

## Harrisburg School District (HSD) Frequently Asked Questions 2020-2021

### **What is the first day of school for students?**

School is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 24, 2020. This date could change depending on guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education.

### **What will Open Houses look like in August?**

We are working on virtual and/or drive-through open houses on each campus on August 18th. We understand parents and students need to meet teachers and become familiar with their classroom before we open on August 24. Please watch for more information from your child's campus.

### **Will the school provide students with a computer or internet device?**

Yes, HSD students will have access to Chromebooks/Ipads as part of the 1:1 program. Chromebooks will be issued to students (who request them) for virtual learning.

### **Will face coverings or masks be mandatory?**

In compliance with the latest ADH recommendations and Governor's mandate, face masks will be required for students in grades 4-12 when social distancing is not feasible. Face masks will be required for grades K-3 during transition times. Face masks will be worn by all staff according to ADH guidelines. Physical distancing will be practiced to the extent practical. If physical distancing can be achieved in certain areas at certain times, the face masks could be removed for a period of time as directed by the teacher and principal. Parents will need to provide masks for their students. These masks must be appropriate for school following the student handbook dress code rules. Acceptable masks include personal masks, disposable masks, homemade masks, handkerchiefs, and scarves. Bandanas are not allowed. Visitors at school will be limited and only allowed with approval of the principal. Visitors will wear face masks.

### **How will children socially distance in their classrooms?**

In accordance with ADH directives, every effort will be made to limit close contact between students. Class arrangements will be used to maximize spacing between students and teachers to the extent possible. (minimize transitions, modify lunch schedules, etc.) Students, staff, and visitors will observe social / physical distancing in as feasible a manner as possible. The 3-foot, 6-foot, and 12-foot distancing recommendations will be implemented as much as possible. During class changes and other transition times, students and staff will wear face coverings. HSD is also exploring the potential use of underutilized spaces in the district.

### **Can I walk my child into the school?**

No. Visitors to the school will be limited to essential activity.

**Can I visit the school, classroom or eat lunch with my student?**

**Will parents and visitors be allowed in the buildings?**

No. Visitors to the school will be limited to essential activity.

**Will bus transportation be provided?**

Yes, bus transportation will be provided for onsite students. If virtual students wish to participate in extracurricular activities (athletics, band, etc) the parent will have to provide transportation to those activities. All students will wear face masks on the bus. Bus drivers will wear face masks as well. ADH requests parents check their child's temperature before going to the bus stop. If a child has a fever or shows symptoms, please do not bring your child to the bus stop. Keep the child at home and consult a doctor.

**Will buses make more trips to reduce the number of students on the bus?**

No, not at this time.

**Will class sizes be reduced?**

No, not at this time.

**How do you intend to provide a safe, sanitized environment?**

The custodial staff will comply with the Arkansas Department of Health sanitation and safety directives. Disinfecting, sanitation, and cleanliness continue to be a high priority on all our campuses. Extra attention will be given on high touch surface areas.

Restrooms will also be continuously cleaned throughout the day. Students will be expected to wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day.

**What happens if a student comes to school sick, or becomes sick at school?**

Students will be screened by the school nurse. If the student has a temperature over 100.4, he/she will remain "quarantined" until he/she is sent home. Students sent home will need to be fever free for 48 hours (without medication) before returning to school, and then will be required to check in with the school nurse upon their return.

**What happens when a classmate/teacher tests positive for COVID-19?**

The ADH controls the procedures to be followed once a teacher or student tests positive. HSD schools will follow the guidance and direction provided to us by the ADH:

RESPONSE LEVELS FOR ON-SITE LEARNING

[Response Levels for On-site Learning](#)

Current guidelines include the following: Any student/staff member who tests positive will be required to quarantine for 14 days and identify all primary contacts. Those individuals identified as primary contacts (within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes) will be notified.

**How will parents be notified of positive tests in school and possible exposure?**

The district will follow the guidelines provided here: RESPONSE LEVELS FOR ON-SITE LEARNING

[Response Levels for On-site Learning](#)  
[School Communication Flow Chart-COVID-19.pdf](#)

**If an individual (either a student or an employee) is exposed to COVID-19, will they be required to quarantine? Will the employee be required to use sick days? Will the student be counted absent?**

An individual identified as a primary contact (within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes) of an individual with COVID-19 will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure regardless of whether the individual displays any symptoms. A teacher who is able to provide instruction can provide instruction remotely and not use FFCRA and/or sick leave. A teacher who is ill and not able to provide instruction will take FFCRA, FMLA, and/or sick leave. A student who is able to work remotely will participate in classes remotely.

**If my student cannot attend school because of testing positive or in quarantine, how will instruction continue?**

The student will continue to work directly with their onsite teacher for instruction but will participate remotely until they are cleared to return to campus.

**If my child's teacher is quarantined for two weeks, what will instruction look like for my student?**

If a teacher is able to continue to provide instruction, a supervisor will be placed in the classroom to monitor students and the teacher will provide remote instruction. If the teacher is ill, a substitute will be placed in the classroom but will follow the teacher's developed lessons.

**Will temperatures be taken regularly?**

HSD will establish a procedure based on Arkansas Department of Health guidelines as we get closer to the start of the school year.

Parents are encouraged to take their child's temperature each day before going to school. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 F or higher should not go to a school site. Students and adults should also screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms should not attend onsite school.

**Is anything above 98.6 considered a fever?**

No. A fever is defined as a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater. We will stay informed of directives from the state and Arkansas Department of Health and will make adjustments according to updated guidelines.

**Can students switch between onsite and remote instruction from one week to another?**

No, students will not be allowed to switch from onsite to remote learning each week.

**Will elementary students have Art, Music and P.E.?**

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes.

**Will elementary students have recess?**

Yes, but recess may not look the same. We will follow current Arkansas Department of Health guidelines. Elementary students will have outdoor play time with possible restrictions limiting the number of students they come in contact with. Additionally, playground equipment will be sanitized.

**How will 504 students receive services? (virtual)**

Students will continue to receive accommodations included in their 504 plans. Teachers and paraprofessionals will provide instruction through Google Classroom and other resources.

**How will special education students receive services? (virtual)**

Students will continue to receive services based upon the students' needs. Teachers and paraprofessionals will provide instruction through Google Classroom and other resources. Work from general education classes will continue to be modified according to each student's IEP.

**Will my child receive therapy services in a virtual classroom?**

Speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy and mental health services will be offered through teletherapy with parent consent when available. Dyslexia services will be offered through live sessions such as Zoom and/or Google Classroom.

**Can students bring their lunch to school?**

Yes

**What about breakfast and lunch?**

Cafeterias will operate at 50% - 66% capacity (unless changed by ADH) as feasible to account for physical distancing during meal times. Students will wear face masks until they are seated. Students will wear face masks after finishing their meal time. If lunch shifts cannot be staggered to accommodate the entire population using the cafeteria, then breakfast and lunch in the classroom or another location may be an option. The groups will rotate on a schedule, so all students can use the cafeteria at certain days or times. All schools will operate in a similar manner concerning use of the cafeteria. Proper cleaning of all areas will be completed after each meal.

**Will water fountains be available?**

No. Students are encouraged to bring filled water bottles as water fountains will not be available. Hydration stations will be available for students to fill their water bottles as needed.

**What happens if schools are mandated to close again?**

This is where “blended learning” for traditional on-site students comes in. With blended learning, students will learn content through in-classroom instruction with their teachers as well as through Google Classroom. Students will learn how to use these Google Classroom by participating in lessons while at school. In the event of a school closure, or if a student becomes ill, students will be able to easily pivot or transition to remote learning at home. Blended learning will become part of our new normal.

**Is Remote learning the same as AMI from last year?**

No. In the event students are sent home for remote instruction, students would follow a daily schedule of live and recorded lessons with their teachers. Additionally, students would complete assignments and continue working on regularly scheduled content. Standard grading will continue. There will be no packets and accountability will be in place.

**What is Remote learning?**

With remote learning instruction will be completely online, without onsite instruction. Students will only come to school for assessments. Parents will also be responsible for providing transportation for any extra-curricular activities. In the event school closures are necessary or a student becomes ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time, students will receive grade level instruction through Google Classroom while staying at home. Students follow a weekly schedule in which teachers provide recorded and/or live lessons and participate in daily assignments from their HSD teacher(s). Standard grading continues under remote learning. Students are issued a district device. Children who are remote learning will receive their instruction in a variety of formats - pre-recorded videos from their assigned teacher, videos from other sources selected by their assigned teacher, or through live video conferencing with their assigned teacher.

**What is the Harrisburg Virtual Academy?**

HSD offers the Harrisburg Virtual Academy for families who want their children to be homeschooled with curriculum content provided by HSD using an online service provider. The child would be enrolled in HSD for courses taken through the content provider.

**What is the difference between Remote Learning and Harrisburg Virtual Academy?**

If you are nervous about going to school due to the current health crisis, but want to come back within the school year, remote would be your best option. If you are currently homeschooling, or thinking you want to homeschool, the Harrisburg Virtual Academy would be a good fit for you.

Families who choose remote or Harrisburg Virtual Academy (HVA) must have reliable home internet access. HSD will provide a school issued Chromebook if requested. Please note before choosing either of these options: they will not look like the AMI work of the Spring semester. There will not be paper packet work. Grades will count. Attendance will count. Remote learning should be viewed as a transitional process in the return to Onsite instruction and HVA should be viewed as homeschooling through the Harrisburg School District. Last Spring, we were instructed by the Arkansas Department of Education to not introduce new learning, but rather just to reinforce previous learning. Remote learning will be as rigorous as onsite instruction, and it will be graded like onsite work will be. Students learning remotely will be expected to participate daily; there may be times when synchronous (a form of learning where students are learning live at the same time) learning is required, and the student may be expected to login during the school day to hear instruction. Other times the learning may be asynchronous (digital and online learning not occurring in real time).

### **How will student attendance be maintained?**

Students who choose on-site instruction will have attendance recorded as normal. Students who choose remote instruction will have attendance taken based on participation in remote instruction. Students will be expected to participate in the virtual environment daily, however, will have some flexibility to best meet the needs of students and families. Student attendance will be required and taken regardless of the learning environment.

### **What is the definition of blended learning?**

Blended learning is when students receive part of their instruction at the school face-to-face with a teacher and part through online delivery.

### **What about families with no internet access?**

HSD is currently researching options to support students.

### **Since students will have been out at least five months in August, what protocols are in place to help students catch up (if needed) from the 4th quarter of 2019-2020?**

We will identify how to address unfinished learning from the prior year by using the Arkansas Playbook: Addressing Unfinished Learning [Back to School Playbook](#) as well as other district developed resources. Teachers are meeting with previous grade level teachers to clarify what students must learn in order to bridge the instructional gap due to COVID-19. Teachers will utilize diagnostic assessments to determine the needs of students and provide instruction accordingly.

### **How will teachers determine who needs increased academic support?**

Teachers will utilize diagnostic assessments to determine the needs of students and provide instruction accordingly.

**How will teachers make sure other students who don't need increased support do not fall behind on current instruction?**

Teachers provide instruction daily based on grade level standards to all students as well as interventions during small group instruction. By utilizing Google Classroom, teachers will be able to personalize instruction for all students. Students can be provided with individualized lessons and activities to either address areas of needed support or extend and enrich to learning.

**Will my child's actual teacher be delivering online instruction verbally via video or live stream?**

Children who are remote learning will receive their instruction in a variety of formats - pre-recorded videos from their assigned HSD teacher, videos from other sources selected by their assigned teacher, or through live video conferencing with their assigned teacher. Students enrolled in Harrisburg Virtual Academy will receive online instruction from an outside provider (APSRC) with teachers who are NOT HSD onsite teachers.

**What is the plan for the students who choose remote instruction and parents have to work and are not available to help teach or have work obligations?**

If you are choosing a fully remote/virtual option, it is recommended students have adult support at some point during the day or evening to assist with completing their work. Students who have chosen remote learning will be required to complete work in Google classroom. Remote students will access their lessons and assignments via Google classroom. Parents should be aware students might need assistance in completing their work and becoming familiar with the online platform. Remote students will not be in direct instruction all day, however, they will have to complete assignments or tasks independently throughout the day/week.

**How long is the commitment to whichever education option we choose?**

We are requesting parents commit to at least a semester when choosing their option so the district can plan for meals, transportation, classroom support and student/staff safety. In the event of an extenuating circumstance (change in job status, illness, etc.) students may be allowed to change their method of instruction by making a request directly to their child's principal.

**Will extracurricular activities and sports be offered in the fall?**

Yes. Many student athletes have currently returned to campus to begin practice based on ADH and Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) guidance. We anticipate there will be sports activities in the fall with possible modifications required by ADH and AAA.

**Will there be any restrictions on band and/or choir?**

We are still waiting on guidance from ADH.