

Trilok School Fall 2020 COVID In-House Reopening



FAQ

Will my child be in school five days per week?

As long as the school can safely open, all students will be in school five days a week. Our class size is limited to 10-12 students per classroom.

Will everyone be wearing masks?

New York State (NYS) guidance is as follows: “[Schools] must maintain protocols and procedures for students, faculty, staff, and other individuals to ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is used to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when on school grounds and in school facilities. Specifically, appropriate PPE means, at least, an acceptable face covering, which is strongly recommended to be worn by all individuals at all times but is required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. However, if face coverings are to be worn by all individuals at all times, [schools] should allow students to remove their face covering during meals, instruction, and for short breaks so long as they maintain appropriate social distance. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.”

In regards to lunch: “Students do not need to wear face coverings when seated and eating so long as they are appropriately socially distanced. [Schools] may serve meals in alternate areas (e.g., classrooms) or staggered meal periods to ensure social distancing and proper cleaning and disinfection between students.”

It is unrealistic for us to require our youngest students (2-4 years old) to wear masks at all times. To accommodate this fact, students will be isolated within a pod. Their teacher will be wearing a mask all day and enforcing social distancing among students if they are not able to keep their masks on. All students four and older will be wearing masks inside the building. All students will be separated into distinct pods and will not have any interaction with other classes or pods.

How does the “pod” work and what does this mean?

Our school will be separated into closely contained pods, meaning designated groups of teachers and students who will work closely as a group, limiting their exposure to outside parties. We will strictly limit exchange and interaction between the pods within our school, broken down by class, teachers, and shared spaces.

We will have 10-12 students in a classpod. They will interact only with their assigned teachers. The families will make a commitment to limit interactions with individuals outside of the pod, but are welcome to have outside play-dates with students within their designated pods. The classes will not mingle or have recess together. Lunches will be provided by the school (*more info below) and served in their designated classrooms, with students sitting at individual desks, at least 6 ft apart.

What is the school lunch program?

In order to prevent contamination or exposure through food, we will employ a certified, licensed food provider to serve separate, in-house-prepared meals to all students in the fall.

All food will be prepared on-site by a certified, licensed food provider and served to each student in an individual, disposable, environmentally friendly container. Student's plates will be disposed of at the end of each meal.

All meals will be meat and nut free. We are able to offer gluten and dairy free alternatives everyday as well.

Our lunch menu provides a wide variety of fresh, healthy, and locally-sourced foods (some as local as our own Trilok garden!) If for some reason your child just isn't in the mood for our daily menu, we always will have staples at the ready (e.g. plain white rice, noodles, plain veggies, boiled eggs, etc.) In addition, we are providing salad and fresh fruits daily.

Will the students go outside?

We have three large, contained, outdoor spaces. Our building includes two rooftops that are safe and contained, as well as a spacious garden. Each outdoor space will be designated for a pod. The students will spend a large portion of their time outside (weather permitting.) We have installed shaded areas/ rain protective awnings making our outdoor areas more accessible. We will hold classes and recess outside daily (unless weather is extremely poor.)

How is the ventilation in the school?

Each of our classrooms and offices include windows that open onto a relatively quiet street. We will keep windows open and we have fans in each classroom (weather permitting.) If we are forced to close our windows, our HVAC system filters the air. If needed we may also install room air purifiers to supplement the HVAC system. This is feasible and safe as our school is only two stories high, in addition to our basement which will also have these air filtration systems.

How do you keep the school clean?

We keep our school clean by employing a dedicated and thorough janitorial and sanitation staff who will deep clean the entire building at the end of each day. Additionally, all of our teachers will be prepped in effectively cleaning and sanitizing their own spaces throughout the day. While we already prioritize cleanliness and hygiene as daily practice among our entire staff and students, we will reiterate and closely enforce the priority of maintaining a clean and hygienic classroom throughout the day.

What if my child is sick?

PLEASE DO NOT bring a sick child to school as it will lead to the child being isolated/quarantined and sent home. If a child displays symptoms at school, after being isolated from the other staff and students, their parents will be immediately notified and responsible for examining their child's symptoms. The student must stay home until all symptoms subside and a negative test result is procured. If a child is sent home from school for covid-like symptoms, returning to school will require not only an absence of symptoms, but additionally either completing a period of quarantine or receiving negative results from an official COVID-19 test and clearance from a medical provider. Families will be informed of the new procedures prior to the start of the school year.

What happens if a case of Covid-19 is detected in the school?

If an individual at our school tests positive for COVID-19, our entire school will close for two days for sanitation and aeration. Students and staff will return after these two days, unless they belong to the pod of the person who has tested positive for COVID-19. The families of the entire pod that the individual who has tested positive belongs to will be notified, keeping the sick person's identity private, and each student and their household will be required to take a test and receive negative results before returning. Simultaneously, while Trilok will enact this set protocol, administration will be closely corresponding with local health officials, informing them of any cases, and deferring to their judgement whenever possible.

Can I escort my child into the school at drop-off?

Unfortunately no, for the well-being of both you and your child! Each child will be signed in outside the school. Each student and the adult who drops them off at school will have their temperature taken daily before entering the building, as will our entire staff. One of our administrators then will escort the student to their classroom.

If the school needs to close, what will be the protocol?

If the school needs to close at any capacity, whether this be for the two days of sanitation and aeration after an individual tests positive, or for a select pod awaiting test results, or our entire school needs to close, we will immediately relocate to virtual learning. After last spring, our teachers are more comfortable with virtual learning and have experienced what does and what does not work in order to ensure this is an effective form of education. We will additionally be holding extensive, required staff development for all of our teachers addressing and adapting to the specific challenges virtual teaching and learning poses. To the extent it is possible, we will also make a concerted effort to have meet-ups among pods, held outside in our garden in addition to virtual classes (weather permitting).

What will remote learning look like if the school closes or the city mandates a stay at home order?

If the city is forced to close down again like it did this past spring, all of our classes will be held online. Our teachers will begin the year with a fully prepared curriculum and material in the case of on-line learning. Starting at the next monthly payment, monthly tuition will be reduced by 25%. If the school remains online for the remainder of the school year, the balance of community fees will be refunded. Once the school resumes in person, prices will return to the usual rate.
