



August 14, 2020

Dear Rumson Families,

As we know this September will look quite different for our families; with childcare needing to be secured and schedules that are uncertain, we have made every effort to share cohort assignments in a timely fashion. Please know that the same care and diligence that goes into selecting classroom teachers and assigning middle school students to appropriate courses each summer was also exhibited in this extensive process. We have included the following list of “FAQs” for you below to help understand the cohort assignment process.

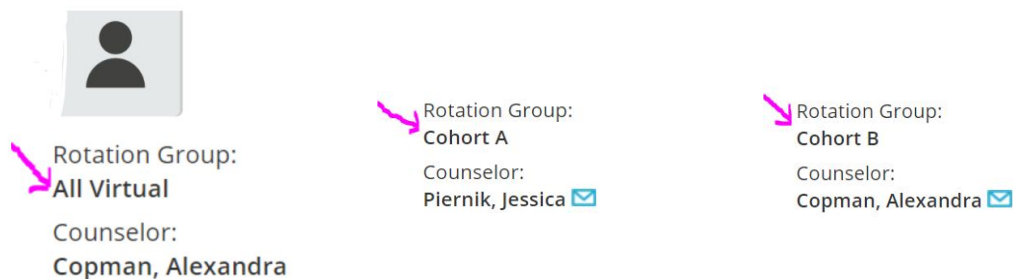
### Cohort FAQs

Question	Answer
1. Are families assigned to the same cohort?	Yes, all children from the same family, regardless of grade (K-8), have been assigned to the same cohort to support health investigations and contact tracing, if need be.
2. Do these cohorts include families who have selected the “all remote” option?	No, all families who have selected the “all remote” option have been pulled out of the A / B cohorts and have been assigned the cohort titled “ALL VIRTUAL.”
3. Can I ask to have my cohort changed at this time?	No, the cohorting process has been completed with multiple factors weighed to determine the assignments. This has resulted in balanced cohorts, by class (K-5) and course (middle school). Therefore, moving one family will cause a disparity and the specific class(es) impacted would not be appropriately balanced. This is inclusive of middle school students who are assigned multiple courses across a given day.
4. Why were the cohorts not assigned based upon alphabetical last names?	In order to balance classes / courses we looked at each class / course separately to ensure such. Furthermore, cohort assignments were developed based upon individual student programming needs and teacher availability to provide both in- person and robust remote instruction.
5. Approximately how many children will be in each class / course, after applying cohorts?	A review of classroom floor plans in concert with furniture arrangement considerations has led to approximately 10 - 12 students assigned to each cohort by class / course. There may be an occasion for up to 15 students to be in one cohort in the middle school, based

	upon leveled courses and electives (STEM World Language) with appropriate consideration for room configurations.
6. What is the distribution of cohorts?	We have worked to create equivalent cohort numbers, from the following perspective: number of students entering Deane-Porter and number of students entering Forrestdale on each day. This is why cohort changes cannot be made.
7. How do I handle talking to my child about potentially not being placed with a friend in their assigned cohort?	Our school counselors are available to meet with families via a virtual conference, as well as to offer social-emotional support materials for families who have a child struggling with any “return to school” concerns, apprehensions, etc. Please reach out to them to support your conversations with your children.
8. Will Pre-K students be assigned a cohort?	No, the students will be assigned a section as per your placement letter. The cohort assignment in Genesis for a Pre-K student will appear as, “PK.”

In order to view your family cohort assignment, please login to the [Genesis Parent Portal](#).

You can view the cohort assignment under your child’s picture, listed as “Cohort A,” “Cohort B,” or “Virtual.”



We thank you in advance for your support in making the start of the school year as smooth as possible during this uncharted time for our students and staff. Many of you have stopped us in the community to thank us for our hard work and dedication and this is much appreciated as we work together to plan the best school year possible. Thanks to this supportive community, the one thing we are sure of heading into the 20-21 school year is that together we are **Rumson Strong!**

Additional communications, including the release of teacher assignments in K - 5 and Grade 6 - 8 student schedules are forthcoming in late August. Until then, relax and recharge for what is sure to be an exciting school year!

Fondly,

Ms. Shari Feeney, Principal Deane-Porter School  
Mrs. Jennifer Gibbons, Principal Forrestdale School