

Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year Parent FAQ

The Forrestville Valley Administration has spent considerable time in planning for the 2020-2021 school year as we navigate COVID-19. However, this is an ever-changing situation and all information provided is based on knowledge acquired at this time. We will do our best to communicate new information or clarification as it becomes available.

All parents are encouraged to review information available on our website, specifically the presentations for both in-person instruction as well as the remote learning to determine the best option for your student(s). This information can be found at <https://www.fvdistrict221.org/> under 'Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year'.

All parents are asked to make their program selection no later than FRIDAY, JULY 31st by completing the following form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yFUiwQhGQh_o6Wxv5ea1jLLp3IbOVlAkAD6eCxd9J2Y/prefill

Due to the limitations of gatherings and building restrictions for visitors, in person forums were not able to be scheduled. This FAQ is provided to assist with general questions and answers. Questions needing additional clarification regarding specific building routines can be directed to the building principal.

Please visit this FAQ often as information will be updated on an ongoing basis.

Health and Safety:

Q: What should I expect in regards to prevention and safety for my students and staff?

A: All staff and students are required to follow five requirements set forth by IDPH and ISBE in order for school to resume in person. These include:

- a) Wearing of a face covering
- b) Social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- c) Symptom screening to be conducted daily
- d) No more than 50 students in any one school location
- e) Increase in cleaning and disinfecting

Q: What if my child becomes sick or needs quarantine due to exposure? What if someone in our home tests positive for COVID-19? If someone (staff/student) tests positive for COVID, will we be notified?

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A: The health department will make all determinations for quarantine requirements as well as clear any individual to return to work or school. In consulting with the Ogle County Health Department, only in rare instances would an individual have to quarantine due to possible exposure if they are wearing a mask at all times and social distancing is followed to the greatest extent possible.

Q: What if someone is showing symptoms or is ill and doesn't want to get tested?

A: They would be required to quarantine as directed by the Ogle or Stephenson County Health Department until they are symptom free.

Q: What are the criteria for a student needing to stay home due to illness? What are the criteria for them being able to return to school?

A: Any student who exhibits any symptoms of COVID must stay home and the district is required to contact the Ogle or Stephenson County Health Department. The health department will complete all follow up with the parents to determine next steps and when the student can return to school. The timelines will vary based on each unique situation.

Q: What are the cleaning expectations for common areas including bathrooms, classrooms, school buses, etc? Who will be responsible for cleaning these areas?

A: The district has purchased a variety of hydrostatic cleaning systems to utilize on a daily basis for deep cleaning of all common areas. In addition, classroom desk spaces will be disinfected prior to any new cohort entry. Buses will use electrostatic sprayer systems after each bus route. At this time, custodians, bus drivers, paraprofessionals and classroom teachers will be assisting with cleaning routines.

Q: What is your advice/suggestion for staff or students who have a chronic condition such as asthma? Since coughing is a known symptom of Covid, what should those who cough often do?

A: Students and staff with medical conditions should consult with their medical professional.

Q: Will the district be doing any testing for covid?

A: There are no plans for the district to conduct COVID testing. Individuals may utilize the testing centers, which can be located on the IDPH website.

Q: Will students that are home sick be allowed to log in for the Zoom session?

A: Yes, students will be allowed to remote into class if they are absent for an extended period of time. Students will not be allowed to fluctuate between in-person and remote learning, so parameters will be established for extended absences.

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Q: Will masks be required for all students? What are the requirements for masks? Will the school be providing them?

A: Yes, masks will be required for all students and staff. Masks are required to cover the nose and the mouth but can be cloth or paper and most follow the dress code guidelines. All parents should plan to provide masks for their child during this pandemic period as a standard school supply and EXTRAS should be supplied in the student backpack in case the mask is soiled, etc. Masks must be washed daily at home, therefore parents are encouraged to have an adequate supply. The district will keep extra masks on hand in the event they are needed. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Nelson at jnelson@fvdistrict221.org for a physician's recommendation for alternative to masking for your physician to complete if you have a child with a medical contraindication.

Transportation:

Q: What will transportation look like, will students have to pre-cert prior to getting on the bus and will families have to notify the school if their child is sick and will not be getting picked up?

A: All bus riders and drivers must wear a mask at all times. Each bus route is limited to 50 individuals and students will be assigned seating charts to allow for as much social distancing as possible. Parents are required to complete and submit the student symptom form via electronic link before the student leaves their home each morning and before boarding the school bus. Symptoms will not be verified prior to boarding the bus, however temperatures will be taken prior to building entry. Failure of the parent to complete the student symptom form may result in recommendation for remote learning. Parents are not required to notify the school for transportation absences. However, they are required to notify the attendance office to report any daily absence as has been required in previous years.

Q: Will social distancing affect bus capacity?

A: It is difficult to socially distance on a school bus. Therefore, the guidelines have been set by a capacity number of 50 and the requirement to mask at all times.

Q: Will social distancing affect how we load and unload the bus?

A: To the greatest extent possible we do want to allow for social distancing. Loading back to front and unloading front to back will assist in these efforts, when possible.

Q: Does my student have to wear a mask on the bus?

A: Every student and staff member must wear a mask while riding the school bus and while at school. Due to the limited social distancing available on a school bus, the use of masks are critical for the safety of all. Any student who refuses to mask, or does not

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wear a mask for the duration of the bus ride, may be recommended for remote learning. This will be enforced for the safety of all.

Q: When school days return to full days or when we are able to begin extracurricular activities after school, will we be able to change our busing options?

A: Any bus change requires contact with the transportation department for review. Changes are allowed, provided we can accommodate within the guidelines of 50 individuals per bus.

Q: Last year my children were consistently on the bus for an hour in the morning and over an hour in the afternoon. Do you have any more details about specific routes and run times?

A: Bus routes will not be determined until all parents complete the planning form, due by Friday, July 31st. Routing will be determined based on these confirmations and the capacity guidelines.

Q: Will additional staff be assigned to ride on the bus to ensure all students are wearing their mask?

A: Due to capacity restrictions there will be no additional staff on bus routes.

Q: If we switch from remote learning to in-person learning will my student(s) be able to ride the school bus?

A: Yes, students will be allowed to ride the bus providing there are no more than 50 students on the assigned route.

Food Service

Q: What will the process be for lunch and snacks?

A: While on a modified schedule, lunches will be a grab-n-go style. Lunches will not be eaten at school and must remain in the student's backpack until the student returns home. Snacks will be provided for all students by the district; alternatively, students may bring in their own preferred snacks. Breakfast will continue to be served as in previous years.

Q: How was having a "snack" time decided upon versus stopping classes at 12:00/12:15 to allow the students time to eat before they leave?

A: The goal is to maximize the instructional time with students during the modified schedule.

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Q: How often and when will snack times be?

A: Individual teachers will determine one daily snack break within their classrooms at the elementary levels and will be communicated with families by each teacher. Secondary students will have a mid-morning snack built within their class schedule, between blocks of morning classes.

Q: Will there be a sack lunch menu so families know what they are paying for in advance?

A: Yes, lunch menus will be provided as has been done in previous years.

Q: Are students required to take the grab and go lunch?

A: Students are not required to take a grab and go lunch nor are they required to participate in the school lunch program.

Classroom

Q: How large will class sizes be?

A: You can expect class sizes to remain consistent with previous years, with a possible decrease in physical numbers due to the remote learning option. Classrooms will be set up to allow for social distancing.

Q: What if my student's class shares equipment i.e. labs?

A: Class projects and activities will be modified to eliminate the sharing of equipment or manipulatives. If this is not possible, proper sanitizing will occur between individual student use and time will be allocated for this process.

Q: With the half-day schedules, will my students be required to log in and complete additional work from home?

A: Students will attend the scheduled class times each day. Homework may be assigned but there is no expectation of 'additional' instructional time after the 5 hour clock day.

Q: How will the reading specialist be meeting with their kids, in the kids' classrooms or in the reading room?

A: Students may meet in the reading room in smaller groups, provided the groups are taken from the same cohort.

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Q: When will class lists and schedules be distributed?

A: All parents must determine their instructional program by Friday, July 31st. Class lists and schedules will be finalized once a firm number has been determined. This likely will not be until the week of August 10th.

Q: What does a typical day look like for Whiteside students?

A: Whiteside students return to campus around 10:30a.m. During block scheduling this results in the students arriving back to FJSHS in time to attend all regularly scheduled classes. On A day this would be 5th and 6th hours and on B day this would be 7th and 8th hours.

Q: What is the process for PLTW classes in-person and remote?

A: PLTW classes will be modified to follow all guidelines. Students electing remote learning must log in via zoom for the daily class instruction.

Remote Learning

Q: Is there a designated date for families to choose their type of learning? What if I want to change learning styles?

A: Yes, families are being asked to designate by July 31, 2020. Families do have the option to change their selection one time within the first quarter. Other unique circumstances will be reviewed by the administration.

Q: Will interventions be offered to remote learners?

A: Yes, if the student is able to access the intervention via Zoom.

Q: Will the school supply list be updated?

A: Teachers have been asked to review the supply lists and submit any updates. Supply list will be updated if needed the first week of August.

Q: Will there be paper packets for remote learning?

A: Students are expected to participate in Zoom technology and be present via technology during classroom instruction. Paper packets will not be provided unless there are unique circumstances.

Q: If a student does not log in to the scheduled Zoom, will they be counted as absent? Do I need to call the absence into the attendance office?

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A: Yes, the student is considered absent and this will be reported in Skyward. Remote students will have the same attendance procedures as in-person students.

Q: If my child is enrolled in remote learning and participates in physical activities outside of school, can this count towards his/her physical education credit?

A: No, just as our in-person learners cannot count outside activities as their physical education credit, neither can remote learners. Students must participate as required by their teacher to receive PE credit.

Q: What will be the remote learning option for classes like physical education and biology ?

A: Students will be required to login to their classes at the scheduled time to see in-class instruction and participate as determined by the class teacher.

Q: What is the expectation for teachers in regards to response time to students and families that are doing remote learning?

A: Students are to be logging in to real-time instruction and actively participating with the classroom teacher during the school day. Teachers will respond to students and families in the same format they would respond if the student was in-person.

Q: Will remote learning be offered the entire year?

A: Remote learning will be offered while we are in Phase 4 or lower in the Restore Illinois plan. If we move to Restore Illinois Phase 5 all learning will be in-person.

Q: If we elect remote learning and the internet doesn't work, therefore resulting in the loss of instruction time, how is that handled? In turn, how does that translate to the grading policy?

A: Any remote learner not present via technology will be considered absent for the class period. Students electing remote learning would be required to follow up with the class teacher as they would if they were attending in-person and missed the in-person instruction. Parents are encouraged to review Parent/Student Handbook as well as individual classroom teacher communications for specific details on absences.

Q: Regarding remote learning for K-3, should parents expect children will be on Zoom for the entire school day or will it be intermittent, i.e. on Zoom at 8:00-8:30, do project offline 8:30-9:00, Zoom 9:00-10:00, recess 10:00-10:30, read independently 10:30-11:00, Zoom 11:00-12:00 etc. How many hours in a typical day will kids be watching Zoom on their device?

A: Students should expect to be on Zoom throughout the scheduled school day. The actual length of time per subject area will be determined by the grade level teacher and

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communicated accordingly.

Q: Will students enrolled in remote learning have the ability to interact with their in-person classmates?

A: Due to the nature of real-time instruction, students may have the ability to interact with their in-person classmates. However, this will vary by classroom, teacher and the nature of the learning environment.

General

Q: Will students be allowed to use lockers, and what will that process look like?

A: At this time students will not be allowed to utilize lockers. Needed supplies will remain with students in the classroom and can be stored in their backpacks. Secondary students will take their backpacks from class to class. All other students will store in the designated area determined by the teacher. This may include the back of the student's chair.

Q: What will the process be for restroom breaks and moving from class to class?

A: Restroom breaks will be provided individually for students, or within classroom cohorts. Due to socially distancing requirements, we do not want large groups of students in the restrooms at any given time. All building hallways will have one directional movement to assist with maintaining appropriate social distancing.

Q: Will students be allowed to check out books from the libraries or classroom libraries?

A: Yes, students will be allowed access to books, however, students will not be browsing the library. They may request books and these will be brought to them. The same for classroom libraries.

Q: Will there be fall sports? What practices will be held? When will these occur?

A: This is yet to be determined.

Q: Will IEP meetings be held via Zoom or in-person?

A: IEP meetings will be held via Zoom or telephone conference as visitors are restricted from entering the school buildings.

Q: What will be the outcome of students who do not wear masks/keep their mask on?

A: Individual situations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. All students will be educated on the benefits of wearing a mask. If a student is being purposefully disruptive

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in their refusal to wear a mask, disciplinary measures may be taken. If a student is not able to tolerate a mask or is a continuous disruption, a recommendation for remote learning may be made by the building principal.

Q: Will students new to the district or starting junior high be allowed to tour the building prior to the start of school?

A: We will not hold orientations or welcome back evenings as we have done in the past. If you are new to the district and your student is interested in touring the building prior to the first day of school, please contact the school building the week of August 3rd to make arrangements. Please note, tours will be limited to students only, parents will not be granted building access.

Q: What if I do not have technology?

A: All students will be provided technology upon paid registration. Elementary students will receive iPads, secondary students will receive chromebooks. Parents are responsible for internet access.

Q: If I choose the remote option learning for Kindergarten, do I still have to pay the milk fee?

A: The milk fee will not be charged for a student who is participating in remote learning.

Q: Can I switch from remote learning to in-person or in-person to remote learning?

A: Families are able to switch learning types once per quarter. If a family's situation changes please contact your school principal as situations will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Q: What happens if I don't decide by July 31st which option of learning I am choosing?

A: Any parent who has not completed the form by July 31st will receive a phone call from the school office. Students will not be assigned to a class list or provided a schedule until confirmation of program selection has been made.

Q: Will chromebooks be updated? What is the process if we have an issue with our district issued device?

A: Chromebook inventory is completed every year. If there is an issue with the device the school office should be contacted.

Q: Will Band occur?

A: Band will be scheduled at this time. Due to some restrictions the class may have to be modified. Mr. Cunningham will be communicating this to all families at a later time.

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Q: Where will the daily symptom questionnaire be located? Will it be available to access and submit via mobile app/smartphone or will it require a laptop or PC to successfully be submitted?

A: The daily symptom form will be a link provided on our district website. The district website can be accessed by mobile device as well as laptop or PC.

Q: Can we get more details on what a typical in-person school day would look like for K-3 age? What would recess be like? In the classroom, gym, outside? Would P.E. be every day? How does a mask break work? How many snack breaks will you need to keep a kid satiated without lunch until they get home at 1:00 or 2:00?

A: Each individual teacher will provide information about their daily schedule. Please refer to the presentations for in-person instruction for guidelines on time spent for instruction during a modified schedule.

Q: Are the registration fees the same for both styles of learning? What is the deadline for fees to be paid? When do I find out if my fee waiver has been approved?

A: Registration fees will be the same for in-person or remote learning. Registration fees are due by September 11th, however, no electronic devices will be assigned until the registration fees have been paid. Communication in regards to fee waivers will follow the same process as previous years.

Q: What improvements were made at the school through the CARES grant funds?

A: Technology was purchased to include iPads and Chromebooks for student use as well as technology for teachers to create zoom stations within each classroom. PPE equipment was purchased for staff and students to include masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc. Cleaning equipment such as electrostatic machines and sprayers as well as cleaning supplies were also purchased for all buildings.

Q: Is FVSD working with internet providers to offer services to families at a free or reduced rate?

A: FVSD has been in communication with internet providers however have not been successful in securing free or reduced rates. This will be reviewed in more detail if the district returns to all remote learning at some time in the future.

Q: How will students enter the buildings and how will large gatherings be avoided?

A: Specific building entry and exit will be determined for all buildings and communicated prior to the start of school. The district will determine specific passing time schedules to avoid large gatherings.