

Return to School

Frequently Asked Questions for Families

8/6/20

Updated 8/10/20 | 8/11/20 | 8/13/20 | 8/19/20 | 8/20/20 | 9/1/20 | 9/3/20
9/10/20

General

How can I become a Substitute Teacher or Bus Driver?

(8/13/20) Franklin County Public Schools is always looking for candidates to join our team as Substitute Teachers and Bus Drivers. This continues to be a need this school year as well. If you have an interest in becoming part of the FCPS family in either of these two roles, please visit the FCPS website (www.frco.k12.va.us) and complete an online application under the “Employment” tab, or click this link: [FCPS Employment Opportunities](#). For additional information about how to become a substitute teacher, please contact Kim Richardson at (540) 483-5138. For information about becoming a bus driver, please contact Cherie Whitlow at (540) 483-5541.

What is the plan for the start of the 2020-21 school year?

The Franklin County School Board approved starting school on September 8th on a Hybrid Schedule for all students.

- Half of our students will attend in person on Monday and Tuesday, and the other half will attend on Thursday and Friday.
- The three remaining days of the week will be virtual online instruction.
- Our self-contained residential, day placement, and ECSE students will be attending four days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday).
- Families have an option for 100% online virtual learning.
- Students and staff are to wear cloth facial coverings on site. Students and staff who are unable to wear cloth face coverings due to bona fide medical reasons will be given an exemption.

What factors/data did FCPS consider in determining a hybrid start for the school year?

We must place the health and safety of our students, teachers, and families first. We have made plans to develop protocols for social distancing, cloth face coverings, and schedules to minimize overcrowding in school buildings. FCPS will continue to make decisions based on scientific data and what the medical community recommends for keeping our students and staff safe. We will continue to partner with our local, regional

and state education leaders and health officials as we continue throughout the school year.

Will students be suspended or punished if they do not wear a cloth face covering?

All students and staff will wear cloth face coverings. Students who are unable to wear cloth face coverings due to bonafide medical reasons will be given an exemption. Students who will not comply (after warnings and parent contacts) will be moved to 100% online instruction.

How can families opt for 100% online virtual learning?

Contact your student's school to let them know that you intend to participate in 100% remote learning.

Will a school age child care program be implemented?

(8/11/20) FCPS is working with the Franklin County YMCA to provide child care for community children. Please contact Jamie Stump at 540-489-9622, if interested.

Will there be any changes to the 2020-2021 school calendar?

The School Board voted to move the start date for students to September 8th and changes have been made to the school year calendar. The link to the revised calendar is the [2020-21 School Year Calendar](#).

Instructional staff will report to their respective schools on Monday, August 24th. During the two weeks before the September 8th beginning of school, our instructional staff will be engaging in lesson development in CANVAS, supporting the distribution of devices, and making connections with their new students and parents.

Why is FCPS starting school on September 8 instead of August 10?

On July 13, FCPS presented a plan that would allow for an A/B Schedule and students would return to school on August 10th. The board discussed transportation concerns, masks for teachers and students and how students would or would not change classes. They decided to meet every Monday until the plan could be finalized. The Board adopted Phase 2 of the plan which would provide remote learning for grades PreK-2, with modifications, and 3-12 would be educated remotely.

On July 20th, the School Board voted to start classes for students on September 8th.

On July 27th, the School Board held a public hearing in order to receive input from the community regarding the opening of schools.

On August 3rd, the School Board reviewed the opening plan for September 8th and approved a modified calendar option and decided that all students will attend in person on Monday and Tuesday, and the other half will attend on Thursday and Friday. The three remaining days of the week will be virtual online instruction. Our self-contained residential, day placement, and ECSE students will be attending four days a week

(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Families also have an option for 100% online virtual learning.

Safety and Health

What happens if my child gets sick or has COVID symptoms?

Parents will be contacted to pick the child up. If they have COVID symptoms the student will be moved to an isolation room with supervision until a parent arrives.

What happens if someone in my child's class has COVID 19?

The class and school will be notified that there is a positive case in their school. Once there is a confirmed case the VDH will conduct [contact tracing](#) and inform individuals and the school who should quarantine.

If my child had symptoms or COVID 19 when would they return to school?

Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- (8/20/20) At least 10 days* have passed since symptom onset and
- At least 72 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms have improved.

Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others; however, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

*Note that these recommendations do not apply to persons with severe COVID-19 or with severely weakened immune systems (immunocompromised). These persons should follow the guidance below for "I was severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication. When can I be around others?"

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html

How safe are the buses?

- Students will sit one to a seat and wear a cloth facial covering.
- Buses will be sanitized with a disinfectant after each run.
- Students will be assigned a seat and asked to wear a cloth facial covering.
- Family members may be asked to sit together if space is limited.

What is a [health screening](#)?

Parents should monitor their student each morning to see if they have any “new symptoms”. Everyone should receive a refrigerator magnet in the mail with the health screening questions.

Will temperature checks be taken?

(9/01/20) Yes, temperature checks will be taken upon arrival of both students and staff.

Food Service

Will meals for students and families still be available?

Meals will be provided for students who are receiving in person instruction by way of going through the lunch line while maintaining social distancing. Students that are doing virtual learning will be able to get Grab-and-Go meals Monday through Friday from 11:30AM to 12:30PM.

- Grab and Go lunches will be available at all elementary schools. The high school and middle school will not have a pick up line. Families should go to their nearest elementary school.

9/10/20 Link: [FCPS Press Release School Meals](#)

Will families continue to receive EBT cards for meals?

(8/11/20) We have been told that the EBT cards that were sent to families of CEP schools or who were eligible for services have discontinued.

Transportation

How will transporting my child to and from school be handled?

- Parents may choose to transport on their own or by school bus.
- Transportation routes with individual pickup and drop off times will be mailed to each home.
- Students will be assigned to A day or B day depending on where they live.
- How do I know if my child goes to school on A day or B day?
- Parents will receive a letter from transportation identifying whether they are A day or B day with pick up, drop off and bus assignment.
- Can my child get a bus note for a different bus?
- Bus notes will not be accepted at this time due to limited space on buses and the bus may not be going to that location.

Homeschool

If I decide to homeschool my child, what do I need to do and will I be able to access FCPS curriculum and resources?

Parents/guardians must provide notice of intent to homeschool, along with a description of the curriculum to be studied during the upcoming year. If parents are providing the home instruction themselves, a copy of a high school diploma, transcript, or higher credential is needed. If students are receiving their home instruction through an online program, a notice of acceptance or other proof of enrollment is needed. Parents are responsible for their curriculum resource choices since their child(ren) are not enrolled as FCPS students.

Curriculum

Will there be any changes to the curriculum for 2020-21?

The Standards of Learning for each class/course will be the same, however some programs used for instruction had to be modified to accommodate for a virtual classroom.

What platform will be used to provide virtual learning and will schools/teachers have a choice in what they use?

Franklin County Public Schools, in partnership with Virtual Virginia, will use Canvas as their learning management system. Teachers can use other tool within Canvas

What time will virtual learning school days begin?

There will be synchronous (specific meeting times) and asynchronous (at a time that works for the student/family) instruction for students that are enrolled in 100% virtual instruction. There will only be asynchronous instruction for students enrolled to attend school on the hybrid model (AA/BB).

How do I handle virtual learning days if my cellular and/or internet connections are not reliable due to the area where I live?

For students that participate in the hybrid model AA/BB, lessons can be downloaded on to the student's Chromebook before they leave school. Students need daily Internet access for the 100% virtual option. Families that do not have Internet access at home may park in school parking lots to download or upload assignments or use other community access points (ie: Library).

Academic Support

Will additional academic support be provided to students during the A/B schedule?

- (8/19/20) Yes, each school will have built in time during the day to provide additional academic support for students.
- The support will be based on data and pre-assessments administered.

Grades

Will my child be graded on work completed virtually?

- (8/19/20) Yes, student work completed virtually at home will be graded along with the in person instructional days.
- Students are expected to have work completed upon the next in person instructional day unless otherwise noted.
- Students are expected to adhere to the timeline to complete work.
- Assessments, both formative and summative will be administered regularly to gauge student mastery of content.

SOL's

Will SOL tests be required?

- (8/19/20) All students will be required to participate in SOL testing.
- Federal accountability will still be a factor in determining accreditation.

Communication

How will I be able to communicate with teachers regarding instructional questions or concerns?

- (8/19/20) All teachers will have daily office hours which will be provided to parents/guardians on business day or upon the students first day of school. Parents/guardians may choose to reach teachers via email, leaving a message with the receptionist or send a note with their child. Evening office hours will be available to assist parents/guardians who may need to contact teachers. A schedule of these hours and the teacher available will be provided.
- If communication problems arise, please contact the school principal for assistance.

Special Education

How can I find answers to common questions about Child Find, evaluations, re-evaluations, eligibility, IEPs, 504 Plans and special ed instruction?

Please follow this link to the Pupil Personnel Services Department for information.

Link: https://www.frco.k12.va.us/departments/pupil_personnel_services

ESL

How will ESL students receive services?

ESL teachers will continue to provide ESL services to all EL students in person and online. During AA days and BB days, ESL teachers will work collaboratively with classroom teachers to ensure EL students comprehend their lessons, activities and assessments. Modifications and accommodations will be provided by the ESL teachers as needed. During planning periods and on Wednesdays, ESL teachers will communicate with classroom teachers and ESL families to provide online assistance to their EL students. New EL students will be screened with the WIDA screener and follow the guidelines from the VDOE to ensure all potential ELs are enrolled in the ESL program.

Technology

What resources will be available to students and families if they need technical assistance during distance learning?

Students and families will be able to contact tech services via our helpdesk at 540-352-1912 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM Mon-Fri. Phone support will attempt to solve any issues and if we are unable to solve issues, we will schedule a time and date that works for the parent and student to meet at one of FCPS's locations and resolve the issue in person.

Will all students be issued a laptop this year?

(9/3/20) We will issue devices to all K-12 students who will receive in-person instruction. Students who are 100% virtual will be required to provide their own device.

How will families pick up laptops for their students if they don't want to come into the building?

All schools are handling Chromebook delivery differently. Please contact your school and make arrangements as necessary.

If parents want to use their own technology for virtual learning, what do they need to do to ensure it is compatible?

Our learning management system accommodates almost all platforms. If you have individual questions on compatibility, please contact tech services for clarification.

What support will be put in place to help families and students at home with setting up technology, understanding the platform, and accessing tech support?

Our devices come setup and ready to use when they are put into our students' hands. Our instructional team has set up a course to help students understand our LMS and how it operates. If students are still having issues understanding the platform, please contact your school for additional support.

Athletics and Activities

What is the plan for fall Sports?

(8/11/20) FCHS is currently following guidance from NCAA, NFHS, VHSL, VDH and CDC. Coaches are allowed to hold "out of season" practice that focus ONLY on strength, conditioning and skill development (VHSL Phase 2 guidelines). FCHS has taken the additional step of requiring our coaches to submit a "health plan" detailing their workouts as well as requiring our student-athletes to have an updated physical form filed in our athletic department. We may CHOOSE to enter VHSL Phase 3 once students return after September 8th. Phase 3 would allow coaches to work on "team related" skills. Currently only Football, Baseball, Cheer, Boys and Girls Basketball coaches have submitted health plans and are holding "out of season practices".

What is the plan for marching band activities this summer and fall?

(8/11/20) FCHS is currently not holding marching band practice. The marching band will also be required to submit a health plan (although we do not require a physical) in order to hold practice. Our band director has chosen not to hold practices over the summer. Our fall plan is TBA depending on the feasibility of holding practices.