

Frequently Asked Questions – Reopening and Continued Distance Learning

Last Update: 10/9/20

Distance Learning K-3:

Will distance learning students still use IXL, Lexia, and Epic Reading? **Yes, we will continue these programs that also align with our “In Person” instruction and help collect data.**

What if there are a lot of families that choose distance learning and there are more than 30 students in each grade? **We will hire and move teachers wherever the need is for our students. Classes may need to be moved around and there is unfortunately still not a guarantee that your child will keep their same teacher with any of these options.**

When does a teacher review the asynchronous work one class completes if they are teaching to classes each day? **Our distance learning teachers will also have prep time build into their schedules. A teacher teaches a full day regardless of the number of groups and use their “non-student” time to grade and offer feedback to students.**

Why do we have to switch to Pathblazer when our students are already comfortable with Seesaw/Google Classroom? **All distance learning students will be using the tool Pathblazer along with Seesaw/Google Classroom. Pathblazer will be available throughout the remainder of this year. Students will be able to access the Pathblazer assignments through their google classroom/Seesaw.**

Will Pathblazer eliminate the need for hard copy packets? **No, our students still need to practice “paper to pencil” work especially in our youngest grades. There will be a balance of both. Parents will most likely need to pick up packets weekly.**

Who will be the distance learning teachers? **We do not yet know who these teachers will be. They will be either existing teachers or highly qualified teachers. Your child will have the same teacher for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.**

How many students will each teacher have? **This will all depend on the designation that parents make. We will know more by mid-October.**

Will we be able to switch to In-person learning or vice versa next trimester? **Yes, families will have the opportunity to switch at the end of 2nd trimester. There cannot be movement within a trimester.**

Why isn't 3rd grade included as a “Zoomer”? **We have collected quite a bit of data to make this decision. With visiting with other schools who have already reopened, speaking to our teachers**

as well as our school psychologist, we came to the decision it was not age appropriate and they will not be included.

When and how does the distance learning teacher interact with students during their asynchronous time? **Students will receive asynchronous work and check-ins just like in our distance learning now.**

Can you define synchronous and asynchronous learning? **“Synchronous” learning is the term we use for “live” instruction. This is the direct instruction given to our students via Zoom. “Asynchronous” instruction is the work students do independently and with the assistance of an adult depending on the grade level.**

When do we have to make a choice? **A designation needs to be made by Tuesday, October 13th**

Will there be a morning message from Admin? **We are still discussing this as an option**

What will this option look like on a typical day? **Much like it looks now with the amount of time for synchronous and asynchronous instruction and schedule.**

Will Pathblazer need to be installed on the students chromebooks? **No**

Distance Learning “Zoomers” 4-8:

Would distance learning for grades 4-8 continue with their existing teacher? **That is our hope but we cannot make any assurances. Students may need to be moved to accommodate class size within a grade level.**

Will grades 4-8 have an opportunity to go to in-person class? **No. Once a designation has been made to stay virtual it can only be changed at the trimester. There are so many reasons why this is the case safety and staffing being the biggest reasons.**

Will art and music still be available for virtual learning? **Yes. Art and music are a core component to our curriculum and students will still receive instruction. Those students that stay virtual classes will be recorded.**

What will “Zoomers” do during transitions and hygiene? **There will be plenty for them to do during these transitions. Even though they are home there are transitions that will need to take place from subject to subject.**

Are Zoomer guaranteed a spot back in their classroom? **Unfortunately, no student will be guaranteed a spot in their same classroom.**

Fully In Person learning:

Can you define “maximum distancing?” **The Yolo County Office of Education Guidance says we should “Maximize space between seating and desks. Maintain 6ft of distance between students**

to the extent possible. Consider ways to establish separation of students through other means if practicable.”

Will soap and water be used more often than hand sanitizer? Handwashing will be done each time a child enters and exits a classroom, as well as eats. Hand sanitizer will be used for all the times in between.

How will you manage lunch and recess during the winter? Lunch and recess will be indoors in their classrooms during the winter. Students will have to sit in their desks and maintain social distancing when eating.

Will volunteers be allowed on campus? No. Volunteers will be allowed on campus.

What is the maximum number of students that can fit in a classroom with social distancing? 26

Will a mockup of the classroom be shared with parents? Yes, please look for this on ParentSquare in the next few weeks.

How will we ensure adequate ventilation in classrooms? We will follow all ventilation guidelines by the county.

What defines a cohort? One class of students and their teacher and aide.

What supplies will be required of in person students? We would love if students could bring whatever supplies they may already have at home. We will purchase all other supplies that a student may not have.

Will the Playground be open? How will you make sure kids socially distance? Yes, the playground will be open and sanitized appropriately. Staff will be trained to try and keep students apart outside, especially when not wearing a mask.

Will classes be moved around within grades based on who is in person and who is distant to even out class sizes? Yes, we cannot guarantee any child will keep their teacher.

Will students returning to school need a COVID test to start? No, but we ask that a student is not sent to school with any symptoms.

Can we change our placement at the end of each trimester? Yes

How far apart will individual students seating be apart? 6ft

What is the max size of a classroom in- person? Could vary based on classroom size. Considering limiting it to 70% of capacity based on continuing conversations with the staff and board.

What does “cohort remains open” mean? The class stays at school

Will teachers and staff be testing regularly? It is recommended that staff are tested every other month. We are continuing to work with the county department of public health on what is the appropriate level of testing. We have also committed to providing free tests for staff in advance of each of the school breaks so that staff can know their current status before they interact with family members.

Can my 4th-8th grade student just Zoom into a classroom if they are sick at home? No, the student would need an IS packet.

Virtual Academy:

Is there any instruction with the fully remote “homeschool” option? No. There will not be any “Live” instruction from a teacher. There are instructional videos that can be accessed and assigned.

What would a typical day look like in the Virtual Academy? Students will be given a daily list of assignments (240 minutes) that consist of video instruction, digital worksheets, and assessments that must be completed with the support of an adult at home. There will be limited teacher support for work feedback and questions.