

District 7 Parents,

Below are updates to our Frequently Asked Questions. We will continue to update this page a minimum of once a week until our complete reopening plan document is available at the beginning of August. Please be reminded of tomorrow's deadline (July 17th) to sign up for remote learning. This date has not been changed. We have attempted to focus on many different remote learning questions this week in the FAQs because of this deadline.

7-16-2020 FAQ UPDATES

1. Can my student move from in-person to remote learning once the school year starts?

No. Parents must register their students for remote learning for the entire first semester of the 2020-2021 school year by the July 17th deadline which was set in order to ensure appropriate staffing. District 7 will ensure that there is enough staff to provide remote learning for all students who are registered by July 17th. Once remote sections are filled and staffed by District 7 teachers, we will not be able to move a student into the all remote learning option until the second semester. Once school begins, parents who want their child to move from in-person to remote learning can make this request through the building principal and the student will be put on a list to begin remote learning in the second semester.

Some parents have expressed concerns that they might want to move their child from in-person to remote learning based on positive COVID cases popping up within our school or the area in general. Please understand that if this occurs, it is extremely likely that the entire district will move into a remote learning environment.

2. We are considering signing my high school student up for remote learning, but there are HONORS classes on his schedule that are not on the list to be taught remotely. What should we do?

EHS can offer almost any class remotely that has enough students to make a section. After July 17th, administration and guidance will evaluate and determine what additional classes can be offered. As parents are requesting remote learning for their high school students, we are reviewing the schedules of these students. Once we have reviewed all students' schedules, we will determine what additional courses can be offered. **We will make every attempt to offer additional remote honors courses for both high school and middle school students once we know how many remote students have those courses on their current schedules.** Our guidance department will be in contact with each student/parent to let them know which of the courses will not be available so the family can make a decision. They will give the options of what courses could be substituted if a course currently on their schedule is not offered remotely. At that time, if parents feel that the remote learning schedule is not satisfactory, they can make the decision to switch their student back to in-person learning.

3. Is the District prepared to have all schools and students move into remote learning if required by the Governor or if positive COVID cases spike in the area?

Yes. District 7's final reopening document which will be available at the beginning of August will contain an option for "Remote Learning 2.0". The District has met with teachers and administrators at all levels to develop remote learning plans that lay out expectations for parents and students. These expectations will be similar whether remote learning is by parent choice for the entire semester or by state mandate for any amount of time. [Click here for parent information regarding remote learning.](#)

4. If a student is sent home because of a temperature above 100 degrees, will they be required to be tested for COVID-19 before being allowed to return to school?

The rules guiding this are still in development from the CDC and IDPH. The guidance we currently have says that if students are sent home with COVID-19 symptoms such as fever over 100.4 and cough, they will need to stay home for two weeks unless cleared by a doctor to return to school. District 7 school nurses are developing procedures for families that will be a part of our school reopening document.

5. Are parents allowed to send in lunch with their students, or do they have to buy at school?

Parents may send in lunch with their students if the students are eating lunch at school. At the high school level, the only students eating lunch at school will be those staying for academic support or an extracurricular activity in the afternoon. At the middle school level, those students who ride the bus will be able to eat lunch at school while remaining socially distanced. At the elementary level, all students will eat lunch while remaining socially distanced. Boxed lunches will be available for purchase at all levels, but parents may continue to send lunches in with their students.

6. I have twins, is it possible that they are in the same classroom?

Yes. At the elementary and middle school level, we will make every effort to put twins in the same classrooms when possible. At the high school level, parents should email the students' assistant principal with this request. The assistant principal will evaluate the schedules and will make changes where possible.

7. Will District 7 conduct fire, intruder, and tornado drills? Often social distancing is impossible in those situations.

We are consulting with the Regional Office of Education on this question and are awaiting further guidance. We are currently planning to conduct drills on a smaller scale to maintain social distancing guidelines but also ensure that all students know and understand the procedures.

8. Will remote learning be available for PreSchool Academy or Preschool for all?

No. The remote learning option is only available for kindergarten through 12th grade students. However, if the district is mandated to go into remote learning for all students, pre-kindergarten will receive remote learning services.

9. Are masks required during recess if it's outdoors? How about if it's indoors?

As the guidance currently stands, masks must be worn at all times while indoors and can be removed if the students are outside AND can be socially distanced. Because of this, each school is defining outdoor spaces where the possibility will exist that teachers can take classes outside on occasion. Weather depending, we hope for teachers to be able to take students outside more frequently during the time when masks are required indoors.

10. How can we get more information regarding Kid Zone?

Kid Zone will be in service for elementary students. [Click here for more information regarding Kid Zone or to register for this fall.](#) All parents who register for Kid Zone will receive additional information regarding procedures and protocols for the fall.

11. Will buses have the same rules as the classrooms?

Per ISBE guidance, buses can have a maximum of 50 students--meaning that there will be a maximum of two students per bus seat. Buses will have assigned seating and students will be required to wear masks at all times while on the bus. While having less than 50 students means the buses will not be overcrowded, it is not possible to keep students 6 feet apart. Parents may choose to drive their students to and from school and all schools will have staggered dismissal times for students that are picked up or drive themselves.

Frequently Asked Questions--Original List posted 7/13/2020

General Questions

12. What will happen if there is a positive COVID test of a student or staff member in a school?

One of the goals of the compacted schedule, increased physical spacing and strict seating charts within classrooms and buses is to limit the amount of time that students and staff are in close contact with one another. Close contact is defined by the CDC as being within 6 feet of another person for 15 minutes or longer. As an example, passing another student in the hallway is not close contact. If a student or staff member has a positive COVID test, District administrators will work with the Madison County Health Department to contact trace and determine individuals who came in close contact with while at school, on the bus, or in any athletic team or extracurricular activity. Any person who had direct close contact with someone with a positive COVID test will be notified and will be required to quarantine for 14 days. We will continue to work with the Madison County Health Department to refine these procedures as well as finalize the communication that will be sent to families in this situation. As this procedure is modified and we get updated guidance, we will notify parents and update this FAQ document.

13. Will District 7 students be able to participate in sports during the 2020-2021 school year?

District 7 will follow the guidelines set by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Illinois Elementary Association (IESA) regarding extracurricular athletics. Currently IHSA is in Phase 4 of its Return to Play plan. Click [here](#) to view the complete IHSA Phase 4 return to play guidelines.

14. Why do elementary school students eat lunch at school while high school students do not?

There are multiple reasons. The first is the ability to maintain social distancing while eating. Due to the number of students at EHS (2450 students), Lincoln MS (825 students), and Liberty MS (910 students), there was not a feasible solution for allowing all students to eat at school in our existing spaces while following social distancing guidelines. All elementary buildings are less than 500 students and by rotating students through multiple lunch hours and providing space in the cafeterias and gymnasiums, we are able to safely socially distance students at these grade levels while eating lunch.

The second reason for the difference in lunch schedules is the daily schedule. District 7's schedule is partially determined by bussing and the amount of time in between routes. Because of this, the high school starts almost two hours before the elementary schools at 7:20 AM and can have a full schedule of 40 minute classes and in-person learning completed by 11:50 AM. The elementary schedule does not start until 9:15 AM. With this starting time, the in-person portion of the school day must cross over the time period when students would be eating lunch.

15. When are students to get extra help from teachers with shortened schedules?

At the secondary level (middle and high school) teachers will be available to meet with students during a designated time period after school at each building. Teachers will have scheduled times in the afternoon to tutor students both in-person and virtually through videoconferencing or other means. Activity buses will be provided for students who need to stay after school. Specific details will be released from each building principal regarding how students may access this support. Elementary teachers will work within the school day to allow for one-on-one and small group instruction.

16. How will student arrivals be handled at the elementary school level? Will the students still meet/sit in the gymnasium until class starts for the day?

Students will report directly to their classroom upon arrival to school between 8:45 AM - 9:10 AM. Students that need to purchase breakfast will be allowed to go to the cafeteria to do so. School specific instructions for purchasing breakfast will be sent from the building principal prior to the beginning of the school year. Morning meetings in each elementary school will be provided in an alternate format by the building principal while students are in the classroom with their teachers.

17. Is it expected that the same curriculum can be taught in a compacted day at all levels?

Elementary (K-5) will expand the focus during the 2020-2021 school year on language arts and math, with science and social science concepts taught across the curriculum. Middle school students will receive instruction in the areas of language arts, math, science, social science, and physical education. High school students will be able to take their full course load. It is expected that students will have work to complete at home. Teachers across the District will be meeting with curriculum teams to discuss how to best utilize the time for in-person instruction to teach new concepts while providing opportunities for independent practice to be completed outside of the in-person instructional day.

Remote Learning Questions

18. Can a family have one child choose the remote learning option and another child choose in-person learning?

Yes. Each child must be signed up for remote learning individually and families can make the decision that one child may be taught remotely while another receives in-person learning at school. To sign your student up by remote learning, you must complete the following form by July 17th. [Click here to sign your student up for the remote learning option.](#)

19. Can remote learning students still participate in sports

Yes. High school and middle school students who participate in remote learning can still participate in extracurricular athletics as long as they meet all other requirements set forth by IHSA and IESA.

20. Will elementary (K-5) remote students be assigned a teacher and will that teacher be from his/her home school?

All Kindergarten through 5th grade students who are signed up for remote learning will be assigned a teacher. The teacher will be a dedicated remote learning teacher who will have students throughout the district from the same grade level. Therefore, the teacher assigned may not be from the child's home school and the remote learning classmates will be from all areas within District 7 boundaries.

21. We are considering signing my high school student up for remote learning, but there are classes on his schedule that are not on the list to be taught remotely. What should we do?

EHS can offer almost any class remotely that has enough students to make a section. After July 17th, administration and guidance will evaluate and determine what additional classes can be offered. As parents are requesting remote learning for their high school students, we are reviewing the schedules of these students. If there are classes that are not on our remote learning list, there is still a possibility that the course can be offered if there are enough remote students to create a section. Once we have reviewed all students' schedules, we will determine

what additional courses can be offered. Our guidance department will be in contact with each student/parent to let them know which of the courses will not be available so the family can make a decision. They will give the options of what courses could be substituted if a course is not offered remotely. At that time, if parents feel that the remote learning schedule is not satisfactory, they can make the decision to switch their student back to in-person learning.

22. What will a daily elementary (K-5) schedule for remote learning look like?

Teachers will communicate the weekly schedule to families in advance. This schedule will include the times of required direct instruction or engagement in other online live learning activities such as a zoom meeting. At the elementary level, parents can expect at minimum one Zoom meeting each day in addition to other lessons that may be pre-recorded or accessed via an online platform. Depending on the grade level, there may be some full class and some small group live instruction each day. Some assignments may be due each day, as would be expected as “classwork” during a regular school day. When possible, assignments will be due the following day. We are understanding that at the elementary level, parents may be needed in order to turn in assignments--and teachers will provide flexibility. Students are NOT expected to have access to a computer for the entire school day (9:15 AM to 2:30 PM).

23. If a student is signed up for remote learning and switches back to in-person learning, will the child be assigned to his/her home school?

Yes. Students who transition back to in-person learning for the second semester will be assigned a teacher/classroom from their home schools. Therefore, at the K-5 level, moving from remote to in-person for the second semester would mean that there would be a change of teacher as the student transitions back to their home school. At the middle school level, students who come back to in-person learning second semester would be assigned to their home middle school. Students may be able to be assigned the same teacher for one or more subjects, however, this will be dependent on the location of the teacher and factors such as class size.

High School Specific Questions

24. Will there be early bird classes?

Yes. Early bird classes will run at the normal time from 6:30 AM to 7:15 AM.

25. Will there be freshman orientation before school begins?

Yes. EHS is developing a freshman orientation program that will follow Phase 4 social distancing guidelines. Freshman parents will be sent details in late July/early August from Dr. Stuart.

26. What will passing periods look like? Will students be allowed to use their lockers?

Passing periods will be 5 minutes each. Hallways and staircases in the academic wing will be one-way and students will be taught the flow of traffic. Students will be assigned lockers,

however, students will be encouraged to use them sparingly and will not be allowed to linger or congregate outside lockers during passing periods.

27. Will the apprentice program and CAVC still be available for my student if they have registered?

Yes, both the apprentice program and CAVC are still available. We will be providing additional details for those students registered for CAVC with regards to schedule and transportation.

28. Will students dress out for PE at EHS?

No. While PE classes will continue, the locker room area will be closed for students during the school day and students will not dress out for PE. Students who have PE are still required to wear or bring appropriate shoes for physical activity.

Middle School Specific Questions

29. What will be the 5th class in addition to Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts?

Physical Education and Health. 6th and 7th graders have 3 quarters of PE and 1 quarter of Health. 8th graders have 2 quarters of PE and 2 quarters of Health.

30. Will students dress out for PE? Will there be social distancing?

Students will NOT dress out for PE. Students will be required to wear or bring appropriate shoes for physical activity. When possible, PE will take place outside in small groups. Social distancing will be followed to the greatest extent possible. The PE curriculum is being modified to follow the recommended social distancing guidelines.

31. Will there be band/orchestra/chorus at the middle school level since the schedule is compacted?

All Performing Arts ensemble groups will take place during the academic intervention time in the afternoon which will take place from approximately 1:25 – 2:00 pm. A rotating schedule for ensemble groups will be made available as we get closer to the beginning of the school year. Students who participate in any activity during academic intervention time will have access to an activity bus at 2:00 PM.

32. Will middle school students carry backpacks or use lockers?

Students will not have access to lockers, but will be allowed to bring their bags to their 1st hour classroom. Since students will not be moving except to PE, this will allow them to have all of their supplies with them.

33. Please explain who is eating at school and who is not at the middle school level.

All students will have the option to purchase a boxed lunch that will be delivered to the classroom at the end of the 5th hour class. At 12:20 PM, students who are being picked up will be dismissed. Students that are riding the bus will be able to eat lunch that was purchased or brought from home between 12:20 and 12:40 PM. This was done because some students have a longer bus ride and we do not want students eating on the buses because they are not socially distanced and would not be able to wear masks.