



**MARIE H. KATZENBACH  
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

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**MARIE H. KATZENBACH  
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
SAFE OPENING PLAN 2021**



## Remote Learning Plan at a Glance

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## Part I: Introduction

The 2021 – 2022 school year brings a full return to in-person instruction. As per the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and Governor Murphy, virtual instruction is no longer allowed. In the Road Forward, the NJDOE stated, “Local Education Agencies (LEA) must plan to provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year.” However, the district is also required to annually approve an Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan as designated under Chapter 27. This plan would be implemented during a Katzenbach closure lasting more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, public health emergency, or directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure. The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf has developed the below plan to ensure that Katzenbach satisfies the requirements governed under Chapter 27.

### **Remote Instruction Plan for School Closure**

The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf has developed an educational plan for remote instruction when schools need to be closed due to the conditions and criteria outlined in the “Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instructional Programs for the 2021-2022 School Year” broadcast. This plan includes guidance in the event of a declared emergency resulting in a school-wide closure. P.L.2020, c.27 enabled the continuity of instruction in the event of a closure lasting more than three consecutive days, so that districts could use virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:7F-9.

Although Katzenbach realizes that there is no substitute for in-person teaching and learning in students and staff; respectively, this plan will ensure meaningful remote education for students through online instruction and project-based learning opportunities. This plan will also articulate provisions for all of our special education students, meal distribution to eligible students, other related services as well as access to the Educational Resource Center for after school tutoring.

## Part II: Equitable Access to Instruction for All Students

For the 2021-2022 academic school year, virtual or remote instruction will be provided to students if an approved situation arises. Katzenbach staff will post information and assignments, as well as instruction and feedback, through Google Classroom, Zoom, and/or email. Educational activities and materials will be differentiated to meet the learning needs of the specific grade level class or student.

The following information will provide specifics as to how instruction will occur during each designated school day according to the Remote Instruction Plan:

## **Curriculum and Instruction: In-Person Instruction**

School Hours: Regular School Day

All Programs Pre-School through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. 8:25 am--3:00 pm

This includes 30 minutes of lunch for all students, 20 minutes of recess for pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grades; 5.6 hours of instruction K-5 and 6 hours of instruction 6-12 grades.

### **Delivery of Instruction**

Katzenbach believes every individual has intrinsic worth, that embracing diversity enriches and empowers our community, and that people reach their full potential when encouraged to believe it is possible. Katzenbach will guide and support student growth, empowering them to value their individual learning journeys. During these unique circumstances, this includes developing a process for our educational programs to create and implement equitable learning experiences for each student based on their needs.

Based upon the fact pattern presented that may precipitate an Emergency Virtual or Remote Instructional Program, the following continuum of instructional programs could be offered:

1. Full Day all In-Person
2. Full Day In-Person and Full Day Virtual (Parent Choice) \*
3. Full Day Virtual

Due to the influence and impact of the COVID-19 virus on the educational system, Katzenbach has remained focused on the following guiding principles:

- Health, safety, and wellness of students and staff is a top priority.
- Maintain continuity of learning.
- Facilitate equity and ease of access to communications and resources.
- Flexibility to accommodate the needs of all learners.

### **Overview of Schedule Design:**

#### **1. Full Day In-Person Model**

Full day all in-person instruction provided for all students.

#### **2. Full Day In-Person and Full Day Virtual (Parent Choice)**

Should the Governor and NJDOE allow for parental choice the district will be prepared to pivot our instructional model that would include: full day in-person instruction or full day virtual/remote instruction.

### **3. Full Virtual Model**

Virtual learning model for 100% of students would include scheduled synchronous learning, live interaction with teachers, and mandatory participation times. This model would be implemented as a last resort due to health and safety concerns. Furthermore, this model may be utilized after prolonged school closures such as Thanksgiving, Winter Recess, and Spring Break if allowed by the Governor and/or NJ Department of Education.

#### **School Day Attendance**

All attendance will be recorded in Power School. For the remote learning model, students must be present on the Zoom session to be marked as present. Teachers will contact the parents/guardians when attendance issues are a concern. If attendance concerns continue, teachers should contact the school counselor and then the school principal.

#### **Technology and Connectivity**

Katzenbach has provided every educational staff person and every student from pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade with an apple computer which are used in school and at home. All of our students and staff have connectivity.

#### **Technology and Instruction**

Katzenbach has identified consistent technology platforms that were used during the 20-21 school year for virtual instruction and continue to be used for in-person instruction in the 21-22 school year. These platforms would be used if there was a need to pivot to full virtual instruction. Training in the use of all platforms has been implemented with staff, (including new instructors, paras), students, and presentations for parents. Katzenbach currently uses the following platforms:

- Google Zoom
- Google Classroom
- Boom Cards
- IXL
- Google Meets

### **[Part III- Provisions for our Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Multiply Disabled Students, and Related Services](#)**

#### **Special Education**

Every child and adolescent with a disability is entitled to a free and appropriate education including special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP). All of Katzenbach students receive special education services and have IEPs.

### **Ensuring the Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to Students with Disabilities**

Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and New Jersey state special education regulations, students with disabilities are entitled to special education and related services, such as accommodations and modifications to instruction, speech-language services, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and counseling. Since the onset of virtual instruction, the NJDOE has engaged a variety of stakeholders, including educators, related service providers and advocacy groups to gain insight, share best practices, and consider policies to support districts in providing services to students with disabilities in virtual or hybrid learning environments.

Consistent with guidance from the United States Department of Education, Katzenbach must continue to meet their obligations to their students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible. The NJDOE will continue to update school districts and receiving schools with any additional guidance from the USDE on implementation of IDEA. Specific strategies and considerations for students with disabilities must be critical points of discussion for every return-to-school scenario. The NJDOE recommends that school districts consider the following when addressing the education of students with disabilities for the 2021-2022 academic school year:

#### **Special Education Delivery of Virtual Instruction**

- Similarly, to in-person instruction, the principles of ASL/English Bilingual Strategies are applied to every area of the curriculum in order to meet the communication needs of our diverse learners from pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Instruction in grades K-12 is delivered in a blended model that includes synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities.
- Daily materials include specific assignments for students, as well as time for independent practice of skills and/or strategies introduced.
- Asynchronous learning experiences are crafted to advance student learning that is aligned with grade-level specific NJSLs. Teachers are able to view student work in “real time” as well as to receive student work for review, and to provide feedback in a timely manner.
- Teachers in grades K-12 utilize video conferencing platforms (Zoom, Google Classroom) to provide assignments to students and to offer individual, group, and in some cases, peer feedback. Teachers are able to view student work in “real time” as well as to receive student work for review, and to provide feedback in a timely manner.
- Our teachers in grades K-12 are flexible with due dates, provide choice assignments.

- Our instructors who work with our Multiply Disabled Deaf students understand the challenges of learning virtually and provide live instruction through zoom using a variety of visual materials as well as using a variety of teaching platforms.
- Personal assistants for the multiply disabled students re-teach their student providing opportunities for one-to-one instruction

### **Related Services**

During the 20-21 school year, Katzenbach continued to implement speech and language, counseling, and after school tutoring assistance with homework as designated in the students' IEPs for virtual students through google zoom. If there was a pivot to return virtually, Katzenbach would continue to deliver these related services. The sending districts for Katzenbach students provide occupational and physical therapy services.

### **Part IV- Provisions for School Nutrition Benefits or Services of Eligible Students**

#### **School Nutrition – Food Services: Ensure Continuity of Meal Programs**

Food service operations are managed and provided by Katzenbach's Food Service Department. Appropriate social distancing and safety measures are implemented for meal delivery by our bus driver to the families' homes.

- During a closure, all Katzenbach students would receive a meal distribution on a weekly basis. Since many of our families do not have transportation, all meals will be distributed weekly by our bus driver to their homes. The transportation coordinator informs the parents of the day and time for their food delivery.

Submitted by Joan Krasnisky

Superintendent

Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf

October 27, 2021