PENN CAMBRIA
BLENDED (HYBRID)LEARNING
2020-2021 OPENING PLAN

<p style="text-align:center">Updated August 12, 2020</p>

Dear Families,

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to wreak havoc on our back-to-school plans for the 2020-2021 school year. On Monday, the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Education released a joint recommendation that schools in areas with moderate community transmission open using either a blended (hybrid) or full remote learning model. While planning for a full re-opening in a few weeks, we have also been engaged in work to position ourselves to adapt as needed and to provide an improved educational experience for our students when remote learning is needed.

*Based upon Cambria County's designation as a county with MODERATE transmission over the last two weeks, Penn Cambria Schools must follow the **BLENDED (HYBRID) PLAN** outlined below. The county designation may change week -to-week but state guidance recommends waiting for stability in the data to change instructional models. In addition, we know that these changing plans are incredibly difficult for students and their families. Therefore, we have developed this plan for hybrid instruction through October 30th to give you and our students some stability.*

We recognize how very difficult it is for our families and our students to adapt to these changes. The health and safety of our entire Penn Cambria community remains our first priority. Our decisions related to instructional planning, scheduling, safety protocols, and more are based on a review of guidance from the PA Department of Health, the CDC, and the PA Department of Education. We do expect to publish an outline of protocols we will follow when we have suspected and/or confirmed COVID-19 cases in our schools as soon as updated guidance is provided by the state. This will include our plans for providing remote learning to students that may be in isolation or quarantine as individual health conditions allow. However, if guidance from the PA Department of Health changes as they learn more about the virus, we will change these protocols.

I would again like to extend my sincere thanks for your continued cooperation and patience. We truly understand that these constant changes are both stressful and frustrating. The district will continue to do our best to act upon rapidly changing guidance and effectively communicate any resulting necessary changes.

Mr. William Marshall

Superintendent

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

- August 31- September1 – Teacher In-Service
- September 2- September 4 - Teacher designated Act 80 days for use in designing remote lessons and ensuring supports are in place for families to ease this transition for everyone.
- First Day of School for Students – Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- Hybrid Learning Plan below will be followed from **September 8- October 30**.
- The Act 80 days originally scheduled for October 12th and November 10th will now be changed to regular school days for students.

BLENDED (HYBRID) SCHEDULE

As per a research study provided by the PA Department of Education, dividing the student population in half, with each half attending school 40 percent of available days, is predicted to slow the spread of the virus substantially. (REL 26)

WEEK OF September 8TH SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	**Group A –** Students Last Name A-L will attend face-to-face **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will engage in remote lessons via Canvas	**Group A –** Students Last Name A-L will attend face-to-face **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will engage in remote lessons via Canvas	**Group A –** Students Last Name A-L will engage in remote lessons via Canvas **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will attend face-to-face	**Group A –** Students Last Name A-L will engage in remote lessons via Canvas **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will attend face-to-face

September 14- October 30, 2020 HYBRID SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Group A – Students Last Name A-L will attend face-to-face **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will engage in remote lessons via Canvas	**Group A –** Students Last Name A-L will attend face-to-face **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will engage in remote lessons via Canvas	Remote lessons for all students via Canvas All faculty and staff will report to buildings. Students will be offered additional support services.	**Group A –** Students Last Name A-L will engage in remote lessons via Canvas **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will attend face-to-face	**Group A –** Students Last Name A-L will engage in remote lessons via Canvas **Group B -** Students Last Name M-Z will attend face-to-face

- Students residing in the **same household** with different last name assignments may be scheduled to attend in the same group rotation. Students will be moved to Group B based on current enrollment data.
- **NO other changes** to the group rotation schedule above will be made.
- Some schedule/class changes may be necessary as we adjust to both the groupings above and changes in class size due to cyber enrollments.

PRE-K COUNTS PROGRAM

The Pre-K Counts program does not allow for Act 80 exceptions or other flexibility in meeting the 180-day learning requirement for children in the program. Therefore, Pre-K Counts children will begin remote learning on September 2nd. They will begin a face-to-face blended hybrid model following the Group A / Group B structure above on Tuesday September 8, 2020. The Pre-K Counts teacher will individually contact each Pre-K family to provide specific information.

REMOTE LEARNING AND LESSON DESIGN

We will be following the existing Penn Cambria curriculum with modifications as needed based on health/safety and this hybrid schedule. Teachers will be planning three remote lessons and two face-to-face lessons per week based upon how to best help students learn content within the curriculum unit.

Penn Cambria teachers are completing an online course focused on instructional design in Canvas as well as working to learn how to navigate and use Canvas as both a student and a teacher. In addition, the delayed start will provide additional time for remote lesson design to start the year.

It is important to note that remote learning this fall will be significantly different than what was provided in the spring.

- All online lessons K-12 will be provided to students using the **Canvas** learning management system. This is a system designed for online learning and provides teachers and students with features that will make for a better experience.
- Students will be provided with an introduction to Canvas and the specific teacher class in Canvas during their first face-to-face instructional period with each teacher.
  - We will be **mailing Canvas login information to each family** in addition to providing this information during the first face-to-face school session.
  - Students in Group B that may have trouble accessing the system for remote learning before their first face-to-face session will have a three- school day extension for lessons as needed.
- All teachers will be following a **standard lesson format** to not only make navigation easier for students, but also to help us improve our online lesson design to better meet the needs of students. Teachers will be designing a full lesson for each class and not just providing assignments.   Each lesson will include an introductory activity, instruction from the teacher, engagement activities, an assessment, and a wrap up.
- Remote lessons will be provided for **all scheduled classes** each day.
- **Normal grading practices** will be used (ex: percent grades).

PARENT CANVAS INFORMATION

Information for parents to help them learn more about Canvas and to share ways that parents can monitor their child's work in Canvas will be posted to our website before the first day of school. There is a parent app for Canvas that we think most will find very helpful.

LAPTOPS

We will again have laptops available for distribution for families in need as we did last spring. We will provide information about laptop distribution before the first day of school.

We are hopeful our current supply will meet the needs of families without computer access at home for the student. However, to be sure we can meet the needs of all families and to eliminate the need for sharing, Penn Cambria School District has also ordered additional student laptops. Due to current supply issues, they are on backorder and we do not yet have an estimated delivery date.

OFFLINE REMOTE LEARNING

An offline version of the full lessons will be made available **only to those families without Internet access**. This will contain equivalent off-line materials and activities to mirror the online material.

Offline lesson materials will be provided during the face-to-face sessions and materials need to be returned within 5 school days to be marked present and to avoid any late penalties.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT-WEDNESDAYS

We are currently working to develop plans to provide additional student support services for remote learning on Wednesdays for families without Internet access and/or for those who many need additional services. More information will be provided before the start of school.

ATTENDANCE FOR REMOTE LEARNING

Daily student attendance will be collected on both face-to-face and remote learning days. On days designated for remote learning, daily access to and completion of remote lesson activities is necessary to be marked in attendance. There will be some type of assignment and/or assessment for each day of remote learning. Students must complete and submit these within **5 school days** of remote lesson date to mark student in attendance for that school day. Otherwise, students will be marked absent and parents should follow normal school procedures regarding excusal notes.

FACULTY AND STAFF

All faculty, staff, and administrators will report to work five days a week according to regular work hours following established health and safety plan guidelines. In addition to planning and implementing remote lessons, Wednesdays will also be used to facilitate student work groups, support learners without Internet access, provide services for students with special needs, or otherwise support the building hybrid learning plan.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus routes for students will remain essentially the same on designated face-to-face days with fewer students on each bus run which will enable greater social distancing. Pick up and drop off times may vary to some degree from published times as a result. Please note that after the first week, the run times should be more predictable.

MEAL SERVICE

We recognize the importance of the National School Lunch Program for our families. Methods for offering breakfast and lunch service for students on remote learning days are being determined and will be shared with families before the first day of school.