



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] BRS School Reopening Suggestion/Comments

1 message

Julio & Johana Rodriguez <jaro7981@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 4:05 PM

To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Hi,

I have been thinking about the 2020/2021 school reopening and I have some suggestions. This is open-minded and just providing ideas. I am not 100% sure if my kids will be going back to BRS for in-school as I am waiting to hear the official plan.

- If kids go back to school I think we should have either a 10:1 or 15:1 ratio. The kids should be assigned to one class. In this class, the kids will eat lunch and have all classes taught there from core curriculum to specials with the exception of gym. I think it would be easier if the teachers move from class to class teaching various subjects. For lunch, if purchased, I think BRS would need to invest in a system that would allow them to deliver lunch to each class. Maybe have parents/kids select their lunch options by the 20/25th for the next month. This would allow BRS to coordinate meals for the whole coming month and operate effectively.
- If we decided to do cohorts maybe break the kids into Group A and B. The week that group A is in the building Group B operates through online classes. To manage the in-class students, I think keeping the kids to one class would help minimize everyone's exposure. Maybe have the kids go outside more frequently would help them with the new routine.
- I think it is important for kids to interact with their teachers and friends. Last year was very hard for my son because only at the end did his teacher implement Zoom meetings once a week. For homeschooling/distant learning/hybrid, I think it is vital that the kids feel connected with their class and have a relationship with their teacher. Regardless if we are operating via hybrid or quarantine I think the kids should interact online. I understand some parents need flexibility and they need to go at their own pace but other parents need structure and a schedule. I suggest a mandatory 3 to 5 mandatory zoom meetings per day. It would all depend on the grade. Maybe each teacher can take lead for a specific subject for their grade. I don't know if it is possible as each class and each child has different capabilities. But at minimum a morning/circle time meeting. Discussing current events and going over the agenda for the day. If the work assigned for the day is a review maybe a quick recap. If that day they will be introducing new material then we should have a zoom meeting to go over the material and the kids can ask questions.
- Class Dojo for us was one-way communication. My son was in 1st grade and he hardly utilized the app. He did the work and I either scanned or took a picture. I tried encouraging him to record himself reading and doing more but he was disinterested because I fear he didn't feel a connection with the teacher besides what I read to him. He loved watching the read aloud and the zoom meetings. You could see his face light up.
- As for transportation, do we really need buses? If we could reduce our transportation budget maybe the school could utilize the additional funds to cover the additional expenses we will have this school year. Ideally, I know there are some exceptions, maybe we can also have students dropped off as cohorts. Some kids would get dropped off earlier and some later in the day. The staggering would reduce the initial congestion generated when school beginning or at dismissal.

I imagine some of these ideas have already been suggested but I just wanted to share. I believe thinking out of the box and receiving different perspectives will generate a better solution. Please feel free to reach out to me on my cell (203)623.1679 or email.

--

Regards,
Johana