

## *Blended Virtual Program Teacher Informational*

### *FAQ's from the Q&A Session March 23, 2021*

1. *Will there be a PreK program?*
  - a. There are no plans for a PreK program.
2. *Is this just for one year? What is the projected longevity of this school?*
  - a. The intention is to continue to have a virtual program long term.
3. *Any idea what staff meetings will look like? Are you thinking that Elem/Middle/High will be grouped in common areas within the school?*
  - a. The information being presented will determine the format and audience of the faculty meetings.
4. *Would "specials" teachers (art, music, library, etc.) work with students K-12?*
  - a. Some examples: an elementary Art Teacher would be responsible for grades K-5. Music at the Middle School level would work with grades 6 - 8.
5. *What would happen to a teacher's position if the eLearning model ceases to exist?*
  - a. Teachers would be subject to the transfer/RIFT processes.
6. *Will students that attend the Blended Virtual Program at this school graduate from their home school or from this school?*
  - a. Students who meet graduation requirements will graduate and receive a diploma with our school's name on it.
7. *Is this program only open to HCPS Students?*
  - a. Students must be enrolled in HCPS to be eligible.
8. *What are the class sizes?*
  - a. The goal is to have class sizes at or below 20 students.
9. *Will students be completing homework, or will that be treated as it has this year since they'll be learning from computers at home?*
  - a. Students will be expected to complete homework assignments when assigned.
10. *Can the high school time be shifted later, considering the research on teenagers and sleep/learning patterns?*
  - a. The high school schedule is in line with the rest of HCPS. This will allow for North Star Initiatives such as dual enrollment at HCC to take place.

11. *When would students typically be in the physical classroom?*
  - a. Students will be attending all classes and complete assignments from the comforts of their home (or other conducive space). Students would be required to take State assessments in person.
12. *I am assuming that the elementary reading and writing Units of Study virtual resources will be available.*
  - a. Our school will be included in the expansion of these programs for next school year.
13. *What if you have only taught in HCPS for one year but are very interested in this opportunity?*
  - a. Currently, applications are only open to tenured HCPS teachers.
14. *How will co-teaching take place in high school?*
  - a. Teachers utilize the model that was used during the 2020-2021 school year where they can continue to team teach and utilize breakout rooms for smaller group instruction.
15. *Will each teacher have a class of students all in the same grade level?*
  - a. For Elementary, Yes. Middle school will depend on enrollment. High School tends to have courses with varying grade levels in them.
16. *Can you elaborate on PLT, and what students might be doing during that time? How might this time connect with project-based work?*
  - a. The planned Personal Learning Time will be an opportunity for students to do one of the following: Receive additional help from teachers (office hours), complete coursework, walk away from the screen to complete work that is not required to be completed in a digital format.
17. *Can you explain how this fits the Blended Virtual definition? Do students ever meet in-person?*
  - a. Blended Virtual is defined by Maryland State Department of Education as: A combination of asynchronous and scheduled synchronous teaching and learning provided by a local school system. The scheduled synchronous instruction can be delivered in person at a school building or virtually from the student's home. Students in the eLearning Blended Virtual Program will only come into the building for State assessments and other social events to be planned throughout the year.
18. *Would a middle school teacher teach multiple grade levels or one grade?*
  - a. Enrollment will drive this. If there is a high demand for enrollment, teachers will be in each grade level, but if the demand is low, they will be expected to teach multiple grade levels.
19. *Would elementary teachers be responsible for teaching all subjects or are there opportunities to departmentalize by subject?*
  - a. Enrollment will drive how the program is staffed and the ability to departmentalize or not.
20. *Will the pacing be the same as if the students were in a regular school program?*
  - a. The pacing will follow other HCPS curriculums.

21. *If a teacher is interested in applying, do they need to put in for a transfer, or does filling out the application serve as indication of desire to transfer?*
  - a. The voluntary transfer process will not be utilized for the Blended Virtual from Home Program. An application will need to be submitted for consideration.
22. *What specific devices will students have?*
  - a. Elementary and Middle School students will use Chromebooks. High School students will use Windows based laptops.
23. *What opportunities are there for teachers to collaborate with other teachers (CFIP, Planning, etc)?*
  - a. Teachers will be afforded opportunities to plan and participate in professional development just like in all other schools.
24. *How would teachers be professionally evaluated by supervisors? Will tech integration be part of teachers' evaluations?*
  - a. The teachers will be evaluated using the same model as any other teacher in HCPS. The integration of technology may fall under one of the sub-domains of the Danielson Model.
25. *Could materials be distributed at the beginning of the year/various points of the year for students to complete activities/labs/projects?*
  - a. There will be multiple times throughout the school year for students to pick-up necessary materials of instruction.
26. *Will reading and math specialists be dedicated to each level of the school?*
  - a. The necessary supports for students will be in place where needed.
27. *For High School, is the expectation the same as our teaching load now? 3 classes a day and the number of preps is considered?*
  - a. Teachers will teach three periods per day and have one planning period. The teaching load will be similar to what teacher's currently have depending on enrollment.
28. *Will this be for Home/Hospital students?*
  - a. Home/Hospital students will be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine if the program will be a good fit for them. The primary criteria will be the ability to attend the live virtual class schedule each day.
29. *Will there be sports offered for high school students?*
  - a. There will not be any interscholastic sports, but intramurals will be offered.
30. *Do teachers have the ability to teach from home with this model?*
  - a. The expectation is all teachers in the program will be teaching from a workspace in an HCPS building.
31. *Where does student centered learning fit into online learning? Where might students have control over time, place, path, or pace? Personalized learning, as one aspect of student-centered*

*learning, calls for student voice and choice, and student pace. If some students can and need to move ahead, how will this program accommodate that?*

- a. PLT is one of the strategies for enrichment opportunities for all students that is built into the day.

*32. Is there a cap for enrollment?*

- a. There is no cap, but the overall enrollment will be monitored for staffing purposes.

*33. Will students be expected to stay in the virtual learning setting for the entire year? Or do they have the option to change their minds?*

- a. The expectation is the students will have at minimum a one semester commitment.

*34. Might staffing need to change midyear if enrollment declines mid-year?*

- a. Staffing is not anticipated to change midyear as other students may be enrolling at that time as well.

*35. How will you foster a sense of school community in this virtual environment?*

- a. There will be a variety of social events throughout the school year as well as programming on Fridays during the school year that will involve students, parents, teachers & staff.

*36. Will the students still have virtual school on inclement weather days instead of closing?*

- a. This is a decision made by the Superintendent for the school district. We will follow the directives that are given to us on inclement weather days.