



IN-PERSON LEARNING

SECONDARY - OCTOBER 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

What will the virtual schedule be now that we are moving towards in-person learning?

The class and bell schedules will remain the same at middle and high schools, including the hour-long lunch and the breaks between classes. When we are able to expand our hybrid to 50% in-person, we will reevaluate the schedule.

Will my child move from class to class?

Yes, your child will move from class to class each period.

Will my child eat lunch in the cafeteria and will my student have an hour lunch at school?

Yes, your child will eat lunch in the cafeteria. If schools run out of space in the cafeteria while maintaining a social distance of six feet, they are permitted to open auxiliary eating areas in the gym, media center, auditorium, or in the classrooms for students to eat. Tables or desks will be arranged 6 feet apart facing the same direction in the cafeteria. Students at home will continue with the hour lunch, with the options of accessing the food sites around the county. Students at school will have approximately a 30 minute lunch and a 30 minute break. There will be potential for students to go outside during their break with their teacher and/or complete mindfulness activities.

Can siblings attend the same day in the hybrid? Can I change the day my student attends the hybrid?

Yes, you may make a request to change the day that your child attends the hybrid, although it may not match exactly to your elementary school student. High school students will attend an A day (Monday or Wednesday) on one week and a B day (Tuesday or Thursday) on the other week or vice-versa. Some middle schools will allow students to attend the same day (Mondays for example) each week, while others who have different classes on A days and B days will need to rotate the in-person days like the high schools. Specific requests can be made to your child's school and principals will consider these requests based on staffing and resources.

Can I decide to keep my child home and can I change my mind?

Yes, you may keep your child at home to learn virtually only. You may change your mind and request to be part of the hybrid. Requests can be made to your child's school and principals will consider these requests based on staffing and resources.

Will my child be required to wear a mask? Will the teachers and staff be wearing masks?

Students will be required to wear a mask during the school day except when eating or engaging in outdoor activities with 6 feet of social distancing. Teachers and staff will be following the same guidelines.

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Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

What can I expect from special area teachers and instruction in the hybrid?

Magnet and CTE Programs

- All students will wear a mask and be socially distanced.
- All students are to use program specific Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as outlined by program instructors and program safety requirements.
- No PPE used by students is to be shared.
- All equipment, tools and machinery that are to be used for instruction will be sanitized after each use following CDC and MSDE recommendations.
- One student at a time working at each workstation.
- Personal hygiene such as hand washing and use of hand sanitizer upon entry and exit of lab areas is required based on program requirements.
- Students are to have no physical contact with other students during instructional activities.
- Surface areas used during instruction will be sanitized between students.
- Teachers will need at least 5 minutes between classes to sanitize desktops, workbenches, and chairs (as necessary) as students will be bringing their devices to class.
- Specific CTE programs have created COVID safety plans that have been reviewed and accepted by the HCPS Risk Manager, and these will be shared with students in each program.

Physical Education

- Students will be allowed to participate to the best of their ability while wearing the clothes they wore to school. Encourage students to wear comfortable clothing to school and safe footwear that allows for safe movement and is appropriate for the weather.
- If students participate outside and are socially distanced by at least 6 feet, they do not need to wear a mask.
- Students who are engaging in physical activity indoors will need to wear a mask at all times. This will impact the intensity and duration of physical activities indoors.

Music

- While in the building, all students must always wear a mask while maintaining a social distance of 6 feet.
- String and percussion students may play their instruments during in-person class.
- Woodwind and brass players may not play their instruments but will assemble the instrument and practice slide/finger placements. This practice will be updated when PPE is acquired through central office, for the safe playing of instruments that require wind to produce a tone.
- When indoors, chorus students are able to respond to the lesson through clapping, tapping, and moving while maintaining a social distance of 6 feet."
- If outdoors, chorus students may sing with masks on, facing the same direction while maintaining a social distance of 6 feet.

Dance

- While in the building, all students must always wear a mask and socially distance 6 feet apart.
- Students will be encouraged to arrive to school wearing comfortable, school appropriate, clothing and footwear that allows for safe movement.
- Classrooms should continue to be held in the large spaces that are customary to each school site to promote safe distancing.
- If outdoors, students may dance without masks on, facing the same direction, and socially distancing 6 feet apart.

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Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

Will there be temperature checks?

Temperature checks will not be 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 my child need to bring a device to school?

Yes, students should bring their HCPS device to the school each day they return in-person. If an HCPS laptop has not been provided, one may be requested when we return in-person. Parents are not required to provide personal devices to students when at school.

How do students social distance on a bus?

Our buses can accommodate 18 seats being used to provide social distancing. Students will be spaced out and all seats have a high back which provides an extra barrier between students. Siblings can be seated together.

Can I transport my child to school if I am not comfortable with them riding the bus?

Yes, parents may elect to transport their child to school.

What can I do to keep my child healthy and the rest of the cohort healthy as well?

In order to keep your child and all the children healthy:

- Do not send them into school when they are sick. Students must be free of COVID-19 symptoms and fever-free WITHOUT a fever reducing medication for 24 hours.
- 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 and contact your child's school to report the absence. Your child may continue with virtual learning if he/she is well enough to participate. Please inform your school nurse if your child tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

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.

How many students will be in each class?

We are maintaining 6 feet of social distance. Most classrooms can support 8-12 students.

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Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

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

They may take a COVID-19 test, provide written documentation of 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 screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.

If I decide to keep my student virtual-only, will it change the school my child attends or the schedule?

No, students who elect virtual-only will remain with the same school and classes in their virtual format.

Will my student use a locker when at school?

Yes, students will be assigned a locker when at school. Students will have limited access to the locker during the day and should be mindful to maintain 6 feet social distance at all times when accessing the locker.

Last updated 10/6/2020.

