



AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOL OF ROME

Student FAQs

Wondering what your kids are wondering about...here are some frequently asked questions from elementary, middle and high school students, and answers from Dr. DiMatteo.

ES Questions

- **Will we get to pick up our own lunch, and choose our own lunch like we do regularly?**

Students will have a choice between a vegetarian meal or a non vegetarian meal. The meal will be served to you in your seat.

- **What time will we be wearing our masks and what times will we be able to take them off?**

Elementary students will wear their masks any time they are moving around. When you are sitting in your seat in class, your teacher will instruct you to take off your mask.

- **Will the playground and field be open?**

Yes, the playground and the field will be open. We will have a schedule for when each grade can use them, similar to past years. Students will have to wear masks during recess.

- **Will we still get to go on field trips?**

For now, we will not have field trips. Hopefully this will change during the school year.

- **Will we get to go outside to have snack?**

- **How many sports will still be allowed?**

Mr. Zaccaroli will be sending out information. If the Italian government allows it, we will offer sports.

- **Will there still be big basketball and volleyball games we can attend?**

Right now, no, but Mr. Zaccaroli is looking into the regulations. I hope we can have some Saturday games that families can attend, since this is a fun part of school. But for now, it will not happen.

MS Questions

- **What is the system of saying hi- can you give them a hug or baci? Or can you only fist bump and shoulder bump?**

Great question! When you first come to school, you will want to hug all of the friends that you haven't seen in a long time...but please, hold back and give an elbow raise as a sign of a hug and friendship.

- **Will there be different time periods for classes? Will it need to be a shorter time than 80 minutes because of air flow?**

We will have the same time periods, with some differences for passing and breaks so we aren't all in the hallways at the same time. All the windows will be open, the class doors will be open, and we are installing high-powered ceiling fans to keep a constant air flow. There will always feel like a breeze in class.

- **Will we still be able to do the middle school trip?**

Thankfully, we have time to decide, since the trips are in the spring.

- **Can people still go home with buses?**

Yes, the bus service will be offered. Students will not be allowed to change buses or bring friends on the bus for playdates.

- **What about bake sales? Will we still have those?**

Not right now. We need to carefully monitor how food is prepared and served. Bake sales are a fun way to raise money for important charities and promote school spirit. So hopefully, in the future, bake sales will be allowed.

- **What will be fun about school?**

School will still have fun parts to it. Seeing friends, learning together with your teachers and ASAs/Athletics will still happen. Fun things like Spirit Days will still be allowed. Middle School teachers at AOSR like to find creative ways to have fun while learning, so maybe some new surprises will come up this year!

HS Questions

- **For us who have a free period during the day, we would gather around in a room (with the teacher permission) where the teacher is not teaching and the room is free. Is this still an option? Or is there a specific location where the free period students go?**

We hope that this will still be an option. It will depend upon how many students have a free period at the same time. Mr. Walsh knows that this is important to students so he is working to make it happen.

- **For the library, is there a special guideline to follow? Such as limitations to certain grades at certain times?**

We have not yet set guidelines for library use. We anticipate that the library will be used as it has in the past, with the Librarian ensuring social distancing.

- **For those who often arrive at school early in the morning (around 8:20) with the school bus, are they allowed to stay somewhere? Since not all teachers arrive that early, and it means that the classrooms are clocked.**

We will have a place for you to go, we will likely recommend that you go to your locker to prepare for the day, that way the hallways are not crowded and will help with social distancing.

- **On the protocol, it discourages students to use lockers, but is it still an option to use a locker for storing and organizing?**

Right now, we cannot allow locker use during passing time. It is too crowded in the hallway. We plan to give a time for students to go to their locker in a staggered manner throughout the day.

- **In the early mornings before 9:00, is the bar open and available for students? Is eating in the hallway allowed?**

The bar will not be open before school. In fact, due to the potential for crowding, the bar will not be open during the day. We will use the outdoor Booster Bar to offer à la carte items during mid-morning breaks. Eating in the hallway will not be allowed.

- **Regarding eating, some students (with the teacher approval), sometimes consume snacks during the class period, is this still allowed?**

Students will have to wear masks during classes. We are looking into allowing masks off when students are seated. We have not decided about eating in class.

- **Will clubs/societies meetings, such as STUCO or National Honor Society be held during lunch time as normal?**

Yes, we expect that this will remain the same.

- **I always go around to say hi to all my teachers who taught the previous years on the first days of school, I understand that it might not be realistic and unsafe, but is it an option for me to do so?**

You should absolutely go to say hi to your teachers. They will want to see you. Just wear your mask and keep some distance. Also be sure that you and your friends are practicing these behaviors before school starts, and on the weekends. We need to remain diligent about our personal safety and therefore that of others on a daily basis. I am sure that you are safe, but we cannot stress this enough. We want all of our students healthy at the start of the year!