

Virginia CUSD #64

Return to Learn - FAQ Document – Updated August 7, 2020

The following questions have been asked by our community regarding our Return to Learn 2020 Plan. Our District Leadership Team has provided answers below for families to review as a vested partner in our school.

Please continue to send questions to our email account, returntolearn@virginia64.com. Thank you!

- Based on the current plan, I am wondering what the 'off days' will look like. In other words, if my kid is an A day kid, what are the expectations on B days (time wise)? Should I expect them to be learning for 4 hours, 5 hours, what? I also have this question regarding Fridays. Or, will Friday be mostly review material from the week? If we go full remote learning based on mandates from the State or cases in our school (let's hope not!), I have the same question. What amount of time is anticipated per day for their learning?

Thanks for all your work in planning this!

ISBE requires that students are provided with at least 5 hours of instructional activities to complete, whether in-person or at-home. A detailed schedule will be provided by your student's teacher during our Back to School events on August 17th and 18th. Instruction will include some online activities utilizing Seesaw as well as some learning activities provided to reinforce learning from the week. Activities will focus on the core content areas that students are enrolled in as well as social emotional and physical fitness.

- According to your video you just posted, for bus riders, the parent has to be present when the kids load the bus. This is not feasible for our family, as both adults in the family are typically gone to work 15-30 minutes before the bus arrives. I feel like if there is an issue with picking up our kids, we could be notified right then by the bus driver. Are there exceptions to this rule?

A student will need to have a parent, guardian or family member 13 years of age or older with the student when they board the bus. The purpose of this is student safety in the event the student is not able to board due to the screening and temp process that we have to adhere to as part of the IDPH/ISBE guidelines.

- What is the plan, or what would precipitate, a move to virtual learning for all students when there is a positive COVID-19 case linked to the school? For example, do you plan to move to virtual learning for all students when there is one case, ten cases, etc.?

We will be following the advisement of our local health department as they conduct their contact tracing process. Students will still have access to learning activities if they are not available to attend in person via their online platform (Seesaw Prek-5 and Google Classroom 6-12).

- While there is an option between 100% virtual learning and the hybrid model, how does the 100% virtual option affect a student's participation in clubs or sports?
If a student is enrolled (at-home or in-person), they will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.
 - I have been hearing about the importance of ventilation in buildings. How does the current school ventilation system rate?
The HVAC system we have continually circulates the air bringing in fresh air from outside and taking out the inside air. Our system is on par with any other ventilation system on the market.
 - Is a selection for 100% virtual or hybrid the choice for the entire quarter? Or are parents allowed to change their mind mid-quarter according to virus circumstances?
Students will need to remain in this enrollment option for the semester.
 - I want to do remote learning for my kids, so do I still need to sign up for registration?
Yes, there will be an option for families to choose what enrollment option that you want to select for your student(s). Online registration will be available starting August 1st.
 - If we decide to do 100% At-Home Learning, will we be able to use a Chromebook from school like we did in the spring, or do parents have to provide the computer?
Devices will be available for families to utilize to assist with At-Home Learning. A contract for use will need to be completed by the parent and student. We have a limited amount available at this time.
- Submitted to parents via School Messenger 7.27.20:
- What do the At-Home Learning Days look like? We are not able to be home with our children all day, so will there be some flexibility?
Elementary students' work from Fridays will be due by 8 AM on Mondays. JH/Sr High work from Fridays will be due by the regularly scheduled class time on Mondays.
Students enrolled in the 100% At-Home Learning will need to submit their learning activities and assignments by the timelines provided by the teacher.
 - Will we be able to print assignments for children who do not learn well on a screen for extended periods or will completing assignments digitally be mandated?
Those participating in 100% At-Home learning will be conducted via online. Packets will not be made available.

Those enrolled to participate in the blended model of in-person and at-home learning for first quarter will be provided learning activities using technology as well as printed materials that will be returned each Monday or by their next scheduled class time.

- Will we be able to get the plans in a form we can print to make it easier to coordinate schedules?
Lesson plans and activities will be posted on a weekly basis for parents to access via Seesaw (Prek-5) and Google Classroom (6-12). Parents will be able to access both of these learning management systems and see what has been assigned to students.
- Is the virtual option only for the first quarter or for the entire year?
As we understand via the guidance provided by ISBE, enrollment in the 100% virtual option is available for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year.
- How often will the children get breaks from their masks?
No set breaks have been scheduled outside of lunch, recess and PE times (weather permitting). Individual teachers will coordinate additional breaks as we all continue to adjust to this being implemented within our daily routine and schedule.
- If a student receives Title 1 services and/or Speech services, will that student be given the extra help or will that be postponed until cases decline?
IEP services (speech) will be reviewed by the team to determine how best to serve individual students based upon their enrollment choice. Title services will also be conducted via coordination with the staff member and parent on an individual basis. It is the intent to adhere to those services to the greatest extent possible while conducting in-person and at-home learning.
- If Speech services are provided, will we have to provide a face shield so that the student's mouth will be visible?
The speech therapist will contact families to make them aware if additional supplies are needed for therapy. We are also purchasing PPE items to help facilitate this aspect of services in alignment with IDPH guidelines.
- If choosing the At-Home Learning, how would we address classes like Speech and Title 1?
IEP services (speech) will be reviewed by the team to determine how best to serve individual students based upon their enrollment choice. Title services will also be conducted via coordination with the staff member and parent on an individual basis. It is the intent to adhere to those services to the greatest extent possible while conducting in-person and at-home learning.
- How will cold symptoms be handled? Will any symptom be an automatic home for 14 days response?

We are working in partnership with our local health department regarding guidelines and procedures to assist us and our families with this aspect of our operations and procedures. More information will be provided as this is finalized.

- If a child is quarantined for 14 days will they be given the virtual school option during that time?
Yes, if a student has to be quarantined they will convert to the At-Home Learning option until they are able to return to school.
- Will the children need to bring disposable lunch bags and water bottles if packing a lunch?
No, students may use their own lunch bags/boxes and water bottles.
- How will lunches be handled? Will they be in the classroom or in the cafeteria with 6 feet between students?
Most students will eat in the cafeteria, with a couple of classes eating in their classrooms. In all cases, social distancing protocols of 6 feet between students will be followed.
- When choosing an option for learning, can parents switch if they find the option they originally selected isn't a good fit for the children?
Yes, however, continuity of a child's education is essential to their success. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that students remain with their mode of instruction, in person or 100% at home learning, versus adjusting multiple times throughout the school year. To make a change, the school office should be contacted to set up an appointment with the administration.
- Is there a reason to only have the A/B day with elementary school students for 6 days?
Per ISBE guidance, in-person instruction for elementary students is encouraged, so the goal is to get them to school for in-person instruction as often as possible.
- Where will the students eat lunch? Will the students be doing any of the cleaning?
Most of the students will eat in the cafeteria, but a couple of elementary classes will eat in their classrooms. Students will throw away their trays/trash, but food service staff will do the actual cleaning/sanitizing.
- When registering my students for school, is there an option to have them come on opposite days?
This will probably not be an option, as the plan is to keep family members on the same day.
- What will the students be doing when full days resume on August 31st?

Elementary students will resume their normal schedule. Art and music will be in the classroom, PE will be outside when possible, and in the gym when there is inclement weather. Outdoor breaks with social distancing will be utilized when possible in order to give the students a change of scenery.

Junior/senior high students will follow their regular schedule.

- Can my high school student take just the required classes that are necessary for graduation, or will he/she need to take all the classes that fill out the day?
We will be following the graduation requirements. All students must be enrolled full time.
- Will I still need to get a school physical for my child if I choose At-Home Learning?
Yes, all guidelines for physicals are still in effect.
- In regards to the A Day/B Day schedule during the first few days of school, will accommodations be made to schedule siblings from elementary school and junior/senior high school on the same day?
Yes, this will be done as much as possible.
- Will there be the courtesy bus stops like before for the town kids?
There will not be courtesy stops this year.
- For elementary students on Fridays for Remote Learning, what time does work have to be turned in since parents work during the day?
*Elementary students' work from Fridays will be due by 8 AM on Mondays.
JH/Sr High work from Fridays will be due by the regularly scheduled class time on Mondays.*
- For the Remote Learning Day on Fridays, will this just be an assignment provided by the teacher or will there be a scheduled meeting or time event that the student will have to be present?
Virtual class meetings are encouraged to be attended but not mandatory. Individual sessions scheduled in coordination with a student's schedule will be required by some teachers .
- How will IEP's be incorporated into return learning targeted for 2 days in person and 3 days of At-Home Learning?
This will be discussed and coordinated with the IEP team, and will be handled on a case by case basis.
- Will the 100% At-Home Learning be like last spring where the students get their assignments from Google Classroom? Is there a possibility of the teacher teaching class through Zoom or something similar to it?
Pre-K through Grade 5 will use Seesaw; Grades 6-12 will use Google Classroom.

Teachers will be utilizing video conferencing and recordings to assist in the teaching process.