

Brooklyn Technical High School Town Hall Q&A Session
 Hosted by Principal David Newman
 August 5, 2020

| Category | # | Questions | Answers |
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| Electives | 1 | Which electives will still be offered to students? Music? AP Bio? Which will likely be cancelled? Are AP classes still on? Are there any changes in classes for majors? | All electives, including music, major classes, and AP classes will be offered to students in both blended and 100% remote learning instructional formats. |
| Synchronous Instruction | 2 | Can you give us a description of synchronous learning? Please explain how it works. | Synchronous learning means the lessons are being taught in real-time via videoconferencing. Students and teachers will meet at specific virtual “places” at scheduled times. There will be interaction and feedback between teachers and students in real time. |
| | 3 | For those students in living situations that do not lend themselves to synchronous remote learning, what will the alternative be? Will all synchronous classes be recorded and available at additional times? Or will students be penalized for not always having device or internet access at their “scheduled” times? | The lessons will be recorded. There will not be any penalty for those who do not have internet access at their scheduled class time. Students and parents may discuss any class assignment directly with the classes teacher(s) for additional clarification during each teacher’s daily office time. |
| | 4 | Will kids have live/synchronous classes with their teachers if they are home? | Yes, students who are working remotely from home will have synchronous classes. Synchronous learning is a cornerstone of the Tech learning experience. |
| After-school Activities | 5 | Will students have clubs and other after school activities in the next school year? Are students still expected to get 32 club credits for the Brooklyn Tech diploma? | Students will have as many clubs and other afterschool activities in the upcoming school year as possible, but they will all be conducted virtually. Club credit requirements for the Brooklyn Tech diploma will be adjusted accordingly. |
| | 6 | Regarding Community Service Hours: What happens if a student is unable to get the required hours done? | Community service credits will be waived for the graduating class of 2021. |
| | 7 | How will you ensure that students get proper socialization and build collaboration skills, even on online learning days? How will Tech work to build communities in classes online, even if kids never actually meet in person? | We will work to conduct our regular community-building programs as effectively as ever in a blended remote and in-person format. For example, Freshmen Advisory will be held virtually, and students participating in the blended instructional program will also have opportunities for in-person advisory experience |

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| | | | on the days they are physically present at the school. |
| | 8 | Have Fall sports been cancelled? Will they try to play them in the Spring? | DOE has officially “postponed” Fall Sports and it is unlikely that there will be any school sports activities this Fall. The DOE will make a decision about Spring Sports later in the school year. |
| | 9 | In the absence of sports, what will the school do to assist students in branching out and getting involved in other activities? | More emphasis will be given to virtual clubs facilitated by students and mentored by teachers, to close the gap caused by the postponement of sporting activities. “Social, Emotional, Learning Day” will also be rolled out to support students. |
| | 10 | Can afterschool clubs be held virtually? How can we help students hold their clubs virtually? | Every club will have a faculty advisor who will help students organize and run their clubs virtually. Our Coordinators of Student Activities (“COSAs”) will facilitate and provide additional backup support. |
| | 11 | What would social-emotional learning look like in-person and remotely? What activities would be included in this category? | A variety of programs will be provided; support can be provided through private meetings with counselors (both in-person and via videoconference), through advisory, and various on-line and in-person lessons. Special “SEL” Days similar to the ones we offered this past Spring will also be scheduled during the upcoming school year. |
| Health | 12 | Will the school be offering Covid testing for students? | No. DOE and NYC schools do not offer COVID testing for anyone. However, DOE employees will have priority access to the testing sites provided by the City. Teachers will be asked to be tested prior to return to schools. Teachers are asked to get tested every 30 days. |
| | 13 | If students or faculty test positive, what is the policy for informing families? Will the entire school be informed or just the students/faculty in that particular class? What is the proposed action in such a case? | Mr. Newman referred to the current guidelines from the DOE: Prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student, teacher or other member of the school community feels sick, they should stay home. • If a student, teacher or other member of the school community has any symptoms associated with COVID (which include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sudden loss of taste |

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| | | <p>or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, among others), they should seek testing.</p> <p>Feeling Sick in School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who become symptomatic at school will be isolated and monitored by a school staff member until they are picked up by a parent or guardian. • School staff members who become symptomatic at school must notify administration and immediately leave the building. <p>Testing: All school staff members are asked to get tested for COVID-19 in the days leading up to the beginning of school.</p> <p>Tracing: In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school, NYC Test + Trace and NYC Health will investigate to determine close contacts within the school. All members of the classes attended by the confirmed case will be asked to quarantine for 14 days.</p> <p>Communication: If a COVID-19 case is confirmed, the school will communicate to all families and students at school.</p> <p>See service update for additional details.</p> |
| 14 | What metric will be used to determine if the school needs to shut down? | If there are more than two confirmed COVID cases from two different classes, the school will be closed for at least 24 hours for deep cleaning and contact tracing. School will not reopen until responsible DOE and other NYC authorities agree that it is safe. |
| 15 | How do you plan on managing temperature checks for all students arriving at school? | DOE is not requiring schools to conduct temperature checks for all students. Only random temperature checks are in place for students. Students and school staff members should monitor their own health and should check their own temperatures at home each day prior to coming to school. |
| 16 | If your student is breathing compromised and they choose the hybrid 4-day cycle instructional format option, do they still have to wear a mask in school? | The school will make appropriate accommodation for students with documented medical concerns. However, anyone who is not feeling well should not come to school. |

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| NX | 17 | If a student has “NX” for any subject going into junior year a) how will those classes be made up? b) If the work was completed but handed in late, how will that be dealt with? | Grading policy regarding “NX” is determined by the DOE, not the individual schools. Students should speak to their assigned counselors for specific questions regarding NX grades. |
| Staff Medical Request | 18 | What percentage of BTHS teachers have applied for medical accommodations to be in full remote? | Currently, 14% of the BTHS teachers have applied for medical accommodations to be in full remote; however, applying for the medical leave is different from being approved or denied. A separate team from DOE will review the applications and make the final decisions. DOE has not yet informed Principal Newman of the status. |
| Support | 19 | Does the school have extra fundraising needs to implement changes related to covid that families can financially support? | The school might be looking into buying more furniture to practice social distance in the school. |
| PE | 20 | Is it possible to use outdoor space for classes (i.e. Phy Ed.)? | No, outdoor space cannot be used for any of our classes including Phys Ed. |
| | 21 | Will Phys. Ed. classes be taught as live workouts where students can follow along the teachers during the exercise? | Yes, Physical Education classes will be held virtually. |
| Learning Models | 22 | If students select the blended learning option, will they have a single teacher for each class or two teachers for each class (one in-person teacher and one online teacher)? | Students will have the same teacher remotely as well as in person. |
| | 23 | If a student opts for in-person and later switches to remote only, will the student be assigned a different teacher after the switch? If we switch from one option to another do we have to fill out DOE online forms again? Is the change immediate? If not, how long is the wait? | Students will have the same teacher regardless of their learning format choice. Students can switch from blended learning to remote learning as they please. Students need to inform the school of any changes of their learning preference. One can switch to 100 percent remotely anytime, parents need to submit the same form anytime, however, one needs to wait every quarter to switch from 100 percent remote to blended learning. *See Service Update |
| | 24 | What do you mean by stating that certain classes, such as major classes, will have a large footprint in the in-person classroom experience? How would the in-person experience differ from a fully remote major class? | Students’ time in physical classrooms will be oriented as much as possible to major classes. School will try to coordinate student schedules so that each student will be able to have as many or his/her major classes on the one day in |

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| | | | the four-day cycle on which they are actually present at the school building as possible. |
| | 25 | How will you ensure testing equity between remote learners and those receiving hybrid instruction? If hybrid students have timed tests will remote learners have the same? If students participating in the hybrid instructional format have proctored tests, will remote learners have the same? | Tests will be given live in both settings. Teachers will decide the testing formats and timing of the tests. Check with each teacher at time of tests, most likely they will follow the same testing procedures as the Spring Semester. |
| | 26 | Would the option of either 100% remote or blended learning be reflected on the transcript? | No difference will be noted on the transcript. |
| | 27 | What are the differences in teaching between 100% remote versus the one day in person? | Students who select blended learning will be on a rotation for in-person teaching. There will be about 5 in person teaching sessions inside the school per month (which is once every 4 days). Remote learning will track in-person instruction as much as possible. |
| Blended Learning | 28 | Will the day the child physically attends school be the same each week or will it change from week to week? | 1 day of in-person class every 4 days. Schedules are to be announced on or about September 8 th , 2020. |
| | 29 | How many days of live learning will each student receive? | In the remote and the in-person blended learning format, each student will receive up to five days of instruction in the school building every month. |
| | 30 | Will students be kept in the same classroom for all or most of the day to limit exposure? | Students will remain in a single classroom as much as possible, but they will need to move to different classrooms for lab classes or other classes where special equipment must be used, such as DDP classes. |
| | 31 | How will the groups of students attending in person be defined, will it be by grade? | The students physically present at the school each day will be evenly mixed by grade levels. |
| | 32 | Under blended learning, how many students would be placed in each classroom? | Under the blended learning format, approximately 9 students plus one teacher will be placed in each classroom (depending on the physical size of the classroom). |
| | 33 | If a family has 2 or more kids attending Tech and all opt for the blended learning can the school schedule them all to attend school on the same day? | School will do their best to accommodate siblings to attend school on the same day. |

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| | 34 | When will students find out what their in person day is? When will students get their schedule? | School will announce students' schedules on Sept 8 th , however, the first day of school is still unknown at this point. |
| | 35 | Your email says students will likely follow a schedule at home as well as in school. Could you elaborate on this? | For example, if a blended learning student has chemistry class at 10:00 AM in school, the remote learning student who is assigned to the same Chemistry class, will also log in to that Chemistry class from home at 10:00 AM. |
| | 36 | Will the school day be structured? Will there be a schedule (i.e., first period at 9am, second period at 9:45am, etc.) | Yes, the school day will follow a schedule; the schedule will be the same for remote learning at home and in-school learning. |
| | 37 | Could you please give a period-by-period example of how the typical school day would be for a remote student, clearly indicating which periods in this hypothetical day will include live learning vs. just office hours? | Remote students will need to follow the schedule; all classes will be taught at specific times. Virtual office hours will be available for students to have one-to-one interaction with their teachers at the end of each day. |
| | 38 | Will the cohorts be the same all the time? Will majors be grouped with other students in their major? Will Freshmen and Sophomores be grouped according to language electives? | Yes, cohorts will remain consistent. Students in the same majors will be grouped together as much as possible (given that their Math or Language classes may differ). |
| | 39 | What will the locker policy be? | Lockers are all located in classrooms. Students will not be able to enter classes to access their lockers due to social distancing requirements. Therefore, we will not utilize lockers because there is no safe way to do so. |
| | 40 | Are there going to be additional precautions applied to lab activities in the in-person experience? | Lab work will be done individually, in accordance with social distancing requirements. Students must maintain six feet of distance between each other. |
| HVAC | 41 | Do we have an HVAC system in the school? If yes was it upgraded, if no, what steps are taken to ventilate the air properly not only in the classrooms but also the hallways and staircases. | The school does not have a HVAC system. The custodial staff is making certain modifications to the building to ensure proper ventilation in the school including hallways, offices, and staircases, in accordance with the City's guidelines. |
| Fully Remote | 42 | How will lab classes be held for students who opt for remote only? | Labs will also be conducted remotely. Students may be asked to observe on-line demonstrations. |
| | 43 | Will fully remote students have the same range of class choices as hybrid students? | Yes, everyone will get the same choices of classes. |

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| | 44 | How many students have signed up for fully remote instruction so far? | School does not have the data yet. |
| | 45 | Would students that select 100% remote learning be grouped in their own classes, i.e. classes containing 100% remote students only? | No, remote students will be mixed with hybrid students. Seats for remote students will be waiting for them if and when they decide to switch to hybrid learning and come to school. |
| | 46 | Can students switch from hybrid to all virtual at any time? | Yes, students can opt in for 100% remote learning at any time. |
| | 47 | When is the cutoff to make the all remote decision? If it is Friday, is there a way to get an extension? | Yes, you still can apply. DOE policy is that students may switch from the hybrid instructional format to 100% remote instruction at any time. |
| | 48 | Do students need a doctor's note to opt for all remote learning? | No. No doctor's note required. |
| | 49 | If a student switches from blended to remote or vice versa does their schedule change? | No. Students' schedules will be unaffected by changes in the instructional format. |
| Exams | 50 | Will students receive tests? If so, how will they function? If not, what will students be graded on instead? | Teachers will decide on the kind of test or how much each exam will be weighted. Teachers may decide to utilize projects or other options to assess the students. |
| | 51 | How would the SAT, PSAT, Regents, AP test etc. look for students on the 100% remote learning model? | If the SAT, PSAT, Regents or AP tests are offered in person, students will need to come into the school for testing. If the College Board is offering these tests to be taken remotely, then they will take it remotely; no decision has been made yet. |
| Monitoring Instruction | 52 | What guidelines will be put in place to monitor whether or not the learning is going as planned? Will teachers be observed by Assistant Principals? | Teachers are supervised by Assistant Principals and the Principal. The hybrid/remote instructional format has not changed the way teacher performance is monitored or evaluated. Parents who have concerns are always welcome to reach out to the specific teacher, the responsible AP or the Principal. |
| | 53 | What is Tech doing to make sure the teachers not only understand or have support for managing the technology and also are supported with best practice for using it? | Newman is looking to provide additional professional development training to the staff. Additionally, teachers will participate in 30 minutes of collaborative professional development daily before instruction begins. |

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| Food Services | 54 | How will breakfast and lunch be handled at school? | Carts will be set up for students in the hallway to hold the bagged “grab and go” breakfasts and lunches; students will eat meals at their desks in the classrooms. Meals are the only time that students may remove their face masks inside the school building. Periods will be adjusted to accommodate for lunch time. |
| Student support | 55 | What type of additional support will students receive outside of class? Will there be regular office hours or tutoring if needed for students? | Yes, tutoring will be available. Office hours will be available online. Guidance counseling will also be available online. At the end of the day, teachers and students need to leave the building as soon as possible, to give the custodial staff adequate time to clean since Tech is a big building. |
| | 56 | How will related services such as SETSS and counseling be provided to students who select the remote only options? | SETSS and guidance counseling will be provided. SETSS will occur in person and virtually; guidance counseling will most likely be provided virtually. |
| | 57 | How are you going to get freshmen acclimated to Tech and help them make connections? | Brooklyn Tech High School offers freshmen advisory classes to all incoming freshmen. This is a good way to help students with transitioning to our school. |
| Textbooks | 58 | What is the situation with textbooks? Will there be an opportunity to return last year’s books and how will students who are fully remote get their textbooks? | For those students that opted for blended learning, textbooks will be returned or picked up when schools are open. For those who opted 100% remote learning, students will need to make a trip to the school to drop off their textbooks and pick up new textbooks for the new school year. |