

RETURN '20 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“REMOTE LEARNING” EDITION

This FAQ reflects thousands of comments and questions received since mid-July, organized into several key categories

CURRICULUM/TEACHING

Can families get paper learning materials if they prefer?

District 202 will provide laptops to all 4th-12th grade students. PreK-3rd graders who meet certain criteria are eligible to receive laptops.

***Early elementary students will not necessarily need computers to participate in Remote Learning. Most elementary-level lessons can be completed using the student learning materials being sent home and on smart phones if needed. Students can also use home gaming systems (like Xbox, for example) to participate in Remote Learning.

Can families use their own computers rather than district computers for Remote Learning?

District 202 strongly encourages families to use the district laptops for Remote Learning because we can guarantee they will do everything students will need to do.

Likewise, District 202 cannot repair or maintain personal computers.

Finally, students will not be able to use their home computers at school when in-person learning resumes.

Will Remote Learning be better than it was in the Spring?

Yes. Teachers and administrators have worked for thousands of hours since April to improve Remote Learning teaching plans, professional development, resources and supports

How will middle and high school students participate in band/choir during Remote Learning?

Students will interact with their peers and teacher in a virtual setting via live and recorded performances. Content will be covered virtually just as in all classes.

Will students and teachers be held accountable this fall?

Yes. Student work will count, and grades will be assigned, and teachers will be responsible for their work as well.

How will driver education be addressed with Remote Learning?

Students will attend Driver Education class as any regular class. Behind the Wheel driving practice will be scheduled as normal by the BTW teacher at a time that is mutually convenient but will not be available during the scheduled school day, approximately 8:45am to 2:10pm.

Will students still be able to attend classes through Wilco?

Yes. Wilco and District 202 have shared details with Wilco students about Wilco classes.

How will Physical Education classes work?

Physical Education activity classes will focus on fitness type activities with teachers meeting virtually with their students, students completing fitness activities, and then providing evidence to their teacher of their activity.

Will Encore classes still be held?

Encore classes will be held at the Middle School level on an A/B Day schedule as is the case when we are face to face. Students will engage in these classes synchronously and asynchronously throughout the week.

Will PreK-3rd graders get laptops?

PreK-3rd graders who meet certain criteria are eligible to receive laptops.

***Early elementary students will not necessarily need computers to participate in Remote Learning. Most elementary-level lessons can be completed using the student

learning materials being sent home, on home gaming systems and on smart phones if needed.

Will students be able to participate in sports and school clubs/activities during Remote Learning?

Students will be able to participate in athletics per IHSA guidelines. Clubs and activities are currently postponed.

Will students be penalized for not logging in during "school hours" if they complete their work after hours?

Teachers will make every reasonable effort to accommodate and support students' and families' schedules, for example, if parents must work during the day.

Middle School and High School students will follow a specific schedule and are expected to be present for the specific periods.

If a student is unable to attend during scheduled specific period, families are encouraged to contact teachers/administration to discuss.

Will families pay a fee or deposit for the laptops?

No. However, students will be charged a fee for damaged laptops.

Will the district provide guidance for parents regarding Google Classroom?

Yes. Tutorials are posted on the district and school websites on the "Return '20" page under "Parent Resources."

Will the district provide internet services?

Not currently. However, most major internet providers are offering discounts for service during the pandemic.

What will happen to the PSTEP program?

The PSTEP program will have Remote Learning that will focus on work skills, transition activities, and independent living goals based on students' individual needs.

How will special education classes and services be provided (for example, speech therapy and IEP meetings)?

Yes. Special education teachers will have the same teaching expectations as general education teachers, however, there may be more individual- and small group work instead of full class experiences.

Related service providers will have live therapy sessions.

How will preschool, half-day and full-day kindergarten Remote Learning classes work?

District 202's Remote Learning plan serves all district students including preschool and half-day and full-day kindergarten. Full day kindergarten students will a longer Remote Learning Day than the half day program.

Will District 202 meet the guidelines requiring 2.5 hours of daily "synchronous learning"?

Yes. All full-time classes will have 2.5 hours of daily "synchronous learning" per state guidelines. Synchronous learning time will be spread through the school day to provide maximum flexibility for families. Half-day programs will receive 1.5 hours of daily "synchronous learning."

STAFF

Will teachers teach from their classrooms?

Teachers can teach from their classrooms as needed and appropriate.

What should parents do if a teacher is not meeting expectations?

Please follow the normal communications protocol – share concerns with your teacher directly, and then with the principal if your teacher cannot help.

Are teachers required to hold daily Zoom meetings as part of Remote Learning?

Yes.

How quickly must teachers respond to students?

Teachers must return communications within 24 hours during normal business hours.

GENERAL

Will the district refund school fees since school is not being held in the buildings?

No. Students are receiving full educational services, therefore normal fees will be assessed except for functions or activities that have been (or will be) cancelled.

Will the school year end later since it is beginning later?

Yes. The Amended 2020-21 calendar, approved by the Board of Education on August 17, 2020, moves the TENTATIVE last day of school to June 4, 2021 if no Emergency Days are used; or June 11, 2021 if all five Emergency Days are used.

What factors will be considered to decide if/when we return to in-person learning?

We fully intend and hope to return to in-person instruction as soon as it is safe to do so. District 202 administration and the Board of Education will review numerous data over the first four weeks of Remote Learning to help decide if/when to return to school, including:

- Virus/health/safety metrics
- Local and state guidance
- Transportation
- Staffing
- Family input
- Availability of safety and cleaning supplies
- Operational logistics

Families will have plenty of time to plan for a return when a decision is made.

Should families buy all required school supplies since we are starting with Remote Learning?

Families are encouraged to buy normal school supplies since students will be engaged in normal school activities at home, and in anticipation of returning to in-person learning soon.

Does the district offer childcare options for working parents?

District 202 does not provide childcare. However, the C.W. Avery YMCA will offer a modified version of its “Kidzone” program for elementary and middle school students, and the Plainfield Park District will provide daytime activities and support for elementary school students.

Did parents have a voice in the decision to start with Remote Learning?

Yes. Along with students and staff, parents have been actively involved in the process to plan and implement the Remote Learning plan from the start through various surveys, committees, and public comment received as part of numerous Board of Education meetings.

Plus, the duly elected Board of Education, representing the entire community, publicly received, reviewed, debated, and voted on every aspect of the district’s Remote Learning plan.