

IN-PERSON LEARNING

ELEMENTARY - MARCH 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

What will the school hours be?

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for in-school students. Fourth tier schools will begin their day at 9:00 a.m. Students will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.; fourth tier schools will dismiss at 4:00 p.m. Your school/teacher will provide the start time for virtual instruction.

Will there be temperature checks?

Not performed at the school. Parents are expected to take children's temperature and screen for symptoms before coming to school so that we limit children with illnesses entering the building.

Will there be outdoor recess, and can students play on the equipment?

Yes, if the weather permits.

Where will the students eat lunch?

The current plan is to have children eating lunch in the cafeteria. If space does not permit, the gym or media center may be used as well. Plans may change in accordance with the public health guidance.

Will my child need to bring a device to school?

You will need to bring your HCPS issued device charged each day you are in attendance unless directed otherwise.

How much time will my child have with their teacher while they are in school?

Your child (in grades PreK-5) will have their teacher in front of them to receive direct instruction while in school.

Will children in school be with their current homeroom teacher?

That is our goal.

Can I pick which days my child(ren) will come to school?

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate requests. The grouping will be based on student transportation and classroom space.

Can I pick which day they come to school if I transport them to school?

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate requests. The grouping will be based on student transportation and classroom space.

Will siblings go on the same day?

Elementary aged siblings will be grouped on the same day.

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Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

How do students social distance on a bus?

Students will be spaced out and all seats have a high back which provides an extra barrier between students. Siblings may be seated together.

Can I drive my child to school if I do not feel comfortable with them taking the bus?

Yes, you can transport your child to school on their assigned cohort day.

When can students take their masks off?

Students can remove masks when they are eating meals or playing outside, as long as they can socially distance.

Will all staff wear masks as well?

Yes, all staff will wear masks.

If I choose not to send my child in two days per week, can I choose to send them in when it is four days per week?

Please communicate with your school to discuss your circumstance.

Will there be another kindergarten gradual entrance where parents can come in with their children?

This is not in the plan due to loss of instruction and space.

Who will the teacher be teaching to, virtual or in-person students?

The teacher will provide live instruction to both sets of students. The teacher will then provide instructions as to who will work independently through a playlist or other activity. The teacher will work in a small group with the remaining students, virtual and in-person.

Will students be learning from the same room all day?

Our goal is to limit student transitions throughout the day; however, special areas or other needs groups may take place in their respective classrooms depending on the class, activity, or ability to sanitize between each class.

Will students still have their special area classes?

Yes, special areas will be 45 minutes.

Will my child's schedule change?

Yes, you may see a slight change in your child's schedule. You will receive updates from your teacher.

What steps are being taken to ensure my child is in a safe environment?

We worked with, and continue to work with, our state and local health departments to ensure plans that meet current public health guidance. We are social distancing our students, sanitizing throughout the day (washing hands and frequently touched places), wearing masks and not sharing materials. For more information, please reference our Continuity of Learning Plan on our website at www.hcps.org/hcpstogether.

How many students will be in each class?

Classrooms will be occupied at/between 50-100% capacity.

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Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

What can I do to help keep my child's cohort safe and healthy?

Please do not send your child to school when they are sick. Students must be free of COVID-19 symptoms and fever-free WITHOUT a fever reducing medication for 24 hours. Please do not send children that have had exposure to others with COVID-19-like symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19. Encourage and remind your child to practice social distancing and to wear their mask. How these measures are adhered to in the classroom will be considered when determining the need for isolation or quarantine. Additional information about isolation and quarantine guidelines is available via the HCPS COVID-19 safety video available on the HCPS YouTube channel. Please alert the school nurse if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been quarantined because of exposure to COVID-19. If you have further questions, ask your school nurse.

What should I do if my child is sick?

Contact your healthcare provider, and follow health department and The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines as directed.

How will I be notified if a student or staff member who has been in close contact (currently defined as, within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with my child presents with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result?

School nurses are contacting parents/guardians directly if/when an isolation or quarantine is required for a student or an entire cohort.

What are the students doing on Fridays?

The exact schedule for Fridays will be communicated to you by your child's teacher.

What is a cohort?

A cohort is a group of students that is determined by which day or days your child attends school for in-person learning.

Is there before and after school care if my child only attends one day a week?

Please contact your school's before and after care provider to discuss options and additional information.

Will a child be required to have a COVID-19 test before returning to school, after presenting with symptoms?

They may take a COVID-19 test, provide written documentation an alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider, or they may quarantine for 14 days (this results in any close contacts also remaining quarantined for 14 days).

Like universities, will everyone be required to have a negative COVID-19 test before returning to the building?

No, we will not require a negative COVID-19 test. The CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.

Last updated 2/26/2021.

