



BLENDING MODEL REOPENING Frequently Asked Questions

BLENDING MODEL vs. DISTANCE LEARNING

What is the procedure for a parent who does not want to send their child to school for in-person instruction?

In the course of planning, a telephone survey was completed for parents to opt for the Blended Model or to have their child continue with 5 Day Distance Learning. If you did not receive a phone call, please call and let us know your preference by the end of October.

If a student is in Cohort B, and will be going out of town on a Thursday and Friday, can they take their computer with them and do virtual learning on those days? Will they be marked absent?

If the student is receiving instruction with the blended model, it is expected that they will be present.

Do we have the option to stay on 5 Day Distance Learning until we feel comfortable sending our children back?

After reopening the week of November 9, the district would like students to remain with their choice of either in-person or distance learning until the end of the trimester.

How many children will be in a classroom?

The TK-5 classrooms will have 7-10 students; grades 6-8 will have 12-14.

Can a parent change their mind if they said they were sending their child to school when surveyed and now would like to remain on the 5 Day Distance Learning Plan?

Any changes should be made before the end of day November 2nd, 2020

Can a parent request to switch Cohorts because it works best with the parent's work schedule?

No, unless it is administration approved. The cohorts were carefully created with consideration for transportation, family/siblings, and class size.

Will there be an updated list of the two Cohorts?

Yes. A letter will be sent home detailing your child(ren's) cohort.

INSTRUCTION

The schedule in the handbook and the schedules handed out separately are different. I assume the individual handouts are the ones to be followed?

The schedule that was included in the reopening letter illustrates a summarized version of the rotation of the cohorts, core subject areas, and instructional minutes. The schedule in the handbook is more detailed to show the cohort rotation, subject areas, and minutes within the grade spans. The individual schedules for grade spans placed on the website represent the actual progression of any day, Monday through Friday, and include subjects, minutes, and music and PE pull-outs for each grade span.

Will students have the same teacher they have currently during the 5 Day Distance Learning Plan?

Yes.

How will instruction work between in-person and distance learning? Will face-to-face and virtual instruction be done at the same time?

At the discretion of the teacher, in-person and virtual instruction can be rotated using synchronous or asynchronous instruction to meet with student cohorts separately or instruction can be done simultaneously followed by asynchronous work assignments depending on age appropriateness.

Will students have the same face-to-face and virtual instructor?

Yes.

Is the instruction going to be any different with in-person than with distance learning?/ If continuing with 5 Day Distance Learning, how will the instruction compare with the blended model?

Teachers will address the same core subjects and standards with both cohorts. The work packets or online assignments will be the same for both cohorts.

If my child is doing 5 Day Distance Learning, will the teacher be with him/her?

Depending on the grade level, there may be times when students will tend to independent practice without the teacher just as they would in the classroom. They might also participate in Music, PE, Reading Lab or other pull out programs or services with another teacher.

Do students bring their own laptop on campus if they are on site for in-person instruction?

To start the blended model, students will need to transport their laptop to school on the days they attend. The district is purchasing additional laptops for classroom use and once those are shipped students will not need to transport any longer.

Will students be switching classrooms or remain in the same classroom?

TK-5 students will remain in their classrooms. Grades 6-8 will rotate to different classes. The 6-8 rooms will be defogged and sanitized before a new group of students enter the room.

If a student is doing the 5 Day Distance Learning, will their schedule change once the school reopens with the Blended Model?

Yes. The Blended Model Schedules can be found on the Washington Colony website and will be sent home before the reopening.

How do teachers connect with the students Mon-Fri for attendance purposes?

Zoom links are open at 8:30, Monday through Friday for the purpose of taking attendance, well-being checks, and providing direction for the day.

Since Music/PE instruction is "not in addition to classroom time", will this instruction cut into the already limited direct teaching/classroom instruction time?

Pull-out programs are provided virtually during asynchronous time and are not in conflict with synchronous teacher-led instruction.

Are you considering the possibility of offering any sports activities during the 2020-2021 school year?

To be determined as guidelines become available from Fresno County.

SCHEDULING

It appears TK-2 students are in class twice a week for two hours, with a 15-minute break, preparing to go home at 10:30. Therefore, they receive 3 ½ hours of instruction per week. Is that correct?

TK-2 students are in-person from 8:30-10:30 (with a break) 2 days per week. Dismissal time is at 11:00. They return home for lunch and complete work packet or online assignments until 1:15. ALL students (both Cohorts) rejoin teacher-led virtual instruction from 1:15-2:00. 2:00-2:30 is reserved for small group instruction. Total number of "Blended" minutes for each cohort = 240.

Likewise, it appears the DL/NA (distance learning/non-attende) and opposite cohort students will receive classroom instruction 1 1/2 hours per day, with the teachers repeating (I assume) what the in-class students received earlier that day.

At 8:30, the Zoom link is open for the virtual cohort and the non-attendees. The teacher gives direction for asynchronous work. The link remains open for questions and monitoring. Virtual music, PE, (one day) or reading lab services (two days) may happen

during this time. The Distance Learning/Non-Attendee group receives the same instruction as the in-person group from 10:45-1:15 (with lunch). Total number of "Blended" minutes for each cohort = 240.

The TK-2 schedule took into consideration the expectation for 5-7 year olds' ability to follow remote instruction with the teacher attending to in-person students. Teacher availability for questions and monitoring of work aligned to current instruction seemed more feasible for this age span than teaching simultaneously to two different groups.

Cohort students also have 2 hours of asynchronous (independent) work twice a week, but Distance Learning/Non-Attendees have 2 hours of independent work 4 days of the week. Correct?

From 8:30-10:30, Distance Learning/Non-Attendees tend to asynchronous work, or pull-out programs including music, PE, or services such as reading lab or RSP.

Grades 3-5 and 6-8

It appears instruction for both cohorts and full Distance Learning/Non-Attendee students will take place at the same time. Is this correct?

At the discretion of the teacher, in-person and virtual instruction can be rotated using synchronous and asynchronous instruction to meet with student cohorts separately or instruction can be done simultaneously followed by asynchronous work assignments depending on age appropriateness.

When and how do "teachers initiate virtual meetings to ensure students are completing work packets"?

Time has been built into all grade span schedules to address monitoring work and offering small group or individual assistance. Checking in with students is based on daily performance in class and consistent correct completion of work. Monitoring of students struggling with work or exhibiting learning loss may be more frequent than students who consistently and correctly complete assignments.

HEALTH & SAFETY

No access to water fountains? Will students be able to bring their own reusable water bottles to school?

The district will provide bottled water. Students may also bring a water bottle.

How often are the classrooms "fogged with probiotic spray"? and when?

The TK-5 classrooms are fogged with probiotic spray at the end of each day. Middle school classrooms are sprayed whenever cohorts move to their next class. ELA/HSS blocks receive spraying 2-3 times per day and again at the end of the day. Math and Science rooms are sprayed 5 times per day.

How will asymptomatic students (students not showing symptoms) be handled?

The best way to combat any student who is COVID positive and asymptomatic (or symptomatic) is to follow the 3 preventive measures for all students, staff and teachers: wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart, and wash your hands using hand sanitizer or soap and water. This is the best way to mitigate the virus.

Is there a way to test all students before going to school?

Testing a student is strictly a family's decision and would be difficult to mandate.

If a child is sick with allergies or a cold, would we have to have our child tested for COVID before they can return to school?

Any student showing up to school with COVID-like symptoms will be sent home regardless of a diagnosed chronic health condition.

They can return to school if they have a note from a healthcare provider stating that the symptoms are related to a chronic health condition and that the symptoms are not new or getting worse.

If a student is COVID positive and stays home to quarantine/isolate, can they still participate virtually even though they have been assigned to an in-person cohort?

Yes. Students will be permitted to join virtually in the event they are required to quarantine. If the student feels too sick to join, we ask the parent to call the office to inform us of their absence.

Will students be disciplined for a forgetful moment where they gather close to each other? How will discipline be handled resulting from not being socially distanced? Or if a student has a problem keeping his mask on?

We recognize this is new for students and will be doing various interventions to educate our students on these new guidelines and why it is so important. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports will be implemented to help students learn the new policies and protocol through signage, presentations and Staff/Teachers leading by example.

If a class is exposed to a COVID positive person on Monday, will the entire cohort be quarantined due to that exposure?

No. We will need to identify who has had "close contact" with the COVID positive student. Close contact is defined as a cumulative period of 15 minutes unmasked within 6 ft. Since we will be enforcing masks and 6 ft distancing strictly, the risk for exposure will have decreased significantly.

Will students be required to wear a mask during PE?

PE is being done virtually.

TRANSPORTATION

When and how will the "radius" be developed and communicated?

A parent survey was done regarding transportation. Considering the capacity of the bus, the total number of students socially distanced on the bus, and parents who answered the survey with the greatest need and not living within walking distance, will be offered transportation first.

Will the windows and roof hood be "open for ventilation" during the winter?

Yes, within reason with consideration for outside temperatures.

Bus passes- How will the stated policy impact students who miss more than two days of bus riding due to illness, quarantine, family leave, etc?

This is explained on the bus agreement. Parents are required to sign the agreement. As always, we take all illness, family leave and now quarantine into consideration.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Where does the on-site ASP take place? in the classrooms where teachers are preparing? in the cafeteria?

The on site after school program will utilize rooms and areas not being used by teachers during instructional time. The after school program will avoid interrupting teachers during instruction.

What is the procedure for the pick-up and sign-out of students in ASP?

Parents will pick up in the same manner as far as the location. For sign out procedure, parents will not sign the form, an ASP staff member will sign and release the student once they see the parent approaching.