



**FAYETTEVILLE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Since 1871

Ready for Learning -- School Reopening **Questions & Answers**

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GENERAL BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE: *The state of Arkansas remains under the Arkansas Public Health Emergency for COVID-19, and circumstances can change quickly. This document will update as new information becomes available.*

What is the first day of school for students?

The first day of school is Thursday, August 13, 2020.

What are the arrival and dismissal times for the coming year?

The starting and dismissal times for our schools are as follows:

- Elementary Schools (except Owl Creek): 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Owl Creek Elementary School: 7:40 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.
- Holt Middle School: 7:40 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.
- McNair Middle School: 7:40 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.
- Owl Creek Middle School: 7:40 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.
- Ramay Jr. High School: 8:25 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Woodland Jr. High School: 8:25 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Fayetteville High School: (Zero Hour) 7:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.
- Fayetteville High School: 8:50 a.m. and 3:50 p.m.
- ALLPS: 8:20 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.
- Fayetteville Virtual Academy: Please visit fva.fayar.net for school hours.

If our family travels in August, will my child be able to return to school immediately or must he/she quarantine for 14 days?

Students and staff members will be asked to answer the Arkansas Department of Health screening questions each day. If the answers to all questions are No, then the student may attend school that day. The questions are:

- *Have you had an unexplained cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?*
 - *Have you been in close contact with an infected person (COVID-19) within the previous 14 days?*
 - *Have you had a fever of 100.4 or higher within the last 48 hours?*
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OPTIONS FOR LEARNING IN 2020-2021

How will you fill any gaps in learning for my child from the previous school year?

Fayetteville Public Schools teachers develop lessons and units that are aligned to the [Arkansas Academic Standards](#). These Standards describe what students must know and be able to do in each academic content area. Teacher teams communicate with teachers from the previous grade level to determine key skills and learning targets that were not taught in the spring of 2020.

The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has worked with Arkansas teachers to create [The Arkansas Playbook](#). The playbook highlights unit plans, state standards, and tools to support teachers as they plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

How will teachers assess student skills?

Fayetteville Public Schools teachers will assess student skills to determine readiness levels. Teachers will focus on student strengths and develop lessons to meet the needs of each learner. One assessment is NWEA MAP, a computer-adaptive test. Teachers will use assessments such as the NWEA MAP to identify possible gaps caused by the school closings last year.

What are my child's options for learning in 2020-2021?

Fayetteville Public Schools will offer families a choice between **Traditional/Blended Learning** (on-site, in classroom) and **Virtual Learning** (off-site, online, at home).

Traditional/Blended Learning

If schools are allowed to re-open with little or no restriction, Fayetteville Public Schools will resume traditional in-person classes with the flexibility to transition to online learning, if necessary. Students will attend their assigned school with safety precautions in place and will participate in a typical school day. Fayetteville Public

Schools works closely with government and health officials to monitor the CDC guidance and state education agency guidelines for schools.

The traditional learning environment will incorporate a blended learning model across all schools to facilitate any necessary transitions. Blended learning is a combination of learning that takes place in a school building when possible and in an online environment when required to transition to virtual learning. This scenario will support students in the event that schools are temporarily closed. This model allows teachers and students to continue traditional face to face teaching and learning when possible. Any mandated transition to virtual (off-site) instruction would continue to be provided by the child's current teacher.

Virtual Learning

If schools are able to open with little or no restriction and parents prefer a virtual learning option, the school district will offer all learning experiences and services online. This delivery model provides flexibility and alleviates any health concerns related to school attendance. **The deadline for selecting virtual learning prior to the start of the school year is July 10.** Students who study virtually and decide to return to traditional on-site school instruction will only be allowed to transition at semester.

What will virtual learning look like?

Virtual students will address the same key skills and concepts in a virtual setting as the students enrolled in a traditional classroom. Students will be taught by licensed Fayetteville Public School teachers. Virtual students will receive access to the same special services as students attending on-site and will be allowed to participate/attend extracurricular activities and other events.

Virtual classes utilize web-based curriculum, Google Classroom, online assessments, games, and interactive tools. Students will be expected to participate in the virtual environment daily; however, schedules may be fluid to meet the needs of students. Attendance will be taken daily. Families who opt for virtual learning for their child(ren) will be provided with a device for home use.

May my child opt-in for only one semester?

Enrollment in the virtual option will be for a minimum of one semester and will be extended to the full year unless the parent notifies the principal by November 13, 2020.

Is Virtual Learning the same as Alternate Methods of Instruction (AMI)?

No. Virtual learning is different from the AMI assignments that students had in the spring. Students will be provided with instruction in grade level content and

directions for virtual learning. Google Classroom, interactive games, and online resources will be provided, along with instruction from a licensed Fayetteville Public Schools teacher. Small group, whole group, and individual work will be part of the virtual platform.

If families select virtual learning for their child, each student will be provided with a class schedule and device to complete their assignments and group activities.

What instruction/assistance will the district offer parents who opt for virtual learning?

Teachers of record will be assigned to students to assist them with their learning needs through the academic year. Parents will be provided with ongoing assistance, to help their child with virtual learning at home learning through FAQ documents and training opportunities.

Will paper packets still be available for virtual learners?

No. Paper packets will only be available for students with specific Individualized Education Plan (IEP) accommodations.

Is there a cost associated with virtual learning?

No. There is no cost associated with virtual learning. Fayetteville Public Schools will provide each student with a device such as a Chromebook, online resources, a licensed teacher, and resources aligned to the Arkansas Academic Standards. Families who opt for virtual learning should plan to have Wi-Fi available.

What about technology needs?

Devices will be available for students to check out from Fayetteville Public Schools. Families will need Wi-Fi access that allows for multiple users.

What about Wi-Fi access?

Families may use any of the external FPS building access points. They may use the City of Fayetteville Wifi access points. In the fall, there will be Wi-Fi access points provided on five buses in the City of Fayetteville. Families may also contact service providers to subscribe to discounted rates for home connectivity.

Will grading remain the same?

Student work shall be graded according to FPS [board policy](#). Grade-level standards shall be taught and assessed by the student's teacher. The grading policy will be followed for each learning environment.

STUDENT SUPPORT

How will the district accommodate students with special needs? Students with weakened immune systems?

Students with special needs or weakened immune systems will be accommodated through both traditional/blended and virtual instruction. If parents have concerns about their child, who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, they may explore the virtual learning option to allow their child to continue their education offsite.

How will the district support English learners?

Language support to help English learners participate meaningfully in learning experiences will be provided. English language development classes will be offered at students' proficiency levels in traditional/blended and virtual settings. Both oral and written communication will be provided in languages other than English to ensure meaningful communication with parents/guardians.

How will the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs of our students be addressed?

Our partners at Ozark Guidance Center (OGC) will help teachers address specific SEL needs of their students due to COVID-19. SEL tools and sites are available to parents to help them understand the needs of their child. Counselors will be available to support students, families, and teachers.

How will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, etc)?

In the event of a school closure, students will participate in live instruction with scheduled ZOOM video conferencing sessions. FPS Special Services will work with families to meet the needs of their students. More information will be available in the upcoming days.

FACE COVERINGS AND SAFETY

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

The Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Education are recommending staff and students wear a face covering. To provide the safest possible environment for staff and students, these guidelines shall be followed at each campus.

Do parents/guardians supply masks for students or will the district supply one?

Parents/guardians should provide face coverings for their child(ren).

Will students and adults be screened daily for COVID-19?

Yes. We ask all students and staff to self screen by answering the Arkansas Department of Health screening questions each day prior to reporting to school. The questions are:

- *Have you had an unexplained cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?*
- *Have you been in close contact with an infected person (COVID-19) within the previous 14 days?*
- *Have you had a fever of 100.4 or higher within the last 48 hours?*

If a student arrives at school sick, what happens?

Students who are ill, not feeling well, or have a fever should be kept home from school. If a child becomes ill while at school, the typical health protocols will be followed to ensure the safety of children and employees. School personnel shall contact a parent/guardian to request that they pick up their child from school.

How will handwashing be implemented for students?

Elementary and middle school students will have scheduled time to wash their hands throughout the day. Staff members will be encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day. Junior high and high school students will be encouraged to wash their hands, and hand sanitizer will be provided at entry to each classroom.

What about cleaning and sanitizing? How will FPS provide a safe, sanitized environment?

- The FPS custodial department will follow all CDC and ADH recommended cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting guidelines for school facilities.
- Surfaces frequently touched by multiple people will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times daily.

Will Fayetteville Public School facilities be available for rent or use during the Arkansas Public Health Emergency for COVID-19?

No. Fayetteville Public School Facilities will not be available for use or rent during the Arkansas Public Health Emergency for COVID-19.

TRANSPORTATION & THE SCHOOL DAY

Will bus transportation be provided? Will students wear masks on buses?

Yes. Bus transportation will be provided for all traditional students attending on site instruction at an FPS assigned school. Bus drivers will be required to wear a mask to respect student safety. Students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask on the school bus as they will be required to wear a mask in the school building.

Will students still have the opportunity for activities such as art, PE, music, and library?

Yes, the district is developing plans for all students, both traditional/blended learners and virtual learners, will be able to experience these activities.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes

Will classrooms be arranged differently?

Teachers have been encouraged to clean out their classrooms and take home personal belongings to create as much space as possible in classrooms to separate desks as much as feasible.

Will students attend every day? Or will an alternate schedule be utilized?

Yes, students will attend every [academic calendar day](#). The attendance location may vary from traditional face-to-face instruction to virtual instruction depending on requirements or regulations at that time.

What about extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

Activities will follow the AAA activity requirements for the fall and spring seasons.

What about programs and large group gatherings?

These activities will be paused until further direction from the CDC changes on large group gatherings.

Where will students eat breakfast and lunch?

Students will eat in the cafeteria as allowed. Students will be required to wear a mask to the cafeteria while they collect their food and may remove their mask while eating. Students will be required to wear masks to return their food tray and transition back to their classroom.

May visitors come for lunch?

At this time, no visitors are allowed to come for lunch at school.

May volunteers come to school to help?

At this time, we ask volunteers to wait from entering the school.

Will food be provided to students who are learning at home?

After we determine the number of students attending virtually, we will make the appropriate arrangements for families who desire to pick up breakfast and lunch meals for their child(ren) learning virtually at home.
