



Parent Q & A - July 24, 2020

1. How will passing time work in the middle school setting? How will students be distanced in the hallways? How will the desks be cleaned in each classroom between sessions? How long will it take out of their learning time to move kids around in small groups and then wait while the classrooms are being cleaned? Last night the only answer was that it was still being decided.

A: Middle school students will be grouped in cohort groups as much as possible. Transition times will be organized to allow for students to social distance as they move around the building. Most hallways will be designated as one way only allowing students to move without passing by one another. At this point, about 78% of students are selecting the hybrid model. This group will then be broken into A and B groups. This means that our buildings will be at about 39 to 40% capacity. This will help provide space for the required social distancing. We are still working on plans for cleaning between class periods. Some of the resources that will help with cleaning during the school day are:

- **All custodians will be present during the school day rather than having some attend in the evening only. At the middle school level, this means we will have three custodians present during the school day rather than one.**
- **Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.**
- **Cleaning supplies will be available in classrooms.**
- **The procedures for cleaning desks between groups of students has yet to be determined. It will be dependent upon the schedule.**

2. Where will the students eat lunch? How will small groups be maintained? How will desks or tables be cleaned up before and after eating? If elementary students are eating in the classroom will food be brought to them from the cafeteria?

A: Lunch time is a significant concern because students will need to remove their masks to eat. As a guiding principle, we will spread students throughout the building. This will mean using spaces that we don't typically use for lunch. Spaces will include the cafeteria, gymnasiums, libraries, classrooms, etc... When possible, lunch locations for students will be organized by cohort groups to keep the number of peer contacts students have to a minimum. Lunches served by the cafeteria will be of a "grab and go" nature.

3. In the original email, we were told to be prepared to transport our children because "bussing would be limited." Last night, that was contradicted and said that everyone who needed bus service would have it available. How will this be done safely? We understand health screening cannot be easily done on each bus route, but what happens when a student who was on the bus has a fever when they get to school? Is there time to clean the busses between the morning drop off at the middle and high school

before the elementary schools are picked up and again in between groups in the afternoon? If the cohorts are being assigned by name, how can you assure that there will be enough room on each bus for proper distancing, which becomes especially imperative given the amount of time kids from the south end of the Island will be on the bus going to the middle and high school?

We will not be limited on providing transportation services to our students. Bus routes will be prepared in advance to accommodate the number of students needing transportation while not being over crowded. Students will be encouraged to sit with family members and we will load students from the back of the bus to the front of the bus. Additionally, windows will remain open to allow for increased circulation. If a student has a fever upon arrival to school that student and the cohort of students on the bus with them will be isolated. We will then consult the local health department for further guidance. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each run in the morning and afternoon with Alpha Hp, which is a multi-surface cleaner and disinfectant. If there is a child that has shown to be infected, we will pull that bus and driver. We will put in a new bus with a substitute driver until it is determined to be safe again.

4. How will cohorts be assigned? Which way will the cohorts be assigned and can you ask for a change in cohort to make the schedule work better for our family?

A: Cohorts will initially be assigned by alpha group. We will have a process by which families can request to be changed to a different cohort.

5. Will we be able to opt in to a different model at some point in the year? If online learning is not working for our student or if the health situation changes, will we be able to move back to our home school later in the year? If our students are working only online, how will they be integrated into a classroom later in the year, if they don't know the teacher?

Students switching from a hybrid model to Continuous Learning would be possible. Switching from a remote to hybrid model during the year could impact our ability to meet physical distancing requirements in classrooms. We might not have space in a classroom to accommodate this change in enrollment.

We know there will be times when students need to move for many reasons. We will work to accommodate requests to transfer from a fully remote to hybrid model as classroom space is available.

If the health situation changes, we will adjust to allow for more (or less) face-to-face time. If students can move to a face-to-face model, then our teachers, including our Continuous Learning teachers, will move to a face-to-face model with their students.

6. How much of the school day will handwashing/hygiene take?

A: More time might be needed for handwashing at the elementary schools because they transition into recess and various other activities during the day. We anticipate screening to take some time in the morning, but are not sure how long until we implement our screening protocols. Our nurses estimate about 8-10 seconds per student.

7. It was mentioned that the focus would be on the most important concepts that need to be introduced in ELA and Math. Will the students be getting instruction in ALL of the subjects they would normally have? How much time will be taken away every day by reminding of the procedures and having to build in the extra time for cleaning and hand washing that will be necessary?

High School and Middle School students will still have 6 periods per day in typical subjects. Elementary school students will focus primarily on English language arts and math. However, teachers will attempt to integrate other subjects into ELA instruction. Some time will be taken for hygiene and cleaning. Until we get into school, we cannot be specific about the amount of time this will take.

8. Will band and music be available?

A: We are awaiting guidance from the DOH and CDC. We have heard that music classes may have to be done remotely.

9. Extracurricular activities and electives were not mentioned. Will these subjects be offered and available?

Each school is developing their schedules based upon the information we receive from families. The number and type of electives offered are not known at this time. We do know that electives will be offered as students will have a six period day at middle and high school levels. Extracurricular activities have not been decided on at this time. We will follow recommendations from the department of health, OSPI, and the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA).

10. What will a typical school day look like in person? How different will it be from a normal day? Someone mentioned recesses might be shorter and less often, is that correct?

A: This is not an exact elementary schedule, but an example of what a typical day at school could look like in the hybrid model.

- **Health Screening, Breakfast Served for those in need, Students head to class**
- **Class Meetings, Announcements, Health & Safety Reminders/Instruction, Handwashing**
- **Social Emotional Learning** (Character Strong Lesson)
- Bathroom Breaks, Handwashing
- **Recess** (non-traditional - in small groups, focus on safe game play/distancing)
- Handwashing & Transitioning back to class
- **Online Platform Practice** (Signing in, review of lessons/activities, how to find assignments, etc)
- **Reading/Language Lessons**
- Handwashing
- **Lunch/Recess** (It is POSSIBLE we will be eating in classrooms)
- Handwashing & Entry back to Class
- **Math Lesson**
- Movement Break w/ Class/Bathroom Breaks
- Handwashing
- **Specialist**
- Handwashing
- **Read Aloud/End-of-day meeting** - review of assignments & expectations for at-home days
- **Dismissal**

11. What will a typical school day be like in the online model? How often will the kids be having Google meets with their teacher? What will the homework load be like?

A: We plan to keep things more consistent for students and families during Continuous Learning 2.0. Some things to look forward to will be:

- **Weekly Plans**

- **Drop dates for assignments that are the same for each teacher in a given school**
- **Common weekly due dates that are the same for each teacher in a given school**
- **Increased use of pre-recorded instructional lessons that students may view electronically**
- **Increased use of Google Meets to connect with students**
- **Consistent procedures for posting and collecting assignments within Google Classroom**

12. What will be the expectations and requirements for the online days for those students in the in person model? How much homework and school time will be expected on the days that they are learning at home?

A: Students will work on assignments provided during the in class time and will engage in Google Meets with their teacher on Wednesdays. The State Board of Education expects that students engage in learning for a full school day.

13. What will grading look like? Will it be more rigorous than this spring?

A: We have a grading and assessment committee that will be working on these topics. The spring of 2020 grading guidelines were meant for that spring only and are not going to be used for the 20/21 school year.

14. Someone said students whose parents do not make a choice on time will automatically be placed in the in-person model. If we don't feel like we have time to make a decision because we don't have all the pertinent information, is there a way to extend our choice? Is there a way to change once we have been assigned, if that is how it will work?

A: We will place students in the hybrid model as it is easier to move students from the hybrid model to the Continuous Learning model. We can only have a certain number of students in a classroom and maintain the 6 foot social distancing requirement. If students are defaulted into the hybrid model and parents ask to change to the Continuous Learning model, we expect to be able to honor the request. Additionally, we are extending the timeline to respond until Friday, July 31, to give parents more time to have questions answered.

15. What happens if we make a choice by the deadline (7/27) and the school board does not approve the plan for some reason. It seems strange that we need to make the decision first when the plans could all change after the school board meeting.

A: We need to make a recommendation to our board and allow them time to study the recommendation and submit the plan to OSPI. As more information becomes available from the DOH and CDC, it could change the plan.

16. Will students remain in a small cohort group with teachers rotating through, or will they be mixing with an unknown number of students throughout the day?

A: Both the high school and middle schools are looking for ways to decrease the number of contacts between students during the day. At the middle level, students can be grouped into cohorts of students who have similar schedules. This is more difficult at the high school level when students have specialized schedules based upon their post high school plans. Nevertheless, the high school is looking at potentially grouping students together whenever possible.

17. Will students still be taking elective classes, such as wood shop, ag mech, etc?

A: **Six periods per day will be offered, so students will need to have access to electives. Currently, wood shop and ag mech are on the schedule, but much is dependent upon how many students opt for Continuous Learning and how many opt for the Hybrid model.**

16. Will students be doing traditional PE classes?

A: **Students will not be using the locker rooms to dress down and contact between students will not be permissible. PE teachers will have to adjust their classroom expectations to ensure social distancing.**

17. Recess was briefly touched on for the elementary level, with high touch surfaces mentioned as not being used. So that would include all play structures and swings? What about shared ball etc?

High-touch surfaces should be cleaned if used. This means that not all of our playground equipment will be used. We will be focusing on games that maintain distance and the use of equipment that can easily be cleaned after use. Equipment like balls will not be shared.

18. Will elementary school students in Continuous Learning potentially have teachers from other buildings? **Yes. This will depend on the number of students opting for Continuous Learning from each building.**

19. We need to know if college in the classroom is being offered for both models before we can make a choice between online and hybrid.

Yes, College in the High School will be available in both platforms.

20. What do I do with the form if my child is enrolled in Running Start?

Full-time Running start students do not have to complete the Intent to Enroll form.