

High School Hybrid Learning Model - Parent Version

Synopsis

The high schools are implementing a system of **hybrid learning**, such that students will be split into **1 of 2 cohorts**, and will attend school **in person 2 days a week** and **work remotely for 3 days a week**. For those families who have opted for 100% remote learning, it will include both **live, video/audio meets** and assigned work that students do at their own pace.

Students' schedules and their teacher assignments will not change due to hybrid learning.

For more information on the district's reopening plan, please use this [Link to District Reopening Plan](#).

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Rationale for Hybrid Model:

- With 1500+ students in each of the high schools, maintaining social distancing within classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and other common gathering spaces would be very difficult if all students returned to school.
- This plan allows us to:
 - adapt to state recommendations for a safe environment at the high school level with more fidelity.
 - implement the cohort model at the high school level, which reduces the exposure on any given day.
 - implement the existing FPS curriculum for all students in a meaningful and engaging way
- Instructional and well-being benefits include:
 - Instruction will take place through a blended learning model which takes the best aspects for both in-class and distance learning.
 - Teachers and students will see each other in person on a consistent basis and have social interactions with peers.
 - Teachers and students will have the opportunity to meet with support staff throughout the week.
 - State guidelines require some restriction on the use of classroom materials which would be difficult to follow at 100% capacity.
 - Allow students to have access to classroom materials, technology, and educational equipment while meeting state guidelines. (For example: Tech Ed, FCS, Art, etc).

Key Terms and Definitions:

- Hybrid learning: Where students and teachers are working both face-to-face in the classroom setting as well as working remotely.
- Remote learning: Where students and/or teachers are working entirely online.
- Synchronous learning: Where students and teachers are working together and interacting in a digital space in real time.
- Asynchronous learning: Where teachers post instruction and learning materials online and students engage in class materials and complete work at their own pace within a given timeframe.

Hybrid Schedule Overview:

- The student population will be divided into two cohorts (Cohort A & Cohort B), rotating between in-person and remote learning.
- A combination of synchronous (live direct/interaction instruction) and asynchronous (independent learning) teaching will be provided during remote learning.

Day/Cohort	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A	In-person Learning Day 1-3	Remote Learning	Remote Learning 8 Periods	In-person Learning Day 2-4	Remote Learning
Cohort B	Remote Learning	In-person Learning Day 1-3		Remote Learning	In-person Learning Day 2-4

Hybrid Daily Schedule:

- All students will utilize our regular bell schedule which will allow us to maximize instructional time while the students are in school, create a sense of consistency from years' past, and provide us with an opportunity to implement an advisory schedule focused on social emotional learning.
- Students should plan on utilizing the same time schedule when they are “in-person” as when they are working remotely.

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

Block 1	7:30-8:55
Block 2	9:00-10:25
Homeroom	10:30-10:37
Block 3 (including 3 lunch waves)	10:39-12:40
Block 4	12:45-2:10

Wednesday

Professional Time	7:30 - 9:00
Day 1 Period 1	9:00 - 9:31
Day 1 Period 2	9:34 - 10:05

Day 1 Period 3	10:10 - 10:41
Day 1 Period 4	10:44 - 11:15
Lunch	11:15 - 11:45
Day 2 Period 1	11:45 - 12:16
Day 2 Period 2	12:19 - 12:50
Day 2 Period 3	12:55 - 1:26
Day 2 Period 4	1:29 - 2:00

Weeks that only contain four days due to holidays:

- When the calendar presents a 4-day week, we will cancel the Wednesday Remote Learning schedule to allow for all classes to meet in person over the week. Other scenarios will be adjusted accordingly. Keeping a balance of Day 1 and Day 2 classes is a priority as well as making sure each cohort has equal access to teachers.

Wednesday Remote Learning:

- On Wednesdays, all students will be on remote learning and all classes will meet. Teachers can use the class time to have whole-class synchronous instruction (linking the two cohorts), implement small group instruction, or provide additional clarification to distance learning assignments. This schedule will also provide professional learning time for teachers to receive continuous support for blended learning.

Cohort Assignment and Notification:

- The student population will be divided into two cohorts (Cohort A & Cohort B).
- Cohorts will be determined at the household level to make sure students within a household will be on the same schedule.
- Cohort assignments are scheduled to be published to families the week of August 31.
- Students' cohorts will be viewed through Infinite Campus.
- Requests to change cohorts are not being considered at this time.

Notification of Health Concerns:

- The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for all schools for symptomatic students. Please [click here](#) to access the plan.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures:

- We will keep the arrival and dismissal plans the same as in previous years because we are using the hybrid model which will reduce the building's occupancy by half on a daily basis. We will monitor areas and adjust if necessary. Bus drop off will be monitored to ensure that social distancing guidelines are maintained.
- Free periods (for Grade 11 and 12) /Study Halls (Grades 9 and 10):
 - Period 1 Free/Study Hall: If a student does not have an assigned class Period 1, they may arrive for the start of Period 2 (via your own transportation).
 - Period 4 Free/Study Hall: If students do not have an assigned class Period 4, they may leave at the end of Period 3.
 - This privilege will be extended to all grades, including freshmen and sophomores who have been assigned study halls. This will reduce entry and egress numbers at those scheduled times for students who are able to arrange transportation. If a parent would prefer not to have this privilege extended to their child to arrive late or leave early during study hall, please contact their House dean for next steps.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate in common areas and must report directly to their classroom.

Communication to Families:

It is important for families to understand that Fairfield teachers have access to two email accounts. One is **teachername@fairfieldschools.ORG** and the other is **teachername@fairfieldschools.NET**.

- All communication to teachers from parents and students should be sent to the .ORG email address.
- Administration will communicate with families using Infinite Campus for general announcements and for messages intended for the entire school community. Please make sure your contact information is updated in Infinite Campus!
- Teachers will post assignments and provide feedback to students both in class and through Google Classroom; information about grades will be posted in Infinite Campus.
- Teachers will be sending emails to students at the student's .NET address (the school assigned gmail account). Students are responsible for monitoring their fairfieldschools.net email for communications from teachers and counseling staff.

Attendance Procedures:

For in-class learning:

- Attendance will be taken in Infinite Campus. Parents can access this record through the parent portal.
- If your child is sick and cannot attend school, the school should be called and the sickness reported to the House office. If your child's illness is COVID-19 related, please contact the school nurse as well as the House office.

- Missing work is expected to be completed by all students.
- Students who are absent can access Google Classroom for their assignments.
- All regional travel advisories would remain in effect as dictated by government officials.
- All Board of Education policies remain in effect for the duration of the plan.

For remote learning:

- District officials are still considering attendance plans for remote learning. More information will be forthcoming.

Access to Building:

- The building will be open during normal school hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Students should be on campus only during their assigned cohort times or extracurricular activities.
- Visitors are required to schedule an appointment prior to coming to the building.
- All visitors entering the building must adhere to local health protocols and all social distancing guidelines, including wearing a mask.
- Parent/staff meetings will be held virtually unless otherwise arranged with school personnel.

Classroom Procedures:

- Social distancing and safety and cleaning measures will be maintained in the classrooms. Please see [here](#) for further information.
- Students and staff are required to wear masks while in classrooms.

Lunch Procedures:

- Like a traditional year, we will run three lunch waves per day during period 3; a student's lunch wave will continue to be determined by their block 3 class.
- Arrows will be placed on the floors to direct student movement, and seating will be marked to allow for proper social distancing.
- Students will use the cafeteria, the adjoining commons area, and the courtyard, thus allowing for multiple spaces in which they can maintain adequate social distance.
- Students must remain on campus for lunch.
- The schedule permits for enough time in between lunch waves for proper cleaning and food preparations.
- Please click [here](#) for more information as posted in the [2020 Reopening Plan](#) on the district website.

Hallway and Bathroom Procedures

- Hallways:
 - Students and staff are required to wear masks while in hallways/bathrooms.
 - For the hallways that will not be one way, a dividing marker will direct pedestrians to walk on the right side of the hallway.
 - Hallways will have directional arrows for student students to follow.
 - Passing time between classes will remain the same because the hybrid model decreases the foot traffic by half.
 - In addition, signs will be posted regarding hallway and bathroom procedures.
- Bathroom:
 - Bathroom procedures will be posted and reviewed with students and staff at the beginning of the school year.
 - Sinks and urinals will be marked off to ensure students are not next to each other
 - Custodians will sanitize bathrooms at least twice a day.
 - Handicapped bathrooms will be cleaned after use.
 - Schools will continue to use disposable towels.

Classroom Layout

- The teacher will be provided a 9 foot area in front of the classroom for instruction.
- Student desk will be a social distance of six feet apart from each other.
- Students will not be able to share classroom materials.
- Each teacher will have a classroom set of 50 disposable masks that can be handed out to students if needed.
- Open air spaces will be designated for staff to hold classes outside.
- Please click [here](#) for more information as posted in the [2020 Reopening Plan](#) on the district website.

Cleaning Procedures

- Our buildings will adhere to the building cleaning procedures, as published by the district. For more information, click here: [Building cleaning procedures](#)

Social Emotional Well-Being and Supports

- Advisory and classroom activities will be implemented to support students' social-emotional wellbeing and identify students in need of support.
- In addition to the student's assigned school counselor, students will be assigned a designated point person (e.g., school psychologist/social worker) for additional communications and/or support, as determined by the school-based team in conjunction with the families.

- Additional information about social emotional supports can be found here: [Social emotional supports](#)

“Trial Run” for Cohort A and B Grades 10 - 12

- We have planned for each cohort to experience a trial run. This rehearsal will afford our students the opportunity to visit their classes, see some of the safety procedures in place, note the direction arrows in the hallways, and visualize the seating arrangements in the courtyard, cafeteria, and Learning Commons.
- Directions:
 - Students will enter the building and report to their homeroom class.
 - A special schedule will be created in order for students to visit each class on their schedule.
 - Information gleaned from these visits will be used to modify the safety plans.
- Date and Time:
 - Cohort A:
 - Grades 10 - 12
 - Wednesday September 2, 2020
 - 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 - Bus service will be provided
 - Cohort B:
 - Grades 10 - 12
 - Thursday September 3, 2020
 - 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
 - Bus service will be provided
- A separate communication will be sent with more details as we get closer.

10-12th Grade Trial Run Schedule

Cohort A - Wednesday September 2 7:30 start
 Cohort B - Thursday September 3 7:30 start

Time	Day/Period	Subject	Room
7:30—8:30	Extended Homeroom		
8:35—8:45	Day 1, Period 1		
8:50—9:00	Day 1, Period 2		
9:05—9:15	Day 1, Period 3		
9:20—9:30	Day 1, Period 4		
9:35—9:45	Day 2, Period 1		
9:50—10:00	Day 2, Period 2		
10:05—10:15	Day 2, Period 3		
10:20—10:30	Day 2, Period 4		

Grade 9 Orientation

- We are excited to welcome our incoming Grade 9 students into the building for an orientation. This experience will afford them with the opportunity to meet their teachers, locate their classrooms, note the direction arrows in the hallways, and learn some general safety procedures. The program will begin with students reporting to their homeroom and then proceeding through a shortened schedule.
- There is no school bus service on this day; students' families are responsible for transportation.
 - Cohort A:
 - Monday, August 31, 2020
 - 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 - Cohort B:
 - Tuesday, September 1, 2020
 - 11:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.
- A separate communication will be sent with more details as we get closer.

9th Grade Orientation Schedule

Cohort A - Monday August 31 11:30 start
Cohort B - Tuesday September 1 11:30 start

Time	Day/Period	Subject (Fill out the blanks)	Room
11:30 - 12:30	Extended Homeroom	General Orientation	
12:35 - 12:45	Day 1, Period 1		
12:50 - 1:00	Day 1, Period 2		
1:05 - 1:15	Day 1, Period 3		
1:20 - 1:30	Day 1, Period 4		
1:35 - 1:45	Day 2, Period 1		
1:50 - 2:00	Day 2, Period 2		
2:05 - 2:15	Day 2, Period 3		
2:20 - 2:30	Day 2, Period 4		

Sports and Afterschool Activities

- The Fairfield Public Schools will follow all [CIAC \(Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference\) guidelines for high school sports](#) after approval of such activities by the Superintendent of Schools.
- After school activities, clubs, or events will need to be approved by the Superintendent of Schools, and the current guidelines limit the maximum number to 42 participants.
- We are hoping to continue to offer our "Activity Period." However, any clubs and activities that are currently held during the day will begin at a future date.

Aquaculture & Regional Center for the Arts Schedule:

- **Aquaculture:**
 - Aquaculture will utilize a hybrid model as determined by the Bridgeport Public schools whereby students will be divided in cohorts by last name. These may not always align to your Fairfield Schools schedule. Please see the information below.
 - Wednesdays will be 100% remote learning.
 - Class times and daily schedule will remain the same as in previous years

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students Last Name A-L in School M-Z Remote	Students Last Name A-L in School M-Z Remote	All Student Groups Remote Learning with Teachers	Students Last Name M-Z in School A-L Remote	Students Last Name M-Z in School A-L Remote

For those who need transportation to Aqua:

On days where a student is:

1. In school in Fairfield and in school at Aqua: Arrive at school (by foot, bus, or car), then take the bus to Aqua.
2. Remote learning day in both Fairfield and at Aqua: Students stay home.
3. Remote learning day in Fairfield and in-person learning day at Aqua: Arrive at school, take the bus to Aqua. Then, either get a ride home or come back to Fairfield and be assigned to a study hall for periods 3 and 4.
4. In-person learning day in Fairfield and remote learning day at Aqua: Either arrive at the start of Period 3 or take the bus to school in the morning and be assigned to a study hall for Periods 1 and 2.

- **Regional Center for the Arts (RCA)**
 - Regional Center for the Arts (RCA) will follow their regular schedule, Monday-Thursday.
 - RCA expects students to physically attend RCA on the days they are scheduled for in- person classes in Fairfield, not on remote learning days. RCA will provide on-line experiences for those days.

For those who need transportation to RCA:

On days where a student is:

1. Has in person classes in Fairfield: Report to the RCA bus at the regular time.
2. Remote learning day in Fairfield: Students either stay home and participate in RCA classes remotely or stay at home and get a ride to Fairfield by period 4b to take the bus to RCA.

Remote Learning Only Students:

At the time of the creation of this document, district personnel were still designing the model and schedule of the students who have opted for remote learning only. An update will be provided once more information is available.

SAT & PSAT Assessments:

- SAT: The In-School SAT Day will occur on Wednesday, September 23rd. Seniors who registered for the test will report to school on this day. Specific test day information will be sent at a later date. Grades 9, 10, 11 will follow their regular Wednesday schedule.
- PSAT: The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered to sophomores and juniors on Wednesday, October 14.
- The administration/timing of the Grade 9 PSAT is still being discussed.