



August 5, 2020

Dear School Community:

School leaders throughout New Jersey remain focused on crafting reopening plans in accordance with the state's Restart & Recovery Plan: The Road Back. That plan was adjusted as recently as Friday with new expectations for a fulltime remote option available to all students. Also last week, new recommendations circulated from the CDC and new COVID-19 hotspots emerged throughout the country. The takeaway from all of this is that change may be our only constant both during planning for reopening and executing those plans throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The CMC Technical High School expects to fine-tune our Return to School Plan for the duration of summer. However, we do want to share our preliminary scheduling decisions with our families so you can begin to plan accordingly. Please understand these preliminary plans must be reviewed by the NJ Department of Education for compliance and then receive approval by the Board of Education, before we consider them official. Even then, we must remain open to changes as the public health situation evolves.

In September the Cape May Technical High School will reopen with a **hybrid learning environment** that will provide a combination of in-person and at-home remote instruction. Our formidable challenge has been in striking a balance between implementing the CDC's Health Guidelines and Considerations for Schools and maximizing in-person instruction. The hybrid model emerged as our best option for accomplishing this balance given our populations, our efficient operations (meaning we have very few unused rooms and no idle teachers), and the Technical careers for all students in district.

We also believe opening with a hybrid model is how our district can best comply with the health guidelines aimed at slowing and/or preventing the spread of COVID-19. We will focus primarily on the three main principles emphasized by the CDC, state and local departments of health, and medical advisors:

1. **Implement social distance guidelines of 6 feet or more, wherever practicable** – The hybrid model will enable us to space students out within classrooms and other areas, because only a fraction of students will report for in-person learning at a time. We also will use our outdoor spaces when weather permits.
2. **Wear properly fitted face coverings** – The District will require face coverings placed over the nose and mouth for students and staff. The district will make accommodations for a student or staff with certain medical and other conditions, which would preclude him/her from wearing a face covering.
3. **Engage in protocol and practice that promotes proper hand-washing hygiene** – Our students will be reminded to wash their hands and will learn proper techniques via signage. We have hand sanitizer stations in school entrances, in classrooms, cafeterias and other strategic places around the school.

The American Academy of Pediatrics noted, "No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk." Therefore, we are committed within the Technical School District to devote considerable time, energy, and resources to implementing the medically endorsed guidelines to create our best line of defense

against the spread of illness in school. Our success as a district will largely depend on human behavior, so we ask for the patience, understanding, and cooperation of all stakeholders to protect the health and well-being of our students and staff.

Cohort Model

To maximize social distancing measures in our schools, our planned hybrid learning environment divides our population into two cohorts – T and H (Tech Hawks) – so that one group learns in-person while the other learns remotely. Students are assigned to cohorts by alphabet, career and any other necessary parameter.

The school will notify families during the week of August 17th of their student's cohort for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Cohort Reporting Sequence – TT/R/HH R is remote for all students

Students will report to school for in-person instruction two (2) days per week according to their assigned cohort and will be assigned three (3) days of remote instruction. On days when student cohorts are not reporting to school for in-person instruction, they will be learning remotely either synchronous or asynchronous. This will alternate every two days with a remote facilitation day scheduled in between (usually on Wednesdays, unless indicated otherwise in the school calendar). With a few exceptions during shortened school weeks, we refer to our cohort reporting sequence, Monday through Friday, as TT/R/HH repeat. Please refer to the attached flyer and district website calendar for a cohort explanation: www.capemaytech.com.

Full Virtual (Cape May County Technical Online/Remote School District)

The Tech's Cohort hybrid learning model explained above allows for the flexibility needed to adjust to today's ever-changing environment. The blend of in-person and virtual instruction has required our district to spend significant time reflecting on lessons learned in the spring to enhance the at-home learning experience moving forward. This will help us transition to full virtual instruction and if required to temporarily close school buildings again. It also will help us best serve those students whose parents/guardians may have opted for the full virtual learning at the start of school in September.

Families have the option to choose the fulltime virtual option for their student, but we strongly recommend that students attend school with the reopening plan we have in place. We know many academic, as well as social and emotional benefits, come from in-person schooling especially for your student's Career/Technical program of study. However, families may ultimately feel that the full virtual option is the best option to protect the health of their student and/or loved ones.

Our past successes to adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic have come as a result of two-way communication and collaboration. We intend to continue making our community part of this process to reopen our schools and focus on keeping our students and staff safe. Thank you for receiving these preliminary schedules with an understanding that if we truly rally together, we can make the 2020-2021 school year a success regardless of how it looks.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nancy M. Hudanich
Superintendent

Cape Tech Back to School Plan 2020-2021

Tech Hawks

Dear Families,

We have dedicated our full attention to planning for educational needs while keeping health and safety paramount in preparation for the new school year. Our goal is to provide the best educational environment possible while also ensuring the physical safety of all of our students and staff.

This quick reference provides you with our current plan. As we receive more information and guidance, plans will be provided to you as soon as possible and made available on our website.

Sincerely,

Mr. Steven Vitiello, Principal

Plans at-a-glance

- Schools open for students Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- Hybrid Learning includes In-person two full days with social distancing, and remote learning three days each week (*two days if a holiday week*)
- Every student will be loaned a school-issued Chromebook
- Full-time remote learning is available by request per marking period
- Face masks are required for staff and students at all times
- Daily health screening required for Cape Tech students and staff
- Enhanced cleaning protocols are in place and will continue
- Approval of COVID-19 protocols by New Jersey Department of Health
- Limit cafeteria transactions to prepaid account in cashless system
- Parents/Guardians of special education students in need of related services, will work with the Child Study Team

SAMPLE FULL WEEK

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cohort T In-Person	Cohort T In-Person	ALL REMOTE	Cohort H In-Person	Cohort H In-Person
Cohort H Remote	Cohort H Remote	<i>Cohort T (Tech)</i> <i>Cohort H (Hawks)</i>	Cohort T Remote	Cohort T Remote
SEPTEMBER				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 Staff Training	2 Staff Training	3 Staff Training	4 District Closed
<i>The first week of school, only, is student early dismissal.</i>				
7 Labor Day * <i>District Closed</i>	8 Student Early Dismissal <i>Staff full day</i>	9 Student Early Dismissal <i>Staff full day</i>	10 Student Early Dismissal <i>Staff full day</i>	11 Student Early Dismissal <i>Staff full day</i>
<i>*Holiday weeks</i> <i>All cohorts meet</i>	Cohort T In-Person Cohort H Remote	Cohort T In-Person Cohort H Remote	Cohort H In-Person Cohort T Remote	Cohort H In-Person Cohort T Remote

FAQs and links for more information

Looking for these topics?

- School Year 20-21 Calendar by cohorts <https://bit.ly/2XtFzQz>
- Create Cafeteria Payment Account <https://bit.ly/3gs5yQ1>
- Form to request full remote instruction <https://bit.ly/3fuehQ8>
- Updates, plans and requests for information <https://bit.ly/2Xs0UtU>



The School Day

Staff and students will wear face coverings throughout the school day unless accommodations are needed.

Staff and students will be asked to wash and sanitize their hands frequently and will have routine hand-washing breaks throughout the day.

Staff and students will maintain a safe distance. Students will be reminded to keep their hands to themselves with no high-fives, hugs, or shared school supplies.

STARTING THE DAY

- ~ Students must wear masks on the school bus and at all times in the building.
- ~ Riders must observe social distancing guidelines where possible and avoid contact.
- ~ Students who arrive before the start of the school day will be directed to socially distanced spaces.

SCHOOL MEALS

- ~ Social distancing will be maintained during school lunch periods.
- ~ Surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each meal.
- ~ Students will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands before and after each meal.

