

Hope Public Schools



July 1, 2020

To all HPS students, parents, staff, and community members:

The information below is current as of the above date. Please realize that the items below may change depending on the Centers for Disease Control guidance, the Arkansas Department of Health, guidelines, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, or the Governor.

The first day of school for students is August 13th. As you have been reaching out to us trying to make an informed decision about your child's educational options we want to provide you with some additional guidance for on-site learning and the Hope from Home Virtual Learning Academy (HHVLA).

Face Coverings The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Arkansas Department of Health have updated information regarding face coverings this week, changing "required" to "strongly recommended." HPS will follow the guidelines of these entities therefore, face coverings are strongly recommended when returning to school in the fall. Parents, please understand that physical distancing is not always possible. Students passing in the halls, school bus transportation, in classrooms, etc. are all examples of situations in which social distancing is not always feasible. Face coverings help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we strongly encourage all to wear them.

Cleaning Protocols Our custodial services contractor (ABM) ensures that daily cleaning requirements exceed the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting facilities. Day and evening custodial staff schedules will be adjusted as needed to provide the best coverage for when students and staff are in the building. In addition, every classroom will be equipped with a spray bottle of disinfectant for use by District staff, and each facility will receive frequent disinfectant mist throughout the facilities.

Closing Protocols We have had the following questions presented: Will parents be notified if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, and if we have a positive test result will we have to close the school, and for how long? We will follow the guidance and directives of the ADH. This document contains the ADH's current flow chart in regard to positive or symptomatic students/staff/visitors.

Visitors and Large Group Gatherings To protect our students and staff from exposure once the new school year begins, we will be restricting outside visitors from being able to enter our buildings. Therefore, this means that we will not be able to host our normal in-person open house events, and Parent/Teacher Conferences and Parent/Teacher Organizations (PTO) meetings will be held virtually. We are developing a schedule and will release it soon. Furthermore, to protect the health and safety of our students, parents or guests will be discouraged from eating lunch with their children. Large group activities may need to be modified or canceled based on the latest guidelines, and our building principals will stay in touch about upcoming school events at the individual campuses.

School Bus Transportation Physical distancing is not feasible on a school bus. We strongly recommend that all students wear a mask. Bus Drivers and Bus Aides will be required to wear a mask while transporting students. Seating charts on the school buses will be arranged so that siblings and households sit together. Students will use district-provided hand sanitizer prior to entering a bus.

Hope from Home Virtual Learning Academy The application window runs July 6 - July 31. Forms for registration will be available on July 6.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I enroll in the Hope from Home Virtual Learning Academy ? **A:** Follow this link <https://forms.gle/yTVa2HkgtJg7SokF8>

Q: My children attend school in another district. Can I enroll in Hope from Home? **A:** A student must be enrolled in the Hope Public School District or live in the Hope Public School district to participate in Virtual Academy. Homeschooling families may enroll and are welcome to attend.

Q: Do all students who apply get accepted? **A:** Yes, ALL students who are enrolled in Hope Public School District can participate. By completing the form, we are asking families to formally declare their choice of virtual school instead of an on-site school.

Q: How long do I have to choose the HHVLA? **A:** The final day to declare your choice to participate in the Virtual Academy is July 31, 2020.

Q: Can I return to on-site instruction at any time? **A:** Yes, however we strongly encourage students/families to do so only at the end of a grading period

Q: Will a Chromebook be provided for my child? **A:** Yes, a Chromebook and charger will be provided.

Q: What if I don't have the internet? **A:** The district has multiple avenues of remedy. It should be discussed with your child's principal to see that your child's needs are met. A student in need will not be denied access to virtual learning.

Q: Will my child have a real teacher or will their lessons be videos and computer work? **A:** Yes, your teacher will be a certified Hope Public Schools teacher.

Q: Will my child be able to participate in Band and/or Choir? **A:** Choosing to participate in virtual instruction does not exclude a student from participation in electives; however, there may be instances in which on-site participation is required. At this time, all electives will be held with appropriate health and safety procedures in place.

Q: What if my child is in special education? **A:** Students will continue to receive individualized instruction that meets their needs in a virtual learning atmosphere.

Q: Will my child continue to receive dyslexia, English language learner, 504, gifted and talented services? **A:** Yes, students will continue to receive services.

Q: If my child participates in Hope from Home Virtual Academy, can I still participate in parent activities and organizations such as PTO or Academic Booster Club? **A:** Yes, we encourage all parents including those with children in Virtual Academy to participate in all parent engagement events.

Q: Will my child have a structured schedule if he/she participates in HHVLA? **A:**

Q: Will attendance be taken if my child participates in Hope from Home? **A:** Yes, attendance will be monitored by your child's teachers. It is expected that your child be actively engaged in classroom activities and completing assignments given while participating in virtual learning.

Q: Will grading policies for Hope from Home be the same as on-site? **A:** Yes, assignments, projects, and exams given will be graded and recorded. Virtual students will receive grades on a report card just as on-site students will. Parents will have access to HAC accounts to check grades just as on-site students will.

Q: Will my child be able to participate in CTE organizations and courses? **A:** Yes, students will have access to CTE classes. Please understand that on-site attendance for activities such as shop work, greenhouse, etc. will be required for participation. The appropriateness of virtual participation in CTE classes will be considered on a class by class basis in consultation between family, the principal, and the teacher.

Q: Will my child have recess if we choose on-site instruction? **A:** While we do not have the specifics on how recess will look, and students may not have access to the equipment at first, we understand the importance of movement and outdoor time for children. Students will receive unstructured playtime that will follow the current physical distancing guidelines that are in place.

