



2021-2022 LEARNING PLAN

Address: 65 Highland Avenue, Peapack, New Jersey 07977

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Population: The Matheny School, an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities, serves day students ages 3-21 placed by sending districts or the state of New Jersey.

This plan was created with adherence to The New Jersey Department of Education's Restart and Recovery Plan, "*The Road Forward*," The New Jersey Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control's Guiding Principles.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING - When we have adequate space and appropriate staffing to safely reopen 5 days a week, In-person instruction will be as follows:

Matheny School is a student-driven and family-centered program, which uses researched-based practices, experience, and innovation to think outside the box to help every child get closer to career or college readiness. We promote independence in all our students through positivism, collaboration and teamwork. Families and sending districts are cooperative parties in our committees and community. Adaptive techniques and instructional and assistive technology are used to provide universal access to any activity. The school is made up of Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Specialists, Social Workers, Psychologists, Teachers, Paraprofessionals, School Nurses, Registered Nurses, non-instructional aides, and many other professionals with one goal – continued improvement in standards-based practices to reach students' expectations. While we are a school-based day program, many parents find the respite and full-time services provided by the hospital an invaluable complimentary service.

Normal School hours for students are 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

CONDITIONS FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING - When we open in person:

- Classrooms will be configured to contain pod sizes as advised by the local health department to prevent increased viral load in each classroom.
- The Matheny School has maintained heating and ventilation systems, open windows whenever possible, and maintained filters for A/C units.
- Additionally, Matheny staff are required to use personal protective equipment (PPE), safe hand hygiene techniques and other infection control methods to ensure highest levels of student and staff safety.



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- Visits to the building from non-students and staff are limited. Requests can be made through the school via mathenyschool@matheny.org and will be reviewed by School Health Services, infection control, and school administration.
- Each student will have his or her own bin of school and art supplies, and manipulatives to reduced shared/communal contact.
- Each student will have his/her own technology device (iPad and/or Laptop).
- Signs informing students and employees of proper hand-washing and social distancing measures have been installed throughout the school building. Six-foot distances will be marked to ensure students and staff are six feet apart.
- School lunch is served to all eligible students here at Matheny. Lunch is served individually wrapped to each student. Students eat in classrooms and/or cafeteria with their homeroom cohort.
- Recess times will be staggered and organized to maintain the student homeroom cohort
- As much as feasible, students from different residential zones and day students shall be in different cohorts/pods.

While the sending districts are responsible for the transportation of students, there may be instances when students may be driven by their parent.

Sanitation

- Dispensers with alcohol-based hand sanitizers are installed in all classrooms, at entrances and exits of buildings, and near bathrooms.
- Classrooms are sanitized each day following student dismissal.
- Custodians use electrostatic and fogging disinfectant machines.

Student and Staff Health

The Matheny School has developed a Pandemic Response Team to coordinate all efforts connected to COVID-19-related decision-making. The Pandemic Response team will work closely with local health departments, and others in municipal and county government to implement the plans based on current Covid-19 conditions.

BEFORE SCHOOL: Parents or locus parentis must take their child's temperature before sending to school. If the child has a fever of 100.4°F or above, they cannot be sent to school. Parents will be advised to please keep sick students at home. If a child stays home sick, the school nurse will call home and ask the reason and if there was any medical diagnosis. Parents will need to answer "NO" to the questions below before sending their child to school.

- Do you or any members of your household have symptoms of COVID-19 including a fever of 100.4°F or higher?



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- Are you or any members of your household under evaluation for COVID-19?
- Have you or any members of your household been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Have you or any members of your household had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID in the last 14 days?

School personnel will take each child's temperature prior to entering the school building. School nurses will document any observance of signs/symptoms. Symptomatic individuals will be immediately isolated with supervision and sent home.

Staff members will also take their temperatures each day before entering the school. Any staff member with a temperature of 100°F or above will not attend. Staff members are instructed to not report to school if they cannot meet these guidelines.

Contact Tracing: The Matheny School will collaborate with the local health department and engage our school nurses and will follow contact tracing policies and procedures, as well as educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.

Reasonable Accommodations: The Matheny School will provide reasonable accommodations for staff and students at higher risk for severe illness and promote behaviors that reduce spread, such as social distancing, frequent hand washing and the use of face coverings.

All individuals in the building will be required to wear face coverings (accommodations will be made for those that cannot wear masks due to medical conditions). A face shield or goggles shall be worn by staff in addition to, but not in place of, a mask. If a mask with a valve is worn, it must be covered with an additional mask. Reusable cloth masks are not permitted. Appropriate masks and PPE shall be provided by Matheny

All unvaccinated staff members will undergo twice weekly testing in compliance with The State of New Jersey Department of Education requirement.

Parents, district case managers, and staff will be alerted to any updates in the schools' plan or procedures via email, letters, and/or the "Remind" app Alert System.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING: Virtual Instruction

When students are not able to attend classes in-person due to illness or quarantine, instruction will continue to focus on meeting the educational and social-emotional goals and objectives as outlined in each student's IEP. Instructional periods of 40-minute blocks still occur between 10:00 am and 12:10 pm and between 1:25pm and 3:30 pm.



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Teachers, therapists and social workers work collaboratively with parents/locus parentis via phone and email to address and revise the implementation of accommodations in the home or hospital setting. Matheny supervisors provide updated instructional plans to sending district case managers on an ongoing basis. Matheny shall notify the sending district case managers if there are any required changes to the IEP. The sending district is responsible for conducting in-person or virtual IEP meetings, evaluation, and other meetings to identify, evaluate, and/or reevaluate students with disabilities. Matheny staff members participate in all in-person and virtual IEP meetings held by the sending district to which they are invited between 12:15 pm and 1:15 pm so as not to interrupt instruction or regularly scheduled therapy treatment.

Students that learn virtually due to illness or quarantine will have instruction and scheduled assignments provided utilizing Google Suite for Education and Zoom Professional for instruction, communication, and assignment submission. All related services and independent activities will also be delivered remotely (unless a change is made after January 11, 2022) using either Zoom and/or another digital medium as deemed appropriate. Students with 1-1 paraprofessionals who have a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by the district and parent will have the 1-1 in person at either the hospital wing or home (subject to availability and guidance from the Department of Health). Students who are assigned a 1-1 who do not have a signed MOA shall have their 1-1 attend all the sessions virtually.

A student learning virtually due to illness or quarantine will have all course subjects and assignments commensurate with an in-person school day. Assignments and instruction will meet/exceed the four hour requirement. Grading and monitoring of student progress will remain aligned with regular grading procedures.

Since the virtual learning model is aligned with the in-person learning model, and both models are utilizing the Google Suite for Education, it is expected that the Matheny School shall be able to make a quick and efficient shift to the all virtual model in the event of a district-wide closure.

Technology surveys were sent to all families at the start of the Pandemic. All students without a device were assigned an iPad and all teaching staff and therapists were assigned a MacBook Air 2020 M1 Processor device. Individual technical support is provided by The Matheny School. Any emerging technology issues are addressed by teachers and therapists (i.e., one-to-one assistance on how to successfully access technology, providing alternate supports such as email assignments, and paper copies when possible). A technology coordinator is also available for immediate, live support. For families without internet access, paper copies for all subjects will be mailed directly to the child's home.

Attendance is determined and recorded by participation in live instruction, submission of written assignments, participation in individual therapy session, and reporting of illnesses through the school health services office. Any lapses or changes in attendance or participation are immediately addressed with both student and parent/locus parentis via communication from the



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teacher, social worker, school nurse, or Matheny school administration, Additionally, any lapses or changes in attendance will be communicated to the case manager at the sending districts, as required by NJ administrative code and statute and the tuition contract. Adjustments are made if necessary to foster or increase student participation.