



Dear Quest Community,

I hope this email finds you well, and that you are finding time to enjoy your summer. As you know, the DOE has given schools guidance on preparation for reopening in September. To that end, Tim (AP), Devin (AP), Kate (Lead Teacher), Phylicia (Lead Teacher), Rachelle (Guidance Counselor), Erica (Guidance Counselor), Fran (Guidance Counselor) and myself, met on 6/30 and this past Wednesday (7/22), and our SLT met this past Thursday (7/23) to review the potential reopening scheduling models that were provided by the Chancellor's office and to determine which model is best for our school. We began our discussion with the following principles in place:

### **Instructional Considerations**

- Teachers and students will be given a regular schedule.
- Students attend classes either in person or remotely at assigned times.
- Teachers will continue to use Google Classroom and Google Meet.
- As much as possible, teachers will use a “flipped classroom” model in which new material/preparation is given *before* each class in lieu of typical homework, and the synchronous time spent with the teacher is used as a workshop, review, practice, etc., thus allowing the teacher to assist all students evenly (in person and remotely).
- Social-Emotional Learning and Trauma Support will be a part of the back-to-school experience in September, either embedded in curricula, as separate student experiences, or both.

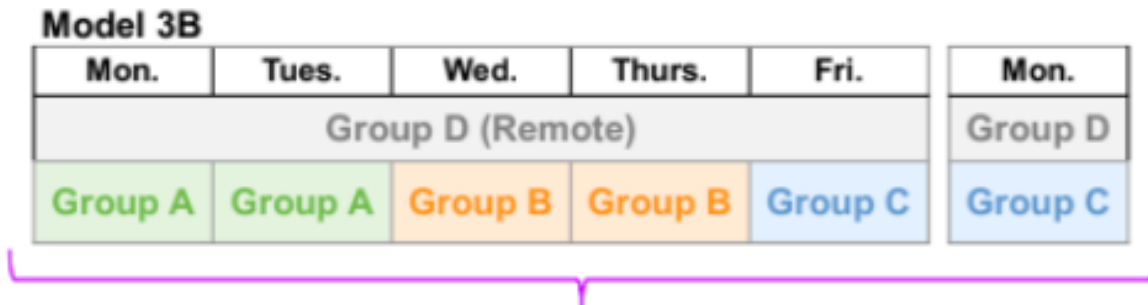
### **Space Considerations**

- Based on our Social Distancing Room Capacity Report, most classrooms can hold 11 students comfortably, and fewer in the repurposed administrative spaces. Our goal is to have fewer than the maximum number allowed in each room.
- Based on our specific school survey results, we anticipate that approximately 20% of our students (approx. 125) will opt for remote-only instruction.
- This would leave approximately 500 students to be divided into 3 cohorts of 166 students (approx. 8-10 students per room).
- We would like to consider the cafeteria and auditorium and potential “spill over” spaces if necessary. This is an ongoing discussion with the other five schools in the building.
- We anticipate that students will eat lunch in classrooms, and we will work out an appropriate supervisory plan for students to each lunch safely in classrooms, though we are considering use of the cafeteria as coordinated safely with other schools.

## General Safety Norms guiding the planning team's work

- School cleaned daily
- Students & Staff wear masks
- Temperatures checked for all upon entry
- Washing hands regularly
- Hand sanitizer in ALL rooms
- Visitor & volunteers limited
- Class Sizes as small as possible
- Students only interact with those in classes
- Busses at half capacity
- Cohorts of 11 students or less
- Maximize fresh air by keeping windows open as much as possible
- Clean high touch points such as door handles, computer carts, promethean boards, remotes, markers
- Minimize the use of shared technology (assign computers, calculators, etc.)
- Minimize shared materials
- Minimize hallway interactions, i.e. stagger teacher transition
- Marked positions in classrooms, bathroom lines, etc.
- Revised protocols for sign in, elevators, hallway and stairwell transitions, entry/dismissal

Therefore, with all of these understandings in place, we opted for a model that includes 3 in-person cohorts and 1 remote-only cohort (model 3b). A graphic representation below:



This model allows for a rotation that goes in order, AA, BB, CC, regardless of specific days of the week. Overall this model allows for fewer students in the building at a time and greater flexibility as students move through their different classes. It also guarantees that regardless of the specific weekday, students engage in in-person instruction every 5th school day, which provides more consistency.

The date for schools to submit their Blended Learning Model, is on Friday, 8/14. As more guidance and information (Teachers applying for medical accommodations to work remotely deadline of 7/31; Families opting for full remote learning deadline of 8/7) is received and planning continues, we will keep you informed. Please know that we appreciate everyone's contribution to this ongoing discussion and that we know the demands placed on you at this time are unprecedented. However, do know that we all share in the commitment to work together to ensure everyone's safety and to ensure that the school year is a healthy place, both physically and emotionally.

All the best,

**Nick Jurman**

Principal

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