



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jason Schimpf
School Business Administrator

**If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 and resources,
Call 2-1-1 or text "NJCOVID" to 898-211 or go to our or click the link provided [HERE](#).**

July 23, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Faculty & Staff,

School leaders throughout New Jersey have been working tirelessly to develop reopening plans in accordance with the State's [Restart & Recovery Plan: The Road Back](#). While our work at Kingsway Regional and South Harrison Twp. Elementary Schools will continue for the duration of summer, I wanted to share preliminary plans as soon as possible so that our families can plan accordingly. Please understand that these preliminary plans have not yet been approved by the Board of Education nor been reviewed by the Department of Education for compliance. Therefore, in this very fluid world we live in, our plans may change.

In September, schools will reopen in a *hybrid learning environment*. This means that we will provide a combination of in-person and virtual instruction. Our formidable challenge has been to strike a balance between implementation of the [CDC's Health Guidelines](#) and [Considerations for Schools](#) while maximizing in-person instruction. Given the density of our school populations, this has been no easy task.

Health Guidelines

Our reopening plans will include health guidelines aimed at slowing and/or preventing the spread of the Coronavirus and focus our attention on the three guiding principles promoted by the CDC, State and Local Departments of Health as well as our school physician. The guiding principles driving our reopening decisions and program restructuring are as follows: (1) implement social distance guidelines of 6' or more, wherever practicable; (2) wear properly fitted cloth face masks; and, (3) engage in protocol and practice that promotes proper hand washing hygiene. While we will devote considerable time, energy and resources to implementing these medically endorsed guidelines, we recognize that our success will largely depend on human behavior, and we are asking for the patience, understanding and cooperation of all stakeholders to protect the health and well-being of our faculty, staff, and students.

Mask Wearing

A guideline that will apply to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors is the *wearing of cloth face masks*. While we will share additional information regarding masks, it is important that our parents are aware of this requirement now, as it will apply to all our students throughout the duration of the school day. Please know that the District will not be providing masks to students and that the purchasing of masks

Home of the Dragons

will be the responsibility of our parents. NJ.com recently published an article entitled, [“You need to ‘mask train’ your kids before schools reopen.... Here’s how to do it.”](#) I share this article to assist our parents/students in the preparation of wearing masks (or neck gaiters) throughout the school day as [“mask-endurance”](#) will be a serious challenge for students.

Cohort Model

In an effort to maximize *social distancing measures*, we have divided our school population into two cohorts – A and B. Students have been assigned to cohorts alphabetically to align our students, grades PK-12, so that siblings in our elementary, middle, and high schools can follow the same “in-person reporting” schedules. We believe this measure will help assist families in developing schedules, especially for parents who need childcare from older siblings. There may, however, be some exceptions to this rule as we attempt to balance our cohorts with our elementary schools while ensuring that siblings with different last names are cohorted together. We hope you understand that we will not be able to accommodate parent requests with respect to selecting a desired cohort at this time. Students assigned to Cohort V will be by parent choice.

| Cohort A | Cohort B | Cohort V |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Last Name: A – La | Last Name: Lb – Z | Parent Choice |

Delayed Opening Schedules & Reporting Days

Kingsway Regional Middle and High School students will operate on a delayed opening schedule and student reporting time, for in-person instruction, will be no later than 9:25 a.m. (High School) and 9:30 a.m. (Middle School). Dismissal has been moved to 2:40 p.m. (High School) and 2:50 p.m. (Middle School). We will send separate bus pickup times later this summer.

Cohort Reporting Sequence – AA/V/BB

Students in *Grades 7 – 12* will report to school for in-person instruction two (2) days per week according to their assigned cohort and will be assigned three (3) days of virtual instruction. On days when student cohorts are not reporting to school for in-person instruction, they will be assigned to virtual instruction. This will alternate every two days with an “All-Virtual” day scheduled in between (*usually on Wednesdays unless indicated otherwise in the school calendar*). With a few exceptions during shortened school weeks, we refer to our cohort reporting sequence, Monday through Friday, as AA/V/BB, repeat. During “All-Virtual” Days, Cohorts A & B will report to their virtual classrooms while district staff engage in deep cleaning protocol to ensure student and staff safety. This reporting sequence maximizes in-person instruction while abiding by the guiding health principles we intend to implement. Students who choose to attend all virtual will be assigned to Cohort V.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cohort A In-person | Cohort A In-person | All-Virtual Cohorts A, B & V | Cohort B In-person | Cohort B In-person |
| Cohort B Virtual | Cohort B Virtual | | Cohort A Virtual | Cohort A Virtual |
| Cohort V Virtual | Cohort V Virtual | | Cohort V Virtual | Cohort V Virtual |



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District Calendar

The District's school calendar has been amended to push back the start of school for students to Tuesday, September 8th and 9th for Cohort A and September 10th and 11th for Cohort B. The calendar has also assigned in-person reporting days throughout the year and strikes an equal balance of in-person reporting and all-virtual instruction for both cohorts. As previously stated, reporting days will largely follow an AA/V/BB reporting sequence. You can review the amended calendar by clicking the calendar link www.krsd.org/schoolcalendar and below for reporting days during the first week of school in September.

| S E P T E M B E R | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| | 1 st Staff Training | 2 nd Staff Training | 3 rd Staff Training | 4 th Staff Training |
| 7 th Labor Day School Closed | 8 th Cohort A - Inperson | 9 th Cohort A - Inperson | 10 th Cohort B - Inperson | 11 th Cohort B - Inperson |
| | Cohort B - Virtual | Cohort B - Virtual | Cohort A - Virtual | Cohort A - Virtual |
| | Cohort V - Virtual | Cohort V - Virtual | Cohort V - Virtual | Cohort V - Virtual |

'All-Virtual' Parent Option – Cohort V

We have heard from a number of families that intend to keep their children home due to medical/health-related reasons. We recognize parent concerns, and we have worked closely with the State of New Jersey to secure an "All-Virtual" option. For those who believe this is the best option, we will be providing you with a choice for your child to remain all-virtual. I will be sending a survey to all families on/before August 1st to solicit parent decisions on this matter. Students who choose all-virtual will be assigned to Cohort V.

Community Input: School Reopening FAQ

After reading this preliminary reopening letter, please submit any questions you may have by clicking [HERE](#). Your questions will assist us with compiling a community FAQ document to better answer questions as we continue to plan. As always, thank you for your support as we work to provide the most valuable school experience for our students in these unprecedented times.

In closing, thank you for your prompt attention to this communication. As a reminder, you can continue to monitor updates on our website by clicking the link [HERE](#). Should you have any questions that require immediate attention, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at lavenderj@krsd.org.

Very truly yours,



Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

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