

February 22, 2021



High School Hybrid In-Person Learning Starts March 11

Dear PSD High School Community,

It has almost been one year since most staff and students have met together at our high schools, so we are excited to share an announcement about high school hybrid learning. As you may know, we will start hybrid learning for middle school students on February 25, and with the virus metrics continuing to drop we are now ready to invite 9th-12th grade students to begin hybrid in-person learning on Thursday, March 11, starting with 9th graders.

This announcement is supported by the current COVID-19 metrics in our community. Pierce County is in Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's [Roadmap to Recovery](#) phased recovery plan. We have looked for community case rates, hospitalizations, and positivity rates to be in line with state guidance. We believe the current metrics, both in the county and in the district, fit the necessary criteria. As you know, health metrics can fluctuate widely and relatively quickly, so it is important to remember these plans may need to be adjusted as the environment evolves.

Hybrid In-Person Schedules

To practice safe distancing, we can only allow roughly half of our student populations on campus at the same time. We will create two cohorts, referred to as A & B. The "A" cohort will come to campus on Mondays and Thursdays for in person instruction; the "B" cohort will come to campus on Tuesdays and Fridays for in person instruction. Once schedules have been determined for those who want to do in-person learning, your high school will let you know which cohort your student is assigned to. This designation will also be available in your PowerSchool account.

Our counselors and staff have been working hard and embracing flexibility as we prepare for hybrid in-person/remote learning. We feel strongly that connecting with 9th grade students new to the high school building environment is essential for their success. This means 9th graders will have the opportunity to spend a day meeting staff and getting familiar with their new school environment prior to

the return of their older classmates. Therefore, we will kick-off in-person hybrid learning Thursday, March 11 in the following manner.

- 9th grade 'A' day first day is set for Thursday, March 11;
- 9th grade 'B' day first day is set for Friday March 12;
- All other grades in cohort 'A,' first day (includes 9th grade 'A') is set for Monday, March 15; and
- All other grades 'B' first day (includes 9th grade 'B') is set for Tuesday, March 16.

High School Remote Student Schedule

As previously communicated, most remote students will continue to attend 3 class periods a day. The length of class sessions will be shortened to approximately 50 minutes with periods 1, 2, and 3 occurring in the morning every Monday and Thursday, while periods 4, 5, and 6 will be held every Tuesday and Friday afternoon for most students. Some students in unique or specialized classes, such as AP classes, College in the High School classes, CTE, or World Language classes, may have more than 3 classes on any one day in order to pair them with teachers who are uniquely qualified to teach those courses.

Parent Nights Coming Soon

High schools will be offering virtual parent nights for parents of both in-person and remote students prior to students returning to campus. Please watch for information from your student's school for a date and time. Event dates will be shared on social media and school websites.

Health Reminders

Please remind your child to follow safety protocols while at school:

- Physical Distancing: Maintaining 6 feet of distance between individuals whenever possible is essential in limiting the opportunity for the virus to be transmitted from one person to another.
- Health Screening: Students must go through a health screening each day where they submit completed attestation forms and have their temperature checked before they enter school.
- Hand Washing/Sanitizing: Everyone should wash or sanitize their hands frequently.
- Face Coverings: COVID-19 is spread via droplets that we emit when we breath, talk, laugh, sing or shout, so face coverings are required while at school. See the latest [CDC guidance on face coverings](#).

Thank you

Thank you for your patience while we waited for the COVID-19 case numbers to be at a level that makes this hybrid learning experience possible for our students.

Sincerely,
PSD Leadership