

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Quarter 2 Plans

HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

What will learning look like this quarter with some virtual students and some in-person students?

Grade levels are individually deciding how to best manage meeting the academic and social emotional needs of all students during our phased re-entry based on plans and student numbers. All students will be learning synchronously with teachers utilizing the classroom cameras, class microphones, and other technologies in each classroom. Each teacher's class may look a little different but students in both settings can expect to communicate with their classmates and teachers throughout each period. Wednesdays will be full virtual days, allowing teachers more time to connect individually or in smaller groups with students to address academic and project needs. More details about individual grade level plans will be sent out next week.

What technology will be used within the hybrid model to keep students connected and on track?

The school has supplied cameras and microphones for all classrooms. Zoom Pro will continue to be the primary web-conferencing platform. This equipment will allow students in both learning environments to better connect with each other and their teachers. Additional hardware and software may be used for individual grades or courses.

Will students be on their computers the entire time they are in the building?

In order to make connections between students, better engage virtual students, and allow adequate distancing between students/staff, computers and web conferencing will be utilized in the classroom. Our goal is for in-person screen-time to be comparable to a normal in-person school day.

Can a student switch from in-person to virtual learning or from virtual to in-person learning during the second quarter, if needed?

Committing to a particular learning model for the full quarter is important for planning purposes and consistency for all parties. If you feel you need to make a change for your child's learning model, please contact your principal.

Will the choice of virtual v in-person affect the student's schedule?

After consulting all faculty, there are currently no plans to change students' schedules in the virtual or in-person format.

What is the plan for students that have already been learning in-person during the first quarter?

Students with special needs or hardships who have been on-site throughout Quarter 1 will be contacted by staff for additional on-site time.

IN-PERSON LEARNING

Will large spaces be utilized to spread students out?

Yes, break-out and other large spaces will be used strategically throughout the day for various activities to enhance our ability to social distance.

Will bus transportation be provided for students while in-person?

On October 7th, we notified all of the transportation offices of our plans to return students to onsite learning beginning October 26th. Please reach out to your district transportation department to obtain more information on their plans for busing STEM students

Will students be able to access their cubbies?

Students will have access to cubbies before school, during lunch, and after school. Students are encouraged to limit the items brought to school to lower the need for cubby visits.

How will we know what supplies to bring at the start of the second quarter and/or each day?

Grade level emails will be sent out next week with specific instructions from teachers.

How will restroom breaks work?

Students will be able to use the restrooms throughout the day with a maximum of two people in the restrooms at a time. Restroom breaks will be permitted during class. Restrooms will be cleaned every two hours by our custodial team.

What will lunch look like?

Students will eat lunch with their grade level only. Tables have been socially distanced and plexiglass barriers have been installed between each student. Students will pick a seat on their first day for the full quarter and a seating chart will be created for contact tracing needs. Lunches will be delivered to students at their seats to eliminate the lunch line. Masks are required any time a student is not eating or drinking. Students will have access to restrooms and hand sanitizer. The lunch room will be cleaned and sanitized between each lunch period.

Will students be able to borrow supplies if needed (pencil, mask, charger, etc.)?

We will have disposable masks available at the front office for those that forget or lose a mask. Chargers and other supplies will be available to borrow but we encourage families to make sure that students have the necessary supplies and resources to limit multiple touches on items.

Will students be working with normal project supplies or equipment?

Certain shared equipment (manufacturing equipment, lab tools, project essentials, gym equipment) may be utilized based on ability to sanitize in between use.

When will in-person extracurriculars/clubs resume?

Please contact your club advisor for more details about your club's plan.

How will students be kept safe after school while waiting for rides or extracurriculars?

We will be using a staggered dismissal schedule to reduce the number of students in the hallway at any one time. Students will also be directed to avoid congregating at the end of the day, either inside or outside of the building. The After School Program, along with any other extracurriculars (when they begin to meet again) will maintain the mask requirement and will enforce social distancing.

What time will the building open / close?

The building will be open starting at 7:45am. Families are asked to please arrive as close to 8:15am as possible. Students should follow the staggered dismissal schedule after school. All students should exit the building no later than 3:30pm, unless they are attending After School Care or an approved activity.

POSITIVE CASES AND EXPOSURE

What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Contact tracing will be executed by the clinic staff and administrators to identify the individuals exposed within 6-feet for more than 15-minutes. Class rosters and seating charts will be carefully kept during all classes, lunches, and other activities. On a case-by-case basis, this could result in individual students and staff, a class or grade, or the whole school being quarantined. The Clinic will be sending out additional information next week.

If someone is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms while in the school building, how will this be handled?

The clinic will assess any student or staff exhibiting potential COVID-19 symptoms and/or exposure and -- based on CDC guidelines in conjunction with Dayton Children's Hospital -- will make a determination on whether the individual needs to be isolated and sent home. Timely communication will be sent out to the school community, as needed.

If a student needs to quarantine, what will their learning look like?

Due to our hybrid synchronous model, students will be able to transition smoothly into a virtual learning format immediately if there is a need to quarantine. They will be with the same class and on-pace with lessons for when they return to in-person. Students with no symptoms should continue to attend classes virtually. Students with symptoms may attend classes virtually if they are able and will only be counted absent for the days/classes for which they do not log on.

What are the circumstances that would result in returning to virtual learning?

The school leadership will evaluate the need to return to an all virtual learning format based on analyzing the following data.

- STEM student COVID diagnoses that are attributed to school exposure
- STEM staff COVID diagnoses that are attributed to school exposure
- Number of quarantine incidents at STEM
- State and local incident numbers and the impact on schools
- State level orders to move schools to a virtual model
- Other factors previously unidentified but that will impact the safety or our school community and ability to educate the students

SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND MITIGATIONS

What safety protocols and mitigations does the school have in place?

Please view the Restart STEM Guide at daytonstemschool.org/covid19 for a complete list of protocols and mitigations, which includes:

- Required masks for all students and staff
- Enforced social distancing as much as possible (guaranteed 3-ft and goal of 6-ft)
- Plexiglass barriers in all classrooms, cafeteria, and other seating areas
- One and two-way hallways to assist with traffic flow
- Hand sanitizer available in every classroom, office, and throughout the school

How will the custodial team assist in keeping the school clean and safe?

- Additional custodial staff have been added this fall in order to prepare for the return of our students to STEM
- Custodial staff will be actively cleaning all frequently touched areas throughout the day
- Germ Stop is sprayed once every 30 days throughout the building
- Every evening each classroom will be cleaned thoroughly and commercial disinfectant will be used on all surfaces
- Bathrooms will be cleaned every 2 hours each day that students are in the building.

What adjustments have been made to the HVAC system?

All of our air filters will be changed in October to more efficient MERV 8 filters (1/3 more media than our typical version). Any further increases will impact the air flow of our system. Regarding the efficiency of our HVAC systems, an acceptable practice for classrooms is a range of 6-20 ACH (Air Changes per Hour). The ACH for our classrooms ranges from 6-8 ACH. We investigated measures to increase the ACH at STEM but the cost was prohibitive (millions of dollars).