

Re-Opening - Hybrid - FAQ

Question	Answer
<i>My child has a medical exemption and can't wear a mask.</i>	Masks are required but if a student is unable to wear one we will allow face shields. If students are unable to wear either, special arrangements will need to be made with the administration; also we will be livestreaming all of our classes so students can learn from home. Please ask to speak with an administrator if your student is unable to wear a mask, so we can find the best solution.
<i>Is it all-or-nothing, or can families flip from in-person to all-online and back again?</i>	If a family feels comfortable in-person one week and online the next, that is fine. They just need to limit their in-person days to the days they are scheduled based on their A/B assignment. If a family decides to go online for an extended time, we would ask them to notify the attendance office so we know what their plan is.
<i>What if I have a carpool and they are in different groups?</i>	Contact the office. We cannot make any guarantees but we will do our best to accommodate those requests.
<i>What about lunch?</i>	We will not be providing lunch, at least for now. Students will need to provide their own cold, bagged lunch. Microwaves, hot water pots and the vending machine will be unavailable, at least at the beginning of the year.
<i>What about sports?</i>	We will keep our athletes updated as we have more info to share about sports.
<i>What if I am not comfortable with facial recognition/the body scan kiosk? How will the school use this information?</i>	We will be requiring all students to have their temperature checked in this way when they arrive on campus. The facial recognition goes no further than our internal servers; this is no different from the information on our existing database. Just like all schools, we already maintain student records--transcripts, immunization records, school photos, contact information, etc. Logging student temperatures in this way provides for efficient entry into the school each day, and allows us to establish a student's baseline temperature (we don't all run normally at 98.6). We have no interest in holding this information any longer than is useful for identifying a student who might be getting sick, so the logs will be purged frequently. Students will not be allowed to attend in person without having their temperature taken, until further notice. Students whose parents refuse to have their temperatures taken and recorded may attend our classes virtually.
<i>Will there be any kind of 6th grade orientation?</i>	We do not expect to have our annual "Panther Prowl," as distancing would be difficult. We are exploring ways to welcome our new students; watch for further announcements.
<i>What happens when a COVID case is reported in a school or classroom? Do the exposed students go to full-time distance learning? Do the teachers get subs?</i>	Students will be assigned to classes in cohorts (or pods). This is done to minimize the number of contacts during the school day. The CDC and Panhandle Health say that there is minimal risk of infection without "close contact," which is defined as being within six feet for 10-15 minutes. So the prevalent opinion is that those who pass in hallways or share large areas where distancing is achievable are not at significant risk. In the event that a student tests positive for COVID, that student will be asked to self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days, and be symptom-free before returning to school. During the isolation, he or she may attend class virtually. The students and parents in that student's cohort will be notified that a member of their cohort has tested positive, and they will be allowed to decide whether they are comfortable returning to school; again, virtual classes are available, so no school will be missed. At the same time, we will notify the school population and their parents that there has been a positive test; parents and students can then choose whether to attend class in person or online.
<i>Will there be "mask relief" options available, like socially distant locations where children can go stand outside, take off their mask and breathe for a minute?</i>	Yes. Any time students are outside may be considered "mask relief" time. We have not yet defined the times when students may be mask-free indoors.

<p><i>How will lunch work? If it's in the classroom and not outside, all the kids take off their masks and converse, so won't that defeat the entire purpose of having to wear a mask all day while they weren't talking or eating? Should lunch not be outside in a space set up for social distancing?</i></p>	<p>Students will eat lunch in the classroom or outdoors. If in the classroom, they will be spaced appropriately to mitigate the risk of infection. Obviously, hand sanitizer will be readily available in all rooms. We cannot police distancing outdoors, but will provide regular reminders to students. No designated spot is required outside, as there is plenty of open space. Outside eating will probably be practical and popular through September and into October; beyond that, most students will likely choose to be indoors.</p>
<p><i>What happens if we drop off our student and then they are shown to have a temperature? Is the student moved to a quarantine location along with all the other kids they were around in line?</i></p>	<p><i>The temperature-taking is a quick process, so we are hopeful that students will not wait in line for long. Keeping in mind the "six feet for ten minutes" rule, distancing and efficiency should eliminate the need to quarantine students who were in line. We will check a student's temperature multiple times if the first reading is high. A student whose temperature is consistently above the threshold of 100.4 degrees will be asked to isolate until a parent can come to take them home.</i></p>
<p><i>If my student has a temperature will calls be made to parents? Will the kids be singled out?</i></p>	<p>Yes, parents will be contacted immediately. We encourage parents to check student temperatures at home, to avoid this situation. When a student shows a high reading, we will, as unobtrusively as possible, have them remove themselves from the line to have their temperature taken again, manually. If still high, then parents will be asked to retrieve them. We will have them wait in an area that is apart from the crowd--exactly as schools have always done when a student is not feeling well.</p>
<p><i>How does the school have the internet bandwidth to stream that many classes clearly to hundreds of students at home? Will it be done via Zoom or Google Hangouts? Are they recorded? How much data is getting uploaded every day to a location that can be viewed later? What happens if this option isn't feasible due to technology constraints?</i></p>	<p>Our testing indicates that we will use about 1/4 of our bandwidth, if we conduct our streaming classes as planned. The videos land on YouTube. So the students actually stream from YouTube, not directly from us. The recordings are therefore also on YouTube (unlisted), and links to them are placed on each teacher's Google Classroom page so the students can find them live or for later viewing.</p>
<p><i>What are the options if we cannot keep [student] enrolled due to the extensive internet requirements?</i></p>	<p>Students online at home may or may not spend the entire school day online depending on how the teachers assign homework (for example - students may listen to a 15-20 minute lecture and then be off to work on an assignment). It will ultimately be decided by the teachers.</p>
<p><i>If we do pull our student out due to internet issues will they be able to return for the spring semester or Fall 2021?</i></p>	<p>If you decide to pull your student out, you would need to reapply for the spring semester or the following school year.</p>
<p><i>I want my students to be in the same group as their friends/carpool/siblings, etc.</i></p>	<p>We can certainly try to accommodate those requests but cannot make guarantees. The first priority goes to siblings.</p>
<p><i>Will masked socializing be allowed during school hours? We hope you are looking at opportunities to have the students 6' apart so they may remove their masks as often as possible.</i></p>	<p>Our hope is that the school day will look a lot like normal, just with fewer kids on campus - socialization and all.</p>
<p><i>Will students have the opportunity to talk, stretch, walk and get fresh air at lunch after eating?</i></p>	<p>We expect that kids will have the option to go outside after eating or to eat outside. Much of this is still being worked out.</p>
<p><i>Do masks have to be uniform colors? What are the rules for the appearance of masks?</i></p>	<p>Masks fall under the uniform "Test for Appropriateness" (TIA) in the Student Handbook. Nothing that calls attention is allowed. Therefore, solid colors or patterns are acceptable, but words, pictures, and political imagery are not.</p>
<p><i>Is there a specific time to re-evaluate the current school restrictions?</i></p>	<p>Yes. Our first message was very general so parents can begin to understand how we are opening. We will re-evaluate based on input from Panhandle Health, as often as they make recommendations or give mandates. Please remember there is no clear roadmap for any of this.</p>
<p><i>In the case of low in-person enrollment will families that are comfortable with being on campus have the option to attend additional days each week?</i></p>	<p>Probably not. That would create the possibility of sudden surges in in-person attendance, which would prevent us from maintaining social distancing.</p>

<i>Will teachers address the at-home students and allow them to interact during class, or will they simply just watch the lesson?</i>	The streaming lessons are one-way. That said, teachers will likely find ways to at least take questions from the at-home students, but they won't be able to raise their hands during class, per-se. Some teachers may run more frequent Zoom or Google Meet sessions so they can interact more.
<i>Will virtual learning be offered all year, or if it is safe to go back to school full-time at some point, will virtual learning stop?</i>	It is our intention to continue our online instruction for the duration of the year, regardless of our status related to infection mitigation.
<i>Where will lunches be conducted?</i>	All lunches will be conducted in the student's 4th period class. We will develop a plan for students to eat outside of the classroom on a limited basis.
<i>Can my student wear their smartwatch to school?</i>	No. Any wrist or handheld device that can receive messages or internet via bluetooth is not allowed to be worn by students while on campus.
<i>Where does my student go when they arrive on campus?</i>	This has not changes, with the exception of the "distancing" that we will practice. So students may gather in the MPR or common areas as they always have.
<i>What if I cannot pick my student up by 3pm?</i>	
<i>I need a Chromebook. How can I get one?</i>	Please contact the office and they will make arrangements for your student to pick up a Chromebook. If you request multiple Chromebooks we may ask you to wait on picking up a second one until we ensure that we are able to give each family who requests one at least one.