



Q & A Document Related to Ozark's Plan to Reopen Schools Remotely on September 8, 2020

Q1. Why was this decision not made earlier? We have already purchased supplies and they cannot be returned.

A1. As we all know, things are changing rapidly related to Covid-19. The Dale County infected numbers have increased significantly in the past week and continue to rise. Also, the extended mask order and the announcement of the new internet voucher program both came to our attention last week. The internet voucher program should be available to qualifying households by the first part of September. With regard to school supplies, some will be used during the remote learning. The supplies will also be needed when we return to more traditional instruction.

Q2. What does a Remote Learning Environment really mean?

A2. When school opens on September 8, no students will report to their assigned school. All learning will take place online under the direction of the student's assigned teacher. This will be the teaching and learning model until further notice.

Q3. What if my student does not know what to do?

A3. Students will be assigned to teachers, just as if they were in the traditional school. Teachers will provide the remote learning in a variety of methods. Before the September 8, start of school date, each teacher will make contact with their students to explain procedures and make sure they have the capability to connect with the teacher through the internet.

Q4. What if I do not have reliable internet?

A4. This situation is part of the reason for waiting until September 8, to start school. Last week Governor Ivey announced a major effort to provide internet vouchers to qualifying families. We are being told that eligibility for free and reduced priced lunches will be one of the major qualifiers. We are told that the internet providers will be sending letters to families during August to explain how the program will work and how to get signed up. The program will provide this service until December 31, 2020.

Q5. What if I do not have a computer?

A5. Each school has access to a number of Chromebooks that can be distributed to students that need a computer. This can be done after appropriate forms are completed and the user Device Contract is signed. We are looking into the possibility of acquiring additional tablets that might be just a bit more user friendly for our very young learners.

Q6. Can my child come to school to work with the teacher if he/she wants to?

A6. No. The decision regarding if and when a student needs to come to school will be made by the school and the teacher. If you think your child needs to come to school for a specific reason, you may contact the teacher or the school to work out the details.

Q7. Under what conditions would a student come to school?

A7. Some students will need to participate in State mandated assessments. Other students may need to receive one on one, or small group remediation. Some students may simply need some coaching on how to better handle the remote learning. Advanced students may need to be on campus to interact with an AP teacher. All of these situations will be managed at the school level. Groups will remain small to allow for appropriate safety measures. When a teacher contacts you about sending your child to school for a day, it will be important that you do so, if at all possible. Bus service will be available if we can give the transportation department at least one day's notice.

Q9. What about special education/504 services?

A9. The case managers will be contacting families to work out programming for special education students. We anticipate that students who may receive various therapy services will be called to school on the days that the therapist is scheduled to be at the school.

Q10. What will the school calendar look like now?

A10. The revised calendar is being worked on and will be posted on the District webpage, once approved. It is anticipated that there will be a few e-learning days built into the school calendar, even when we return to traditional instruction. This will remove the requirement for students to be physically on campus on days that may have been scheduled as vacation days in the original calendar. It is also anticipated that the final student day will be June 4, 2021, or earlier, if possible.

Q11. What about band, color guard, football, volleyball, and cheer?

A11. All of these activities will continue to operate as they are currently functioning. The coaches and directors will be in charge of decisions related to practice. Most of these activities are actually guided by other organizations, such as the Alabama High School Athletic Association. We will follow the guidance of these organizations.

Q12. What remediation services will be available?

A12. In addition to the regular teachers, each school employs intervention specialists that coordinate remediation activities. These individuals will be tracking student progress daily, and will be involved in the decisions as to when a student may need to be called to the school. During the first semester, selected teachers are designated to assist with the technical aspects of remote learning. They will provide technical information to both teachers and students.

Q13. Will JROTC have activities that are normally after school such as drill, rifle?

A13. These activities are also regular classes during the school day. The decision related to bringing students to the school to begin this kind of activity will be a decision of the JROTC department. Students will either be contacted, or may call the JROTC Department after September 8, 2020.