

Frequently Asked Questions about Back to School 2020-2021

Plan A- In Person School with a Modified Schedule

- Are there plans to have classes outdoors?

Yes, assuming that we have school in person, we are trying to have classes outdoors as much as possible. We're looking into creating some learning spaces outside as well as just giving teachers the option to have class outside. Music and physical education will be outdoors if they are doing singing or anything that leads to physical exertion.

- How are we planning to have social distancing in classrooms?

We are moving desks apart and replacing tables with desks so that students are separated from each other and from the teacher.

- If in-school classes resume, how will sick days be addressed?

Students will not be able to attend school in person if they are sick. We have asked the state for flexibility to truancy rules, and we are cautiously optimistic that this flexibility will be provided. Students will be able to make up work that they have missed.

- What happens if someone tests positive with COVID-19?

A close contact is a person who has been within six feet for 15 minutes or more of someone who tested positive for COVID-19. According to the CDC, close contacts of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days.

- How will recess be handled?

Recess should not be eliminated if schools are operating under a model of in-school instruction with physical distancing. Opportunities for free play, to engage in physical activity, and to practice social skills are especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order for recess to work during the pandemic, we need students to stay in their same cohorts as much as possible, and we can designate zones in order to help students safely comply with physical distancing guidelines. Recess games and activities will not require physical contact. There will be limited use of play equipment that would be passed between or shared by multiple students.

- How will school entry and exits be handled?

Visual cues such as floor decals, colored tape, or signs to indicate to students and staff the flow and direction of one-way traffic. Additional cues may be used to indicate 6 foot intervals when standing in a line. There will be multiple entry/exit points with staggered times for students to enter and exit the building.

- Will I be able to accompany my child to the classroom for drop-off?

At this point the answer is no. We are going to attempt to limit the amount of extra people inside the building.

- Will my child be at a desk the entire time he is at school?

No, we hope to do as much outdoor teaching as possible. For young learners, we will find ways for our learners to move, wiggle and play.

- What will the afternoon learning component look like at the elementary level and will my child be on a screen for multiple hours a day?

Our afternoon will not change much from normal: science will still happen, writing centers, learning centers, and play will still happen but *how* we incorporate learning will change. Our guess is that students *in school* will have much less time on screens than students trying to access content *out of school*. *EX:* Instead of having music inside, we are planning to have music outside. If students are not at school, they will need to access music differently. This process has not been determined yet.

- What is the trigger point for going all virtual?

There are multiple possible trigger points. For example, the Governor, Chelan Douglas Health District, or Labor and Industries can tell us that we can't open our school buildings. Also, there is a common practice when there is a certain percentage of staff or students sick, that schools are closed by the superintendent. We have asked North Central Educational Service District if the standard percentage of illness should be revised due to COVID-19 so we don't have that percentage today. Nevertheless, if we don't have enough staff available to safely open school, then we must close the school building or the district.

Plan B: Continuous Learning 2.0

- One of the challenges from spring was the varied approach by individual teachers. Will there be grade level planning on how online instruction will occur?

The feedback we received after last spring from students, parents and staff has allowed us to put together information about best practices for Continuous Learning 2.0. One of the best practices is *create and communicate consistent expectations within a professional learning community*. A professional learning community is a grade level team at the elementary level.

- Will there be online instruction for grades K-2 students if Continuous Learning 2.0 takes place?

Yes, the feedback we received from last spring from students, parents and staff has allowed us to put together information about best practices for Continuous Learning 2.0. Although teachers were creating differentiated packets for students last spring, there is a clear request for increased online instruction at some grade levels in the case of Continuous Learning 2.0.