



Community Day Charter Public School - [Gateway](#)
Community Day Charter Public School - [Prospect](#)
Community Day Charter Public School - [R. Kingman Webster](#)

As a school community CDCPS has done everything in our power to establish a healthy learning environment for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. We used guiding principles from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to institute new safety rules and regulations to help protect our students and staff. Multiple layers of protection will be in place including practicing social distancing, the use of masks, scheduled cleaning, and limiting the number of people in the building, to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

We understand that sending your child back to school during this time is a very difficult and personal process. We wanted to take this opportunity to respond to some frequently asked questions regarding CDCPS reopening plans to assist families in their decision making.

Answering our parents questions:

Safety

Can parents tour the building to see if it meets CDC guidelines?

Unfortunately for safety reasons we need to limit the visitors in the school building. Photos of classroom/school layout will be shared with parents.

What are you doing to improve ventilation, especially on hot days?

Clean ventilation system: CDCPS has ensured and will continue to ensure that each school's ventilation system is properly cleaned and maintained.

- Run HVAC systems: For CDCPS schools that operate HVAC systems, utilize outside air dampers open for a minimum period of one week prior to reopening school.
- Upgrade filters: In buildings with mechanical ventilation systems, CDCPS will upgrade filters to increased efficiency ratings. Schools without mechanical ventilation systems will increase ventilation through opening windows and using fans.

Do I need to supply my own masks?

Yes, you will need to send your child to school with a clean mask each day he/she is in school. CDCPS will have extra, disposable masks on hand if needed.

How will you enforce mask policies?

Mask policies and procedures are in place. All staff and students, grade 2 and up are required to wear a mask. Students K-1 will be strongly encouraged. Students will be reminded by teachers, staff, and administrators of mask protocols.

What would happen if there was a fire drill or lockdown?

If there was an emergency that outweighed the risk of Covid-19, we would address the immediate safety of the students to make sure they can evacuate the building and be led to safety, and then re-establish social distancing and other protocols once we are safely able to do so.

What is the procedure if someone tests positive for Covid-19?

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, working in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, has developed strict protocols for schools to follow in the case of a positive test. We will strictly follow the protocols set in place by DESE: see [July 17th guidance](#)) for more details

What if my child has asthma or another pre-existing condition?

CDCPS is taking the following measures to respond to the health and safety needs of all children and staff, including high-risk children and staff:

- Additional nursing staff has been added.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been purchased.
- Additional spaces for the isolation of students who are ill have been identified in every school.
- CDCPS will collaborate closely with the Lawrence Board of Health.
- Community Day Charter Public Schools will meet the standards outlined by the Massachusetts Department of Education for the health and safety of students and staff.

If your child has a documented pre-existing health condition that necessitates a change in our mask-wearing policy, we will work with individual families. If your child is in a high-risk category, we encourage you to consider the fully remote option.

How will you maintain social distance, especially with the younger kids?

Classrooms will be set up in accordance with state guidelines. Hallways will have signage and markers for social distancing reminders as well as direction arrows for one-way traffic in smaller areas. Staff will receive training on best practices to help students understand and maintain social distancing guidelines.

Will there be daily temperature checks?

[DESE](#) and the [CDC](#) advise against daily temperature checks in the school buildings because of the high possibility of false positives and false negatives. However, it is extremely important that parents and caregivers monitor your children for any symptoms of contagious illness. If you notice any symptoms of contagious illness in your child, including fever, you must keep them home.

Will students choosing the hybrid model need to be tested before returning to school?

No. At this time, COVID testing is not required for students to return to school.

Schedule/classes

Can I choose remote learning for my child?

Yes. All parents have the option to choose a fully remote option for their child. A remote learning agreement was sent home on Monday, August 10th and must be returned by Friday, August 15th if you plan to keep your child home for fully remote learning in school year 20-21. Students choosing the remote-only option will be fully participating students in CDCPS, including daily attendance and grading

What will the schedule look like for both remote and hybrid learning?

Hybrid in-school learning will follow our usual school day schedule with staggered dismissal times possible for social distancing and health and safety.

Remote learning, whether fully remote or as part of a hybrid, will have live morning classes followed by structured independent work time, intervention, teacher feedback via platforms and office hours for support with a targeted 3-3:30 end time.

How will you choose the students for cohort A & B?

Once students for full remote learning are identified, cohorts will be created to balance the number of students attending for cohort A and cohort B. Every effort will be made to keep siblings in the same cohort.

How many students will be in each cohort/remote class?

This will be dependent on the number of students for each grade level and school who elect to be in our full remote learning plan. After this determination, cohort sizes will be created to lower the number of students in the building on a given day for smaller class sizes.

If I choose remote learning can I switch to hybrid as time progresses or vice versa?

Whatever model you choose we encourage you to stay in for the full semester. If you would like to switch models we request 4 weeks of written notice. We will work with families on an individual basis for any issues related to health or necessary quarantine.

Will there be different teachers for in person and remote learning?

In general, remote and in-person teachers will be a part of a child's teaching team. CDCPS model has lead teachers and supporting teachers that work with students for whole group, small group, and individual instruction as needed, across both remote and hybrid plans.

How will the success of this plan be measured? Will you revisit and update the plan as needed?

We know that this plan may need to change once we implement it and evaluate what is working or not working. We will constantly be reviewing how each learning model is working and we are committed to making changes as needed. We appreciate your feedback and flexibility throughout this process

Why will there be homework? Can we request additional work/homework?

The nature of our remote and/or hybrid schedule has students on screens for approximately four hours in the morning. To make this as streamlined and time-efficient as possible, we decided to run our instructional blocks through our directed teaching after guided practice, leaving much of the lesson's

independent practice for completion in the afternoon. This is essentially "homework" and we are dedicating two hours each day to supervised study and support for completion of the independent work.

If after a few weeks a parent feels their child needs more independent practice work, we can certainly discuss adding additional work for a child. We do not anticipate that this will be the case based on our current model for the independent practice blocks within the schedule.

Training

Are teachers receiving instruction and support for how to do effective/engaging online learning?

Yes, teachers will receive two weeks of professional development including online learning. Training opportunities will be available throughout the school year as well.

Will students / families receive technical support / training?

We will provide technology webinars and trainings for parents ahead of the start of school that will include devices but also platforms (e.g. SeeSaw, Google classroom). If another caregiver will be watching your child during the day and supporting remote learning, we encourage them to attend these training sessions as well.

Communication

Will parents be able to communicate with teachers?

Yes. There will be ongoing communication between teachers and families.

How will parents be able to check their child's progress?

During the time period where all students are engaged in some form of online learning, we are committed to providing weekly updates to each parent regarding their child's progress the previous week (via email, phone, and/ or grade specific platforms). We will continue our communication systems during in-person learning for each grade level.

Technology

Will students both remote and hybrid receive learning devices?

Yes. Students choosing the hybrid model will be required to bring their device to school and use it at home during online learning. You will receive more information as to when you can pick up your device before the beginning of school.

What if my child already has a Chromebook?

You will receive a school issued device to ensure the correct applications, learning tools are installed and supported.

How will the Chromebooks be updated and needed software be installed?

All CDCPS Chromebooks are centrally managed through the cloud by school IT staff. All necessary updates, applications and links will be made through the centralized management system, and will be "pushed" (installed) automatically to all school owned Chromebooks.

Will you supply hotspots to families who do not have reliable Internet access?

We will support any family with connectivity issues.

IEP's

How will you support IEPs for both remote and in-person learning?

We will make sure all children receive services needed to support their learning per each child's IEP or 504 plan. Service delivery will include sessions in remote and in-person learning.

Supplies / Uniform

Do I need to purchase a school uniform?

Yes, if your child is in the building for the hybrid-model, he/she needs to be in uniform.

Do I need to purchase a gym uniform?

The only required element for PE/gym uniform are sneakers for safety for in person instruction. This year, PE shirts, shorts, or sweatpants are not required. Parents may choose to send their students to school in a PE uniform with required sneakers on any days where they have PE scheduled for in person instruction.

What are you doing to ensure that students wear a clean mask and uniform each day?

A small supply of extra masks are available in the case a face mask becomes dirty or broken. We will continue our normal in school policy and procedure for uniform enforcement.

Does my child need to wear the uniform on remote learning days?

No, a student does not need to be in school uniform during online learning but we encourage parents to make sure they are up, fed, dressed and ready for the school day.

What materials does my child need for remote and in-person learning?

Supply lists will be sent to each family that will be grade level specific.

Extra Curricular

Will there be extra curricular activities (art, music, sports) during or after school?

As of now we are awaiting guidance from the state. If there are any physical activities with exertion, we have to ensure 10 feet of social distancing. Per state guidance, band or chorus cannot happen in buildings. We will be exploring virtual offerings after the first month of school.

If I choose remote learning for my child can he/she participate in after school activities?

Unfortunately, no. If a family opts to keep a child at home they cannot participate in **on-campus** activities. If the after school activities are remote offerings, a child may participate virtually from home.

Getting to school

What will busses look like? Will they be available?

See our [CDCPS Facilities, Operations, and Transportation Guidelines](#) for additional information. Busses will have one student per seat, alternating sides.

What will pick up/drop off look like?

After determining who is electing full remote, creation of cohort schedule and determining bus transportation, CDCPS will update arrival and dismissal procedures and schedules to ensure health and safety guidelines. Information will follow by the end of August, ahead of the Sept. 21st hybrid in-person start date.

Food/ Lunches

What are the guidelines for packing home lunches?

For students bringing lunches which include highly perishable food, please pack ice bag coolers which can be purchased at local stores. Students should pack all lunches in one bag or lunch box and have this with them when they arrive at school. Parents should not bring or have delivered to students, fast food and/or fried food lunches and/or soft drinks during the school day. Consistent with our existing school lunch policy, we request that students refrain from bringing cakes, candy, and other “junk foods” in their school lunches.

Will breakfast, lunches and snacks be provided by school?

Yes. Lunch will be provided for both in-person and remote learners. More information will be forthcoming on lunch distributions for remote learners.

Supports

What strategies will be incorporated into remote learning to meet the needs of advanced learners?

The curriculum is already layered in such a fashion to provide numerous access points for all learners, including gifted learners. This is done through the lens of challenging work paired with ways to promote learners at the upper school level to become more independent in their preparation for high school. The texts selected for ELA are extremely rigorous, and our curriculum is already differentiated such to allow for stretch opportunities for advanced learners. Math, social studies, and Science are similarly developed where we have multiple access points and many opportunities to go above the grade-level with the content. We have taken our in-person curriculum and modified it to fit our new world. Our single objective is to get as close as possible to executing the same program virtually.

What is the social/emotional learning (SEL) going to look like? What is going to be included?

Social Emotional support and learning is a fundamental part of academic success and is more important than ever important with the advent of the pandemic. We will offer staff training for SEL practices, and will include outside professional development with trauma-informed strategies. A major focus of our phased start is to pair social emotional learning and support with the beginning of academics. During our initial 2-week period of remote learning at the start of the year, we will focus on relationships, routines, and being together virtually, with no masks. Each grade level will work with students on self-management skills, resilience, ways to process emotions, and re-engaging into school (or joining for the first time for our K1). This will continue throughout the year. Classes will have daily morning meetings, weekly dedicated SEL and character development sessions, and supportive wellness and enrichment activities.

School counselors will be onsite to help kids process any hardships they are facing with the virus, how different school looks, etc.