1. How long do you expect the schools to be in hybrid before resuming normal hours? 2. Can my child go to school with a runny nose, no fever? He has a cold a majority of the winter months anyways so mostly absent.	See my notes above regarding the Department fo Health and the 6 feet of social distancing. Please communicate with our school nurse and have the primary care physician communicate with our nurse as well.
1. How long do you expect the schools to be in hybrid before resuming normal hours? 2. Can my child go to school with a runny nose, no fever? He has a cold a majority of the winter months anyways so mostly absent.	See my notes above regarding the Department fo Health and the 6 feet of social distancing. Please communicate with our school nurse and have the primary care physician communicate with our nurse as well.
Why were the hybrid days set up as they were? A - L should be M T and M - Z should be Th F.	The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.
No questions at this time	Thanks
How are parents of multiple children, at multiple schools being considered? Travel times, days, etc. can be optimized to one parent to manage it?	The hybrid model allows for all siblings to attend school on the same day. Each child will be scheduled to ride a bus and some parents are opting to transport their child to and from school. Please email me if I did not address your question.
What is the criteria for returning to school full time?	It is my opinion that the Department of Health would need to change their recommendations and decrease the 6 feet of social distancing. It is very difficult to have 24 students in a classroom, with masks and with plastic barriers...while also keeping kids 6 feet apart. Additionally, based on the number of questions and/or requests from parents to choose the fully remote option...we will send a survey out next week to determine how many families will commit to a fully remote option. Based on that data we will review the student density for each classroom to see if we have an opportunity to make further changes.
Will there be busing all 5 days?	Not on Wednesday...except for students who attend schools off island and/or St. Stephens.
How many children will be on the bus?	By changing the start and end times we have reduced the density on our buses. Typically we schedule 1,600 MS and HS students to be transported to school on 31 buses. Now, with a new start time for our MS...we can schedule buses for 675 MS students on 31 buses. This reduces the density to approximately 22 students per bus. The density is reduced significantly in a hybrid model because we are only transporting 338 MS students daily using 31 buses.
Will the students still have art, music, gym and lunch as normal?	Yes

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<p>Is there an by appointment plan for second graders entering Huth to be able to go with their parents and walk them to their classroom and other important locations (office, clinic) etc so the kids aren't entering uncertain in completely different circumstances? Why are students attending Mon & Thurs receiving fully disinfected schools while those attending Tues & Fri are not? What is the count of A-L and M-Z in regards to the number of children that will be in attendance those days?</p>	<p>Our elementary principals are developing a plan for new students to drop off supplies on September 8th. They will be notifying parents very soon. The reason we chose the every other day model is that a child will not have to wait to see their teacher. For example...if John Smith is home on Monday and is engaging in Teacher Directed Instruction, he can come in on Tuesday and have the opportunity for review or reteaching as appropriate. The teacher can check for understanding as opposed to waiting until Thursday. Additionally, we canceled third shift cleaning and custodial work and moved personnel to second and first shift. This will allow us to have deep cleaning each day.</p>
<p>Distancing in the classroom, on the buses, and cleaning the rooms/buses</p>	<p>Distancing is very important and our Hybrid plan takes these matters into account.</p>
<p>Will classrooms be using video so kids can still learn while at home?</p>	<p>There will be teacher directed instruction everyday. There will be videos used as well.</p>
<p>I need to know if we buy the school supplies based on the current list or if there is a revised list? Seems like a waste to always buy by the list and then 40% does not get used.</p>	<p>Please contact the principal with questions about supply lists. As a district we are providing students with PPE.</p>
<p>I am extremely immune compromised and have kept my son from any exposure to the virus since February. What measures are being taken to guarantee that he will not be exposed to the virus? So far the steps being taken seem lack luster at best. I don't see how sufficient cleaning throughout the day is possible and that a daily health form and temperature check is enough - you are relying on people's honesty and that everyone is symptomatic. The only thing that was done correctly from the beginning of the pandemic was removing our children from the situation - that is why the infection rates were low in children. What about lunches? How is that going to be safe? Are foods going to be packaged? What about the buses? Will your re-opening plan include all precautions from the time he leaves home until he returns? We have a unique situation in our house and I realize that but I won't send my son anywhere that I wouldn't feel safe myself.</p>	<p>Thank you for your questions. Our health and safety plan can be found within this document. It starts on page 9 and continues until page 26. I would be happy to call you or have Cheryl call you to address any of these items. https://www.grandislandschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=16007&dataid=32915&FileName=Grand%20Island%20Central%20School%20District%20COVID-19%20Reopening%20Plan%20Revised%20July%202031.pdf</p>
<p>If school in person for only two days a week doesn't work for my kids, can I switch to homeschooling later during the school year?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>