

Update to Mt. Sinai Middle School 2020-2021 Reopening Plan

Mt. Sinai Middle School reopened on September 8, 2020 during the Covid-19 Pandemic Emergency in accordance with guidelines established by the CDC, NYSED, and SCDOH. The health and safety of all staff and students was a driving force behind all decisions in regard to social distancing protocols, class size, delivery of instruction, and other health or quarantine procedures throughout the entire year. Different phases of reopening (noted below) were developed in conjunction with the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education as the virus progressed through the seasons and restrictions were reevaluated at the local, state, and federal levels of all government agencies. The ultimate goal was to return more students to in-person learning and be fully open before the end of the school year, which we can thankfully say was accomplished.

Mt. Sinai Middle School encompasses grades 5-8 so the district's five phases of reopening affected the students and staff in the following manner:

Phase 1: 2 Cohort Hybrid Model – September 8, 2020 – October 2, 2020

Grade 6- 8 students attended 2 days of in-person instruction and 2 days of remote learning either on Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. Wednesdays included remote learning instruction and extra help via Google Classroom. Instruction was both asynchronous and Synchronous for the different cohorts.

Grade 5 students attended in person instruction four days a week due to reduced class sizes that allowed for social distancing. Wednesday was a remote learning day via Google Class with a minimum of 90 minutes of livestreaming along with posted video assignments for all special area courses (PE, art, music).

Phase 2: 2 Cohort Hybrid Model – October 5, 2020 – November 2, 2020

Grade 7 & 8 students attended 2 days of in person instruction and 2 days of remote learning on their respective cohort days. Wednesdays included remote learning instruction and extra help via Google Classroom. Instruction was both asynchronous and Synchronous for the different cohorts.

Grade 6 students began a four day in-person learning week on October 5 but continued to have their Wednesdays as a fully remote learning day with a minimum of 120 minutes of livestreaming through Google Class as well as posted video assignments for all special area courses (PE, art, music).

Grade 5 and 6 students returned to five days a week of instruction on October 19, 2021 with the return of Wednesdays to their week for in-person learning. This was accomplished in conjunction with the hiring of a dedicated teacher for the fully remote students in each grade for both of their general education curriculum and special education delivery of services.

Phase 3: 2 Cohort Hybrid Model – November 23, 2020 – February 26, 2021

Grade 7 & 8 students begin a rotation of alternating Wednesdays for in-person/remote learning in conjunction with cohorts so that all receive five days of synchronous instruction. All students with IEPs or 504s attend 5 days of in-person instruction.

Grade 5 & 6 students continue to be in school 5 days a week while fully remote students have their own dedicated teachers for online learning. Students have option to return to in person learning at end of second quarter in January 2021 or anytime thereafter.

Phase 4: In- Person Model – March 1, 2021 – April 9, 2021

Grade 7 & 8 students return to five days of in-person learning with fully remote students livestreaming via Google Class simultaneously according to their period by period class schedule. A shortened sport season for winter sports begins with covid-19 testing protocols as per SCDOH.

Grade 5 & 6 students remain same, either 5 days of in person or fully remote learning.

Phase 5: Full In-Person Model – April 12, 2021 – June 25, 2021

Grade 5-8 students are attending 5 days of in-person instruction with the addition of shortened fall and spring sport seasons for Grades 7 & 8 in conjunction with covid-19 testing protocols as per SCDOH.

During all the reopening phases, quarantine protocols were followed and remote instruction was provided to students in grades 7 & 8 via livestreaming. For students in Grade 5 & 6, students placed on quarantine were provided assignments and opportunities for extra help Google Class sessions with their subject area or Homeroom teachers.