

TBS Q & A as of August 3-20

May we have a sample schedule?	We are still working on the schedule and will have a sample one to share soon.
I would like to know what kind of surveillance testing might be considered/employed as a safety precaution?	We are asking parents to help us with a home evaluation of their student's health and to keep them home if there are any symptoms. Screening through temperature checks is no longer considered a valid determination of COVID by medical experts.
I would like to understand how the transition between hybrid and all-remote would work if it becomes necessary. I would also like to know if it would be best if those families who CAN have their kids at home using the district remote option should do so in order to preserve the hybrid and in-person options for those families and students who really need it.	The transition from hybrid to remote would just be a matter of teachers moving from in-person teaching to full remote. The daily schedule will be similar with teachers holding classes through an on-line delivery method such as Zoom or Google Meet. They will be instructing students and then asking them to complete assignments. Teachers have been preparing for remote since the end of the last school year.
Number of students in a classroom at one time (largest class)?	Most classrooms will hold 15 students at 6 ft distance. A few rooms are able to accommodate more while maintaining 6 ft. between students and teachers.
More detail on how it is going to work for the middle school kids as well as information on managing the transition from HES.	The counselors, teachers, and administrators will communicate with 6th grade families as the year approaches and they will have transition plans in place.
As our family plans for the hybrid model, I would like to know how confident you are that the teachers feel safe and are willing to come back and teach	We have been working with the teachers and responding to the barriers they have for re-entry. On August 3rd we will know the results of their vote.

<p>I need to understand the hybrid model vs the District remote plan. Will the classes be available on live video feeds? If yes, then my son may go remote at first and transition to hybrid once we see what the Covid numbers look like by October 1.</p>	<p>There will not be live video feed from the classrooms. There are two different hybrid models. In IA, students will have 2 in-person days and then 1 remote day with teachers meeting with them on line, and then 2 days to view videos and complete their previewed assignments. In 1B, students would receive 4 days of in-person instruction and 1 remote day with teachers meeting with them. Fully remote students will have Bromfield teachers teaching them through an on-line tool such as Zoom or Google Meet or Virtual high school classes.</p>
<p>Will the pace of progress in working through the curriculum depend on remote or hybrid?</p>	<p>The pace of progress will be similar for both.</p>
<p>Detailed classroom plans. The situation at time of entry.</p>	<p>We will be making videos to describe the process to families. We will also write out specific details. These plans are still in development.</p>
<p>Who is teaching the online academy? How many students are considering the online academy? If school closes completely due to COVID19, what happens to the students already in online learning with the influx of their peers? What, if any, plans are in the works to maintain community between students in the hybrid model and students in the online model?</p>	<p>Students attending the district remote academy will have many Bromfield teachers and some virtual high school classes. Once we know which students will be in-person and which ones will be remote, we will make class schedules and then work on teacher's schedules to have many of them teach remote classes themselves (1:5 preps). The remote groups would remain together or join other classes taught by the same teacher if we go completely remote as a district.</p>
<p>What support services will be available to students with IEP's</p>	<p>Students will have all of their services. Parents may choose for remote or in-person services. We are hosting a parent/guardian meeting on this topic on August 4th at 7 PM. Contact ldwight@psharvard.org if you have not received the Zoom link for this meeting.</p>

<p>Curious when the 1a or 1b hybrid models will be decided on.</p>	<p>We are waiting for parent decisions about the fall to help us determine which hybrid model we would be able to accommodate.</p>
<p>What is the plan for if numbers of cases begin to increase? Does the school close for a certain period of time?</p>	<p>There is a document on the website; psharvard.org that outlines the steps and considerations. I expect that we will reevaluate whether to close for some period of time based on 2 or 3 confirmed cases. Individual cases will involve contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation as described in the guidelines.</p>
<p>Likelihood of 1A vs 1B scenario. And how often spacing will be at 4.5' instead of at least 6' (which I realize you can't really say yet until it get numbers from us - it is all circular!)</p>	<p>We have committed to 6 ft distancing, so now it is dependent on the number of students planning to attend full-time as well as the schedule of classes to ensure 15 or fewer students in most classes. We are planning to add teaching sections taught by our teachers to help reduce class sizes.</p>
<p>We have been staying home. What about people who haven't? Parents who travel for work? If my kids have a cough, or sneeze, due to allergies or a cold; are they sent home? Are they quarantined with kids who have covid?</p>	<p>We believe a community commitment is needed for the re-entry plan to work out. We will continue to communicate this to families. There are checklists of symptoms that our nurses will use to differentiate COVID symptoms from other illnesses. These checklists are on our website at psharvard.org for parents to use as well. We are asking parents to evaluate their student's health and keep them home more readily than usual. We will be more lenient on attendance this year.</p>
<p>Will the District remote plan looks a lot like the spring, with 20 minute meetings once a week and mostly independent work on Google Classroom?</p>	<p>No, the district's remote plan will include Zoom or Google meet lessons done by our teachers for each subject in a student's day (7:45 AM - 2:20 PM). The teachers will provide instruction and then ask students to complete assignments that they have previewed and will follow up on. Assignments will be</p>

	collected and grades in a similar manner to any prior year, pre COVID closure.
What are the greatest concerns of the teachers and staff? I worry about their safety too.	They have similar concerns to parents and students. We are working with them to provide measures that will increase their safety.
Why is "full enrollment" not an option above. It is written in the plan, but not included here.	Once we began the planning, it became evident that a phased in approach was needed. There are so many new protocols and guidelines that starting slowly with fewer risks seemed like the best decision.
How will grading be done? conventionally or like last semester pass fail	We will return to conventional grading.
I would like to understand which hybrid version the school is leaning towards	The leadership team supports the IB option only if we can make the numbers of students in classes meet the 6 ft. guideline and if there are little to no new COVID cases in Harvard in the next weeks.
I would like to know if there will be another survey regarding hybrid options (more comfortable with option A than B), and what the plan is in the event that everyone needs to begin remotely.	<p>The decision about which hybrid option we will start with will be made using the return data that we will collect on August 14th, combined with the local COVID situation, teacher agreement, and in consultation with the School Committee. This will not be a parent choice survey question.</p> <p>If we begin remotely, based on new data, we will be well prepared and communicate this with parents as early as possible.</p>
Can we ensure that students will have a friend in their middle school classes?	Please contact the guidance counseling department with this type of request.
I'd like additional information regarding the remote option and how that will work. Specifically, will individual teachers be assigned to each class?	Yes, individual teachers will be assigned to each class. The remote students will have a similar schedule to one they might have if they were in-person. Please attend the upcoming meeting on August 11th for more details. The Zoom link will be sent out a day or two beforehand.

<p>Hopefully we'll know which hybrid plan the district intends to use before making our final decision.</p>	<p>We will keep you informed of our decisions as they develop.</p>
<p>I was unable to make the most recent Zoom call (and don't know if/where to find a recording)?</p>	<p>The presentation slides and the video are posted to our website at psharvard.org.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Will outdoor air supply rates (ventilation) be increased in school buildings, including classrooms, and how will the school verify that ventilation is adequate? [We know outdoor ventilation will be increased, just wondering about the verification of adequacy piece.] 2) Does the ventilation system use a filter with a rating of MERV 13 or higher for the air going into classrooms and has it been inspected or replaced recently? 3) Will portable air cleaners with HEPA filters be used in classrooms and other relevant spaces in the school? 4) What guidance for contract tracing, testing, and quarantine/isolation is in place in the event that my child's teacher or another student in class contracts COVID-19? [We know the HPS re-entry plan says we will follow DESE guidance, but we can't seem to find that guidance on DESE's website.] 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The rooftop units which supply fresh air to the classrooms and vents out older air will be running hours before the students/staff arrive at the building. The cycles will continue throughout the day. Verification of the system operations can be provided by Pat Harrigan, our Facilities Director and the company that is contracted to service the units. 2) The filters have been or will be replaced before school starts. The Merv rating on the filters is usually an 8, but we will be reviewing a higher numbered filter. <i>MERV information; A filter with a MERV rating of one to four captures particles greater than 10 micrometers. This includes bugs, dust mites, and household debris. Most window air conditioners fall within this range.</i> <i>A filter with a MERV rating of five to eight captures particles greater than three micrometers. This includes mold, pet dander, and aerosol sprays. This is the baseline for permanently installed residential air conditioners.</i> <i>A filter with a MERV rating of nine to 12 captures particles greater than one micrometer. This includes most dust and common pollutants. Hospital laboratories and superior residential air conditioners fall within this range.</i>

	<p><i>A filter with a MERV rating of 13 to 16 captures particles greater than 0.3 micrometers. This includes bacteria, droplets from sneezing, smoke, and most other sources of pollution. This level of filtration is used in patient and surgery areas of hospitals.</i></p> <p><i>A filter with a MERV rating of 17 to 20 captures virtually all particles. This includes viruses and the finest particles of smoke, dust, and other debris. This level of filtration is typically only used in clean rooms for the manufacture of electronics or scientific experiments.</i></p> <p>3) We are not currently planning to add air filters as we have the air exchange system.</p> <p>4) Please see this document posted on our website;</p>
<p>Availability of rapid COVID testing at the school?</p>	<p>Currently we do not have access to any COVID testing at the school. Students and staff would be referred to their primary care physicians.</p>
<p>How will languages, art, and chorus be taught? Could these be taught outside at least part of the time?</p>	<p>We are still working on this plan. Please see the Dept. of Education guidelines for these subject areas posted to our website at psharvard.org and linked here</p>
<p>Is there an option to hold classes outside?</p>	<p>Yes - We have secured 3 large tents for Bromfield so far. We are also in the process of increasing the outdoor wifi strength.</p>