

FAQ FOR BOARD MEETING AUGUST 24, 2020 - Updated August 27,2020

Contact	Question	Answer
Parent Emailed*	Q. How will the District handle choir/band for remote learners?	<p>A. Choir will be more along the lines of music theory, appreciation and the history of music. Composition, arranging and music production will be elements of in-person and remote instruction.</p> <p>This is inline with guidance received from the OMEA, NAFME. For Band, the concepts being covered for remote learners will be similar to what is conducted in the school. Without performances, theory and “how to play your instrument better-lessons” will be the focus over preparing individual pieces.</p>
Parent Emailed	Q. My son is a senior this year and the majority of his classes are college credit plus being taught in Poland. If he needs to go online how will the course be handled? Will he continue with the same teacher as he would if he were in school-similar to what was done at the end of last year or will it be a different teacher?	<p>Superintendent Janofa is serving on the City University Compact at President Tressel’s Direction as a representative of Valley Districts along with Mayor Tito Brown, CEO Justin Jennings, Sheriff Jerry Greene and the Youngstown City Health Department and Mahoning County Board of Health. Specifically at Poland High School, if the class changes to remote, the instructor would be the same.</p>

Parent Emailed*	Q. K-12 Chromebooks? How will materials be distributed?	A.The District is planning to provide a Chromebook to each student Grades 6-12. Distribution details are being worked out at the building level.
	Q. Will there be an in person open house for students to walk through the buildings?	A. Building Principals are working to provide this option or a virtual option for students that plan to access the remote platform. Orientation details will be forthcoming, and open house details will be released as well.
	Q. Remote Learning-is this synchronous or asynchronous?	A. Remote learners will be in an asynchronous environment. However, daily interaction with remote students will be an expectation of the school day. Time will be provided during each instructional day for Poland Teachers to provide an interactive experience with students choosing to execute the remote experience.
	Q. Will tests/quizzes be synchronous or asynchronous?	A.Department Chairs at PSHS are meeting tomorrow to discuss. Synchronous is preferred-different test forms A/B, different time frames are all options being discussed. Expectation is that the staff is working to reduce multiple tests per day and do the best to promote academic honesty.
	Q. I understand that in-person students are	A.Google Classroom will remain a part of both in

	using Google Classroom. Will remote learners also switch to this platform?	person and remote instruction. The VLA will be utilized as a curricular tool for teachers.
	Q. Do students who are participating in a Zoom session required to have their video and microphone connected to participate?	A.Students have the option to participate in a Zoom session with audio only. Students can make arrangements with teachers if needs arise. If a student is participating in a testing scenario, they need to be visible to teachers to ensure academic honesty.
Parent Emailed*	Q. If my child starts in person, but is not comfortable, can they switch to remote?	A.Students will be permitted to make one switch per 9 week period i.e. remote to in person, or in person to remote.
	Q. Will there be an orientation for students?	A.PSHS will have a virtual and in person orientation for freshmen.
	Q. If my child is assigned to the VLA platform will they have access to Poland teachers, or will they be taught by VLA Teachers?	A.Poland Teachers will be providing instruction to ALL remote learners, encompassing curricular tools from the VLA in in-person and remote settings at the discretion of the classroom teacher.
	Q. Will students in the remote cohort receive the same curriculum and same instruction as those attending in person.	A.The learning standards will be the same, however, instruction will not look the same. The live in-person instruction that occurs within the physical classroom cannot be simulated for a remote environment. Expectations are shared with teachers that we need to make the

		transition from remote to in-person or vice versa as seamless as possible.
	Q. How will the remote option ensure that my remote student is able to join his/her classmates at the end of the first nine weeks?	A. We believe that having our Poland Staff Members solely responsible for both in-person and remote learners maintain this connection to all of our Poland Students and therefore, upon return to “normalcy” we can ensure that the rigorous standards of the Poland Schools are maintained.
	Q. If my student is sick and stays home for a day, will that automatically trigger the remote learning experience?	A. Under a traditional situation, if the student has an illness that is not COVID-19 related, the student will get their assignments and work as they would traditionally receive.
	Q. If my student(s) are quarantined for an extended period of time, what educational environment will occur?	A. Student will follow traditional procedures for obtaining makeup work.
	Q. If my student(s) starts with in person but feels uncomfortable can they change to online for the remainder of the 9 weeks.	A parent may change a student’s enrollment status from Option 1: In Person Learning to Option 2: Remote Learning at any time. However, if moving from Option 1 to Option 2 after the cutoff dates below, the commitment to Option 2 is for the remainder of the current grading period AND the following grading period.

		<p>In the event that a parent decides to Change Enrollment Status from Option 2: Remote Learning to Option 1: In Person Learning for the following grading period, that decision must be made no later than the following cutoff dates.</p> <p>Change of Enrollment Status Cutoff Dates:</p> <p>2nd Grading Period - October 12, 2020 3rd Grading Period - January 4, 2021 4th Grading Period - March 15, 2021</p>
	<p>Q. Are backpacks mandatory?</p>	<p>A.NO. Students in grades 6-12 will be issued a chromebook with most instructional items accessible online. Students can bring traditional backpacks to and from school. Clear backpacks are ONLY a requirement if the student plans to transport items from class to class within the building, as access to lockers will be limited.</p>
<p>Parent Emailed*</p>	<p>Q. Will there be an in-person or virtual orientation for students prior to starting on September 8th? If there is not an in-person orientation, will there be a day that classroom supplies may be dropped off at the school prior to the first day?</p>	<p>A.At PSHS, there will be a small group in person (student only) freshman orientation along with a virtual presentation to be out this week. Kindergarten, 3rd and 6th orientations will be virtual.</p> <p>A.Supply drop-offs will be addressed from the</p>

		building level.
Parent Emailed*	Q. If an entire school is forced to close for weeks, or even for the Fall semester, due to an increase in COVID cases; will those students who originally opted for remote learning be required to remain in the Jefferson VLA guided Program or can they switch with their classmates to the Poland teachers Livestream and Google Classroom Emergency Remote Option. IF they cannot make that transition please explain the reasoning behind that decision.	A. If the District is forced to go all remote, all students will remain on remote until circumstances change. Jefferson VLA is a curricular tool for the teaching staff to be used both for the in-person and remote option if they so choose.
	Q. What will a basic day look like for a remote learner? Including, how much/what type of contact with Poland Teachers.	A. It is strongly recommended that remote students maintain a schedule that aligns with the daily in-person schedule. Lessons/Videos/Assignments incorporating a mix of in person and self-directed activities will be components of the remote and in-person experience. Poland Teachers will remain the teacher of record and be responsible and accountable for all instruction both in-person and remote.
	Q. Can textbooks be checked out (even if with a fee or deposit if needed?)	A. Teachers can assign textbooks as they always have. We are expanding access to digital text and resources and have strongly advised teachers

		to be cognizant of the need to reduce how much a student carries throughout the day. Students who are remote will have the same access to physical textbooks and other resources as in-person students.
	Q. If Chromebooks are being used in school as well as remote, what are the differences.	A. Students who are remote can utilize their own device if they choose to. Students attending in person must utilize a school owned device.
	Q. Thanks for the info. I still am not 100% clear in reading this and listening to comments various people have made if the students will be instructed by Poland teachers if on the VLA. It seems like the answer is "yes" when reading the FAQ's, but that doesn't seem to be the consent amongst some other parents. I wouldn't want some mix of a VLA teacher and Poland that may confuse the learning experience for the kids.	A. The Jefferson VLA is a curricular resource that was made available for teachers to use if they choose to do so. Poland Teachers will remain responsible and accountable for the instruction of their students, be it in person or remote. The teachers will continue to provide a high level of curricular content as they always have. We've just provided this as an additional supplement and teachers have the freedom to determine the breadth and depth in terms of using this content. The teachers will still continue to follow the scope and sequence that have been developed in their TBT's.
	I know in the document released weeks ago, it was remarked that the teachers were going to teach live where the at home	A. In response to teacher concerns raised during re-opening committee meetings, the synchronous option is not feasible to

	<p>learners would login and experience it live at the time of the class in school or record the classroom experience to be used by remote learners on a delay.</p>	<p>allow for meaningful instruction. Classroom teachers were concerned with disruptions to the instructional process due to technical difficulties, internet connectivity, and other interruptions or disruptions that occur throughout the traditional school day. It was determined to be too cumbersome to teach, video, manage technology/discipline, and address the needs of each individual student all at the same time.</p>
	<p>Q. Can students carry purses</p>	<p>A.Yes</p>