

August 14, 2020 (Updated on August 20, 2020)

Dear Avis Families,

We are looking forward to the beginning of a new school year, 2020-21! While we are excited, we all know that things will look different this year due to Covid-19. Our district's pandemic team worked diligently to create a Health and Safety Plan, which was approved by our School Board. This plan put guidelines in place for our district. The question on everyone's mind has been, "What will this look like for my child?" It will look a little different at each building, so I would like to attempt to show you what it will look like on a typical day at Avis Elementary.

- Students and staff members will enter through the main doors and will stop at a temperature scanner. The scanner will indicate green if the person's temperature is below 100.4 and red if it is 100.4 or above. If an individual's temperature is elevated, they will be screened by the nurse. If it is determined that a child needs to be sent home, the nurse will contact the child's parent.
- Everyone must wear a face covering in the building. Masks or face shields are acceptable face coverings.
- Students will walk directly to their homerooms this year. They will not wait in the Large Group Area.
- If students wish to get breakfast, they will eat at the cafeteria tables until they are finished and then proceed to their homerooms.
- When students are in their classrooms, they may take their face covering off for ten minute face covering breaks only. (Updated on 8/17/2020.)
<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/default.aspx>
- Specialists (art, music, health, keyboarding, phys. ed., and library) will come to the homerooms to instruct students.
- At lunch time, students will get a grab-and-go container and will be seated at their assigned lunch table. Students will remove their face covering to eat and then will put it back on.
- Students will go outside for recess each day. There will be a primary and intermediate playground designated area for our students. There will be one class per section going out to recess. Playground equipment may or may not be able to be used, depending on our ability to sanitize over the recess hours.
- Dismissal will be on a staggered schedule this year to minimize large groups of students leaving the building at the same time. Students will be called by bus numbers for bus dismissal and our car riders will be dismissed using the same system we have used in the past.
- All students in grades K-5 will have their own iPad this year. Students will be taught how to use these devices responsibly for educational purposes. The iPads will be taken home and will be available in the event that remote instruction would become necessary, as it did last spring. All students will have the option to purchase iPad insurance through the school to cover any accidents or damages that may occur.
- If parents or family members need to drop something off at school such as a backpack or lunch box, we are going to ask that you buzz in and leave the item in the vestibule to minimize contact.
- Visitors and volunteers will only be permitted when absolutely necessary. Parents should try to conduct business with the office via phone or email when possible to minimize physical contact.
- This year we will not be holding an in-person Open House or Kindergarten Orientation. Our virtual orientation for students in grades K-5 will be held on August 25th from 5-7 p.m. Avis FAQ's: What does the hybrid option look like at the elementary level? There have also been many questions about our hybrid option. Students choosing hybrid will have the choice to attend school in person either Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday, or Monday, Wednesday, Friday. On the at-home days, students will be assigned work by their teacher. The work will be completed either on the iPad or with paper and pencil. The work will be the same as the work the in-person students are doing in school on that particular day. During the at-home days, there will be no livestreaming of the teacher or any Zoom sessions. The expectation is that the student will work mostly

independently on the at home days. This places more educational responsibility on the student and family on the at home days, because the teacher will be teaching the in-person students at that time.

- What does the online (JSOL) option look like at the elementary level? Students who choose to enroll in the district's 100% online option, Jersey Shore Online Learning (JSOL), will be working at home five days per week. JSOL's content is provided by BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 and uses different resources than our Avis teachers do. Both programs follow the PA Core Standards for each grade level but use different resources and materials to do so. Your child's teacher will be a teacher assigned by the IU17. It will not be one of the teachers from Avis. This option requires the most educational responsibility from the student and family because it involves working through educational modules, often independently. Mrs. Jennifer Berry-Propst is our district point of contact for online learning. She can be contacted at jberry-propst@jsasd.org.
- Can my child transition from one option to the other? The district has asked families to commit to one option for the first nine week marking period. This is out of courtesy to minimize many changes back and forth. If there is a legitimate reason that something has changed and your child needs to make a change, we can arrange for this. Because the in-person, hybrid, and online options all teach utilizing the PA Core Standards, transitioning from one to another should not be a problem. If you feel your child needs to make a change, please contact me.
- Can my child wear a face shield instead of a mask? Yes. A face shield is acceptable. Students will have to leave their face covering on even during recess and PE, per the governor's order on 8/17/20. They will be permitted to have 10-minute face covering breaks only.
- Does my child need to bring any specific supplies to school (hand sanitizer, etc.)? The school will provide hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and disposable masks. However, you are welcome to provide a small hand sanitizer for your child to keep in his/her desk or backpack. Most students will probably prefer to bring their own masks, but we will have extras available for anyone who does not bring one. If possible, please put your child's name somewhere on his/her mask.

If you have specific questions, please feel free to email me at jjean@jsasd.org or call me at 570-753-5220 ext. 5100. Thank you for your patience and flexibility during the upcoming school year!

Sincerely,

Jon S. Jean Principal, Avis Elementary School

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