

Return to In-Person Instruction

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question:

What will the remote only school day look like for students who enroll?

Answer:

The Remote Only school day will be dependent on the number of students enrolled by grade level in the program. If enrollment is low, the instructional model will be a teacher recording live instruction while teaching students in-person and making those recordings available to remote learners the next day. The teacher will set up times to conduct live instructional check-ins during the day to assess student understanding. If enrollment is high, a teacher will be assigned to a remote only class. Lessons will still be pre-recorded but the frequency of instructional check-ins and the live interaction with students will be greater. With a remote only teacher, students will be afforded live interaction with a teacher daily.

Question:

Can I select my child's grouping (or days) for the hybrid model? Will my children be on the same schedule?

Answer:

The school district will not be able to accommodate specific requests for hybrid scheduling. However, please know that we fully plan to keep siblings and families from the same household on the same schedule to the greatest extent possible.

Question:

If I select to enroll my child in the Remote Only option, can I transition to the hybrid model at a later date?

Answer:

No. In order to adequately staff the building to meet the needs of all learners, we are requiring families to commit to the remote learning option for the first quarter of the school year.

Question:

Do we need to fill out a form if we want our child to begin the school year on the hybrid model?

Answer:

No. All students who do not enroll in the "Remote Only" option will be assigned to a hybrid group to begin the school year.

Question:

When will we be notified of our child's hybrid grouping?

Answer:

Parents will be notified of hybrid assignments during the first week of August so that they can plan for childcare if necessary.

Question:

Will full day kindergarten still be tuition based with only attending two days a week?

Answer:

Per the letter sent to all full day kindergarten families on May 20, any day where a full day of in-person instruction is not taking place, full day kindergarten families will receive a reduction in tuition in the amount of \$10 per day. It is our hope that full day kindergarten students will be in full attendance on September 28th.

Question:

Will there be band at the middle school or zero hour PE classes?

Answer:

There will not be traditional band, but remote opportunities will be available for students. There will be no Zero hour, PE, or band classes.

Question:

If students cannot move from class to class, what will happen with ALPS and high math?

Answer:

At East and West, teachers will be supported during collaboration time with differentiation strategies to meet the needs of their high math students. ALPS students will continue to be supported to the greatest extent possible. At Palos South, we are minimizing the movement of students, however, some students may have to move for Honors Math/ALPS.

Question:

How can we expect kids to like school if they have to wear masks all day and must social distance?

Answer:

Our professional staff is working on a plan to ensure the social emotional well-being of our students. This includes finding creative ways students can socially interact, even while social distancing. The school district has hired two additional social workers to support students' social emotional well-being.

Question:

If a confirmed case of COVID 19 is found in the school, will parents be notified?

Answer:

The school community will be notified the same day school administration becomes aware of a confirmed case. Please refer to our Return to In-Person Instruction Safety Plan at <https://www.palos118.org/return2020>.

Question:

What steps is the district taking to make sure that the schools will be cleaned and disinfected for my children?

Answer:

The school district will follow all recommendations from CDC, IDPH, and ISBE for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. The school district will utilize cleaning products that are known to combat COVID-19 and are approved by the EPA for safe use in schools. We are also increasing the number of classified employees to clean and disinfect the buildings.

Question:

Will the school district consider extending the hybrid model after the first four and a half weeks of school?

Answer:

The hybrid model is not designed to be a long term solution for reopening schools. It is highly unlikely we would be able to continue with a hybrid model after the first four and a half weeks of school due to the additional resources that would be needed.

Question:

How will students be supported during remote learning days when classroom teachers are teaching students attending in-person at the same time?

Answer:

Our hybrid model requires prioritization of curriculum and resources. Reading and math will receive the highest priority and will be taught during in-person instruction. Students need to be proficient in these subject areas in order to excel in science and social studies. Therefore, during the hybrid model the majority of our resources will be devoted to in-person instruction. Classroom teachers will have opportunities to respond to remote learner questions and concerns, however, live interaction with students on remote learning days will be provided by non-classroom specialists.

Please remember the hybrid model is designed to be a temporary instructional model for the first four and a half weeks of school until all students can return to in-person instruction on September 28.

Question:

I was unsatisfied with remote learning in the spring. If the school district is forced to go back to remote learning only this school year, how will remote learning be different?

Answer:

Remote learning will look different this school year. Last spring, the school district had to transition quickly to remote learning when schools were closed. Please keep in mind that Palos 118 was not a one-to-one device school district prior to the pandemic. Only our middle school teachers and students had prior experience with using district issued laptops and a common online learning management system (Schoology). As a result, the transition to remote learning was much more efficient at the middle school compared to our elementary schools. It took time to train our elementary teachers on using online learning management systems (SeeSaw). Our teachers received training in the spring and will continue to train on effective practices for remote learning.

The following specific changes will occur during remote only learning this year:

- All students will be issued a district owned device. This will improve the remote learning experience for families with multiple children who previously had to share a device in order to engage in remote learning and families who had to wait for an issued loaner device.
- Students will be guaranteed live interaction with teachers daily. Increased live interaction with students will dramatically improve the remote learning experience.
- Students will be guaranteed five clock hours of instruction per ISBE. Last spring, limits placed on local school districts dramatically reduced the amount of time dedicated to daily learning.
- Students will be held accountable for their learning with teachers taking attendance and providing written feedback and traditional letter grades. Accountability will increase

engagement and provide parents with a sense of how their student is progressing in their learning.

- New features in our online learning management systems provide additional tools to increase the ease in which students and teachers communicate and students complete activities.

Question:

Is remote learning a good substitute for in-person instruction?

Answer:

No. Remote learning is a tool for continuing instruction when in-person instruction is impossible to achieve. Remote learning will never replace in-person instruction at the elementary level, where the in-person support teachers give their students is critical to the learning process.

Question:

I hear that other school districts are “zooming all day” with their students. Why do we not zoom all day with our students?

Answer:

“Zooming all day” with students may be possible in middle or high school grades but is unrealistic at the elementary level considering the amount of time a young learners’ attention can be sustained during remote learning. Additionally, very young learners need the support of an adult to effectively engage in remote learning for any sustained period of time. During remote learning, parents may be assisting multiple children or juggling working from home and supporting remote learners simultaneously. Some remote learners do not have a parent or trusted adult at home to support remote learning. All of this must be taken into account when determining the appropriate amount of daily live interaction.

The school district is committed to providing daily live interaction with teachers and specialists throughout remote learning only school days, however, that level of interaction will take into consideration the age of the child and their ability to focus on remote learning for realistic amounts of sustained time.

Question:

I’ve been reading articles about families teaming up to provide homeschooling for students rather than engaging in remote learning provided by their local school districts. Will the school district provide resources to families that decide to homeschool their children?

Answer:

Homeschooling is certainly an option for families that can support learning without the assistance of their local public school. The school district understands that parents will make decisions they believe are best for their children. The school district cannot, however, provide resources to families that choose to homeschool their children. Families choosing to homeschool are required to withdraw their child from school. You can find information related to Homeschool requirements at this Illinois State Board of Education link:

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Homeschools.aspx>.