

08/05/20

Dear Parents and Friends,

We hope that you are doing well. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you that we are planning to begin the school year, utilizing the hybrid model. (Hopefully, we will be able to transition at some point in this school year to our traditional in-person model). This hybrid model incorporates in-person school days, as well as, remote learning days. Students in classes in grades PreK through 8 will be divided into cohorts A and B. Cohorts will be determined alphabetically. All children in a household will be placed in the same cohort. The schedule will be as follows:

Hybrid Learning

Schedule

Cohort A:

Monday – Tuesday In-Person

Wednesday – Friday Remote Learning

Cohort B:

Monday – Wednesday Remote Learning

Thursday – Friday In-Person

In-Person Learning Days

- Classes will be conducted with the same protocols set forth in the Lisbon School District Reopening Plan but at 50% capacity.

Remote Learning Days

- Teachers will assign homework to be completed on remote learning days that continues and links to student's in-person learning.
- Teachers will continue to utilize Google Classroom to post assignments, class messages, resources, and other information on their class page. Students will be able to view and download materials, submit assignments, and email their teacher. Parents can receive email summaries by requesting access from their child's teacher.
- It is not entirely necessary to have internet access and/or a device for the hybrid model. Teachers will work with students and families to provide flexible alternatives if necessary.

Remote Learning

- Each student in grades PreK-8 will be assigned a google login.
- The majority of students will access schoolwork and activities via google classroom. Teachers will post assignments, class messages, resources, and other information on their class page.
- Each student will be invited to join each class they are scheduled to (ie: PreK-4 will be homeroom teachers, 5-8 will be individual classes, specials, etc.) Students will be able to view and download materials, submit assignments, and email their teacher(s). Parents can receive email summaries by requesting access from their child's teacher(s).
- Students will require access to the internet and an internet capable device.

Should students need to borrow a device from the school, please contact Brian Apperson. This is a general overview of the hybrid model. Additional information will be provided on an ongoing basis. Please know that Principal Brian Apperson will determine those students who are in Cohort A and Cohort B next week.

Temporarily Choosing Not to Participate

In cases where parents/guardians do not choose to send their children temporarily, they may opt to participate in home learning activities with support from the school. Regarding this scenario, please note the following:

- In order to smoothly re-enter school after an extended time out and begin participating in the traditional schedule, it is strongly encouraged for students and parents to engage in remote learning resources provided or some other plan approved by the Superintendent and Principal of the school. The State of Connecticut has designed a Remote Learning Hub (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/AcademicOffice/CT-Learning-Hub>) for students who do not return right away. Students on this track will be allowed to enter school at any point in time.
- Lisbon Central School will provide temporary remote learning opportunities for those parents and students voluntarily opting into remote learning programming while other students attend in-person instruction. This voluntary family choice is not intended to be the same as the opportunities provided when classes are cancelled for a broader population, should public health data require it. Should families exercise the remote learning option, it will be done without penalty with the expectation that students will transition back to in-person learning.
- This plan does not change the school district's obligation to provide access where an existing legal requirement exists, such as students whose participation is limited due to a medical reason. It also does not address a full remote learning model where there is a need for school closure.

Due to the fact that our teachers will be engaged in planning and teaching for those students who are attending in-person, there will be some limitations to opting in to remote learning.

- Resources will be available via the State designated Remote Learning Hub <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/AcademicOffice/CT-Learning-Hub>
- The expectation is that the family will supervise and support student attendance and engagement
- The nature of voluntary remote learning will not result in matching instructional hours 1:1 with an in-person/hybrid learning model.
- Opting into remote learning is temporary in nature and may not be available for the duration of the school year.
- Parents must provide adequate notice if the student will return to in-person classes to allow for proper preparation.
- Should parents opt their children into remote learning, it must be exercised as a full day.
- Any additional activities or electives will not be available to those students who opt into remote learning.

Important Survey

A survey will be sent to you by this Friday, at the latest. It is very similar to the survey which was sent previously to you.

This survey is in regard to whether your child will be participating in the hybrid model at the start of the school year. You are required to complete this survey and return it by August 11th. This will assist us in planning and implementation efforts.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.
Sal and Brian