

CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION PLAN

(8/11/2020)



Rationale for Plan

- As of the date of this plan, New York State has been under a State of Emergency declaration since March 16, 2020. ALL schools in New York were ordered closed by Executive Order and remain closed still. Under the direction of the New York State Education Department, all schools were required to develop and submit Reopening Plans on or before July 31, 2020. Governor Cuomo decided on August 7, 2020, that Unatego schools will be allowed to open. Part of that plan requires that schools develop plans for instruction of students
 - In person
 - Remotely
 - Or a combination of the two (hybrid) with students learning in person some days and remotely on the others.
- At this time, due to multiple considerations listed in our full plan, Unatego will be offering students in grades K-12 the following:
 - **Hybrid Instruction or**
 - **Optional All-Remote Instruction**

In-Person Learning

- If considerations, including the local and regional rate of COVID-19 infection, allow for in-person instruction at some time in the future, students will learn in a classroom with certified teachers, following guidelines for sound respiratory and hand hygiene.

Remote Instruction

- If circumstances dictate schools be closed for either a short or lengthy period of time, students will continue to receive instruction from home, via one-to-one district provided Chrome Books. Instruction will be synchronous if at all possible, with students following a daily schedule of

classes. This will provide for structure and allow for meaningful and substantive interaction between teachers and students. The District will take steps to ensure that all students have access to technology and ensure that alternatives will be provided.

Hybrid Instruction

- If circumstances remain as they are in July 2020, Unatego will offer a hybrid model of instruction. Students will be in school two days per week, in classrooms where social distancing can be maintained. They will receive instruction remotely on the days they are not in school. Remote instruction will occur asynchronously on the days they are not in school. As above, the District will take steps to ensure that all students have access to technology and ensure that alternatives will be provided.

Optional Remote-Only Instruction

- Parents may opt to choose all-remote instruction for their child(ren) in which case they will be required to commit for a trimester (Elementary) or a semester (Secondary). In an optional remote-only model, instruction will be asynchronous.

Definitions

- **Synchronous Instruction**—Students in a particular class will receive instruction remotely via videoconference (Zoom) at the same time as other students in that class. They will be afforded the opportunity for substantive face-to-face interaction with the teacher on a daily basis.
- **Asynchronous Instruction**—Students in a particular class will receive instruction remotely at a time that is convenient to them and their families. Interaction with the teacher will consist of pre-recorded videos, on-line lessons, scheduled videoconferences, email, and telephone conversations.

Technology and Connectivity

The district will work directly with families who do not have access to high-speed internet in a hybrid or all remote model.

- All students in grades K-12 will be given a district-owned Chromebook to use in school and when learning from home.
- A survey was sent to all families in the district asking about their access to high speed internet and the results of that survey will identify deficiencies from a connectivity standpoint.
- Wi-Fi Access points have been installed in parking lots at the Unatego Elementary School, the Unatego Junior-Senior High School, and the Otego Bus Garage affording 24-hour access to students and families at no cost to them.
- We will work with families including providing them with mobile internet WIFI hotspots on a limited basis.

- Paper copies of instructional material will be provided as needed, as will textbooks and other necessary materials.

Plans by Building

Elementary

There are four possible instructional models that Unatego Elementary School has developed for the 2020-2021 school year. Depending upon the pandemic and local COVID-19 infection rates, one of these models will be selected and implemented at the start of the school year. It may become necessary to transition from one model to another model, at the direction of the Governor's Executive orders, directives from the New York State Department of Education and/or the Otsego County Department of Health. The four instructional models are found in this plan and include all in-person instruction, all remote instruction, optional remote instruction, and a hybrid schedule of mixed in-person and remote instruction.

At this time, parents and students will be able to select either the **hybrid learning model** or the **all-remote learning model**. Based on the number of students who select the all-remote learning model, the district will determine whether to implement the asynchronous (not happening at the same time) or synchronous (happening at the same time) hybrid learning model.

Asynchronous learning means that students working at home will not receive direct instruction through Zoom videoconferencing while they are working on assignments. Teachers will contact students at alternate times to check on progress, answer questions, and 'touch base' with students.

Synchronous learning means that students working at home will use Zoom videoconferencing to receive direct instruction from an instructor while they are working on assignments.

Hybrid means that students will have a mix of in-person instruction and remote learning at home.

All-remote learning means that students will not attend school in-person and will complete all assignments at home using Chromebooks (or paper materials, as required).

Remote Learning Instructional platforms and hardware

- For students in grades kindergarten through third grade, the primary instructional software will be SeeSaw. Students will use SeeSaw to access all lessons and instructional content.
- For students in fourth grade and fifth grade, the primary instructional software will be Google Classroom. Students will use Google Classroom to access all lessons and instructional content.

- Within both SeeSaw and Google Classroom, teachers and students will use: Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, audio and video content, and other programs as needed.
- Teachers and students will also use Zoom videoconferencing to conduct classes, hold classroom meetings, and implement small group lessons.

All students will receive a Chromebook and a computer mouse to use at home.

Daily Schedule

Teachers and students will observe a normal school day: 8:00 AM until 2:50 PM, Monday through Friday.

Middle School and High School

In order to maximize instruction time and limit the work load on students, the schedule will consist of a 6-period day. The 6-period day will allow students to receive better quality and more focused instruction in all core academic classes. Additionally, because of the increased social distancing requirement, band, chorus and physical education will be available online only for all students in both situations.

- **In-Person Learning**-- If considerations, including the local and regional rate of COVID-19 infection, allow for in-person instruction at some time in the future, students will learn in a classroom with certified teachers, following guidelines for sound respiratory and hand hygiene.
- **Remote only (whole school)** – if all students are in remote learning the instruction will be synchronous. Teachers will hold class via Zoom every day during their scheduled class time. All students will need to attend these Zoom classes each day school is in session.
- **Remote only (individual option)** - If a parent chooses remote only for their child(ren) while the hybrid schedule is also running, the instruction will be asynchronous. Teachers will provide the instruction and assignments in Google Classroom for students. The content teacher will be available through email or phone, but will not be teaching the lessons live. There will be a teacher or teachers as a point of contact each day. Students will be required to log into a Zoom meeting with the Point of Contact twice a day for attendance and assistance.
- **Hybrid** – students will attend school in-person 2 days per week and be provided with asynchronous instruction for the other 3 days.

Remote Learning Instructional Platforms and Hardware

- For all students in grades 6-12, the primary instructional software will be Google Classroom.
- All students in grades 6-12 will receive a district-owned Chromebook to use at school and at home.

Daily Schedule

Teachers and students will observe a normal school day: 8:00 AM until 2:45 PM, Monday through Friday.