



2020-2021 Middle School Blended Learning Goals and Expectations

Start Date: Monday March 8, 2021

March 3, 2021

Dear FPS Middle School Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to have our students back in full time. We understand the challenges that we have all faced over the past year with distance learning, social distancing and wearing masks. Our goal for our full reopening is to create opportunities for students and teachers to stay connected, while remaining flexible and sensitive to the needs of students, staff and families. Our town health guidance now allows 3 foot distancing for all students during the school day. This includes lunch. This update will provide clarification and further define the expectations of the blended learning model. These expectations have been shared with staff and students.

Schedule Updates

- **Our first full day return for all in person students will be Tuesday, March 9th (March 8 will be a [remote learning day](#) for all students).**
- All students will be attending their classes per their [regular bell schedule](#) as of Tuesday, March 9th.
- Wednesdays will no longer be an early dismissal day.

Expectations

- Strict adherence to mask wearing.
- Anyone who is feeling ill, or waiting on a test result **MUST** stay home.
- Maintaining social distancing of at least 3 feet, or more whenever possible.
- Strict adherence to state travel protocols.

Student Learning Models

All students currently in hybrid will be designated as “always in.”

- Some students may opt into full remote (Email from parent/guardian to school counselor to request a change).

All students currently on always remote will remain “always remote”

- Some students may opt into full in-school (Email from parent/guardian to school counselor to request a change).

We will continue the practice of “Authorized Remote” for students who are isolating or those who have to quarantine.

- Students currently in full-time remote synchronous learning may continue through the rest of the school year.

- Parents who wish to now have their students in remote synchronous instruction full-time need to contact their child’s school counselor no later than Thursday, March 4.
- Students on “always remote” wanting to return to “always in” after the March 4th deadline, can return after notifying their school counselor. It may take 3 days to process student returns.
- There will be no more cohorts and no hybrid option.

Attendance

The administration and faculty of the Fairfield Public Schools would like to emphasize the importance of regular school attendance. We are concerned about the number of families who take their children out of school for planned family vacations during school time. Short-term remote learning MAY NOT be used for travel, vacations, or self imposed quarantines (e.g., self-quarantine in advance of travel).

- In-person:
 - Attendance is defined as physical presence in the assigned classroom and will be recorded in Infinite Campus.
 - Parents are advised to read the [Board of Education policy #5113](#), paying particular attention to the definitions of excused and unexcused absences.
 - *If a student is unable to attend class in person for non-COVID-19 related reasons, they are encouraged to participate from home but they will be marked absent from class. The absence will be excused if a parent/guardian notifies the school's absentee line; otherwise, the absence will be unexcused.*
 - **Note:** *This is the proposed language being presented to the Board of Education for consideration at their March 9th meeting. If changes occur, we will send a separate communication with details.*
- Always Remote Only:
 - Attendance is defined as logging into the assigned class during its scheduled time for the time required by the teacher. This will be recorded in Infinite Campus.
- Authorized Remote - Quarantining or isolating:
 - The only in-person students who participate remotely and can be marked present are those directed to quarantine or isolate by the Health Department or the school nurses.

Transportation

As you can imagine, traffic patterns at each of our middle schools will increase with parent drop off and pick up. **We encourage all families to consider putting your child on the bus.** This will help with our overall arrival and departure process. All students currently in the hybrid model will be provided with transportation. Students currently enrolled in the “Always Remote” learning model will need to notify their school counselor if they choose to move to “in person” learning. Please note that it may take several days for transportation to be added for “always remote” students to “in person” students.

We are counting on the FPS Community to work together, students, teachers, and families to help make these changes successful.

Warm regards,



Colleen Banick

Principal

Fairfield Woods Middle School



Megan Tiley

Principal

Roger Ludlowe Middle School



Anthony Formato

Principal

Tomlinson Middle School