

WARREN TECH REOPENING FAQs

Below are some answers to the questions many in the Warren Tech community may have regarding our plan to reopen in September, Virtual High School (VHS), and other scheduling concerns.

1) Why did Warren Tech choose the Hybrid Plan for re-opening?

The Reopening Committee was tasked with creating a plan that provided the best education possible while still abiding by all requirements for safety and social-distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic, as explained in “The Road Back,” NJ’s plan for school reopening, which can be found [here](#). After numerous meetings, it was determined that the only option available that allowed full social-distancing, as required by the state guidelines, and adhered to recommendations from the Department of Health and the NJEA, was the Hybrid schedule.

2) Why did you change from the 5 day, Early Dismissal schedule you previously announced?

The parent survey that was sent to parents in the beginning of the reopening plan process asked how many families preferred to keep their children home from school in a remote learning environment. The 358 responses from families showed that 54% of families would choose a fully remote option. This would have allowed for full social-distancing in the school building if we used large spaces, such as the cafeteria and theater to accommodate large classes. When actual sign ups for the Fully Remote Cohort were put into place, a very small percentage of our population actually chose the Fully Remote Option, leaving us with no alternative but to change the plan to our Hybrid plan to allow for safety of staff and students in accordance with all of the above guidance.

3) Why is Warren Tech operating on an Early Dismissal Schedule instead of full-day schedules?

The recommendation by the Warren County Department of Health to Reopening Committees was overwhelmingly in favor of limiting eating lunch onsite as the large groups without face masks presented a risk of Covid-19 virus transmission. Another positive with this plan is that it provides custodial staff more time to sanitize the buildings everyday in the afternoons to make them safe for the Remote Cohort re-entry from 2:00-3:00pm.

4) What is Friday going to look like?

Fridays will be a combination of teacher “Office Hours” and teacher preparation. During Office Hours, the individual teachers will be available during their scheduled time periods in the Early Dismissal Schedule to assist and support students. By keeping to the schedule on Friday mornings, students will have access to every teacher in their schedule. The remainder of the day is time for classroom teachers to prepare two sets of lessons (in-person and remote) for the following week. Extended teacher preparation time is necessary for our staff to prepare quality, blended learning lessons for students. If students do not need assistance on Fridays, they will only be required to fill out a Guidance Check-in form for attendance verification.

5) What is the Guidance Check-in on Fridays?

Our Guidance team will be available every day on a regular schedule to students to offer support, encouragement, and troubleshoot issues that may arise. On Fridays, students will complete a Guidance Check-in Form that serves as verification of their attendance on Fridays and allows for the Guidance team to identify student social and emotional well-being. Each week, the Guidance team will update the Child Study Team (as appropriate), the Assistant Principal, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction/Director of Special Services, and the Child Study Team (as appropriate), to identify and plan interventions for any students showing signs of academic or social-emotional risk.

6) What is the Fully Remote Cohort?

The Fully Remote Cohort is the option provided for any student who chooses not to come into the building for instruction OR chooses to come in for limited instruction during the 2:00-3:00pm Remote Cohort Shop classes. The state of New Jersey requires that all students be given an option to work in a fully remote program during the Covid-19 crisis if they (and their parents/guardians) choose. More information on the fully remote instructional option can be found on our website.

7) I chose the Fully Remote Cohort for my child. Who from Warren Tech will assist?

Select staff will be responsible for daily support of the Fully Remote Cohort students. These teachers will remain with their students for the duration of the students' time in the Fully Remote program. Each student will also be assigned a Guidance counselor to provide Check-ins and support throughout the remote learning process. If a student has an IEP or 504 Plan, they will also be assigned a Special Education teacher as a resource for support in accordance with their individual plan.

8) Why did you choose Edgenuity for the Fully Remote Cohort?

Warren Tech has been using Edgenuity since January 2020 to provide intervention and credit recovery services to students. Since its implementation, it has been found to be very successful for our students and students and parents have provided many positive reviews to our administrators. By using the same structure for the Fully Remote Cohort as was used for the credit recovery this summer, we are confident students will find success using the platform. Edgenuity courses are fully customizable to meet the needs of students with IEPs and 504 Plans as well as those at-risk for school failure. A virtual tutor is available via Edgenuity for real-time support in each class and a Warren Tech teacher and guidance counselor will be assigned to support your student as well.

9) What are the Remote Cohort Shop Classes? Do I need to provide transportation?

The Remote Cohort Shop classes are available from 2:00-3:00pm Monday-Thursday for any student who is signed up for the **Fully Remote Cohort** option. Students who are attending as part of the A Cohort or B Cohort are not eligible to attend these classes as they are in school from 8:00-12:30pm for two days per week and have their scheduled career shop classes. The

Remote Cohort shop classes allow fully remote students to come in for some in-person career coursework in a small group, socially distanced setting. THESE CLASSES ARE COMPLETELY OPTIONAL FOR REMOTE COHORT STUDENTS. Additionally, no transportation is provided for these classes. Fully Remote Cohort students will need to provide their own transportation for these optional classes.

10) If we start school in person and a few weeks into it feel uncomfortable staying in school, can we switch to remote learning?

Yes. Students in school can switch to the Fully Remote Cohort at any time. However, once signed up for the Fully Remote Cohort, students must remain in the remote cohort for the remainder of the current marking period. This ensures continuity of instruction and the ability to provide all courses in accordance with graduation requirements and state learning standards.

11) If we start the year remotely and a child is really struggling with this program, what are the options if any?

Warren Tech teachers will support students daily via Google Meet, email, or by phone. The guidance staff will provide support as-needed with the minimum of a weekly Check-in. The teacher and guidance counselor assigned to the fully remote student will be with that student for the duration of their time in the program. If the student is struggling, the Assistant Principal and Director of Curriculum and Instruction/Director of Special Services will collaborate with the teacher, guidance counselor, and Child Study Team (as appropriate) to assist the student.

12) What is Virtual High School on my child's schedule? Is this remote learning?

Virtual High School (VHS) is the name for the coursework options provided for AP classes and many electives now offered at Warren Tech. VHS is new for the 2020-2021 school year and was created prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. If your student has VHS in their schedule, that means they will take the course via the Edgenuity platform in school and at home. In school, your student will be in a classroom with other students taking VHS courses. At home, they will simply continue their online course work via Edgenuity. Support for VHS is available via virtual tutors in the courses as well as through the in-school teacher overseeing the course. If your student is in the Fully Remote Cohort and has a VHS class, the course will proceed the same way. Any issues or concerns with the VHS course will be handled by the teacher and guidance counselor assigned to your student.

13) What is the protocol for face coverings?

Face coverings will be mandatory for all students on buses and in any common areas of the school building unless the child's health is adversely affected by wearing one. All staff are also mandated to wear face coverings at all times. Staff members may also choose to wear face shields in addition to face masks. The A/B Hybrid structure allows for safe distancing in classrooms, which means students should be able to remove face coverings while seated at their desks for intermittent "mask breaks." However, it is the expectation that masks will be worn for most of the day to provide the greatest safety for our students and staff members.

14) What is the protocol for health screenings?

Prior to boarding the school bus or arriving at school via car, a health certification will be required to be completed via Genesis, indicating that the student has not displayed any symptoms of Covid-19 and is healthy enough to attend school. Staff will complete a similar certification and screening at the start of their work day. Students arriving via bus and who are dropped off will be screened by trained staff at each entrance to the school building. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher or symptomatic for Covid-19 indicators, will be immediately quarantined in the nurse's office in an area separate from students visiting the school nurse for routine concerns. Students will then be required to be picked up by a parent or guardian. Any student who transported themselves will be sent home via their own vehicle and a parent/guardian will be notified. Any student who has a temperature of 100.4 or above or is symptomatic for Covid-19 will be strongly encouraged to obtain a medical evaluation prior to returning to school.

15) What is the protocol for cleaning/sanitizing the building?

A manual is being created that will be posted to the district website in the coming weeks. It will contain information on cleaning schedules, cleaning products used, ventilation, and other pertinent items.

16) How many students do you plan per classroom?

With our Fully Remote Cohort and the Hybrid schedule, Most classes will be between 8-12 students, with some career classes being even less. This will allow for complete social-distancing, mask breaks, and the utmost safety for our staff and students.

17) Can students eat at school?

Yes, students will be able to eat snacks at school as necessary and according to all social-distancing requirements. However, eating breakfast and snacks throughout the day should be minimized as much as possible. Breakfast, whether provided through Maschios or brought in) should be eaten during the homeroom period and only once a student is seated at a desk in a socially-distanced manner. After eating, the student should put their mask back on and wipe down their own desk with a provided sanitizing wipe. We encourage students to eat breakfast at home prior to coming to school if possible to minimize eating during the school day.

18) What about water fountains?

All water fountains will be turned off to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19. Students are required to bring in their own refillable water bottles. Water stations will be open, but students are encouraged to bring enough water for the day to minimize hallways traffic and allow custodial staff to sanitize the refilling stations as much as possible between uses.

19) Will students be able to use their lockers and locker rooms?

Lockers and locker rooms will not be used during the 2020-2021 school year. Students are expected to bring only the belongings they need for their classes and transport them between classes in a backpack or bag. Locker rooms will be closed. Students will need to wear any

clothing they need for their career shop classes and will not change for Physical Education classes.

20) If rates of transmission stay low/lower more will we revisit adding more in-person class time? If so, is there a specific transmission rate/indicator that would allow for more in class schooling?

We will evaluate all the CDC and DOH data throughout the first six weeks of the school year. Should guidance allow, the possibility of increased school hours will be discussed by the Pandemic Response Team.

21) What will sports look like at Warren Tech this year?

We are following NJSIAA guidelines for athletics offered at Warren Tech this year. Information about NJSIAA return to play protocols can be found [here](#). Warren Tech currently plans to reopen sports on September 14th for fall sports practices, to coincide with the NJSIAA's Phase 3 of the return to play guidelines. When/if the NJSIAA and local health guidelines allow sports, Warren Tech will hold practices from 3-5pm. Student athletes will need to provide their own transportation to and from practice and will need to arrive dressed and ready to practice with their own water. Student athletes will be required to fill out a daily COVID-19 questionnaire prior to arriving for practice. Locker rooms will be closed. Restrooms will be available for individual use. Students will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 by athletic training staff prior to participating in any sports event or practice. If a student athlete shows signs of COVID-19, they will not be allowed to practice and will immediately be sent home. Masks will be required during practice unless students are engaging in vigorous activity, such as running or intense aerobic workouts. Masks will be required when athletes are sitting on the bench during contests and in the athletic training room. Warren Tech will play fewer games than in seasons past, limiting travel. Only varsity games will be played. Travel to away games will be provided by the school. All student athletes will be required to wear masks on busses to away contests and student-athletes will be required to socially distance to the maximum extent possible on the bus. If at any time, it is determined that offering sports is unsafe, Warren Tech reserves the right to shut down the season and/or remove students from participation.