

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

2020/2021 Fall ReEntry

July 22, 2020

We are very grateful to our Wildcat Family for your patience. Hector School has been actively planning for student re-entry for months, but we did not want to prematurely release our plan. We receive new guidance daily from ADE, ADH & the CDC. We will continually update our plan as school approaches and do our very best to provide clear, concise and accurate information to our students, staff and families. Please know, many of the decisions are out of our control.

### **Hector Public School 2020/2021**

#### **Title of Organization/Program Acronym**

Division of Elementary & Secondary Education DESE

Arkansas Department of Education ADE

Arkansas Department of Health ADH

Arkansas Activities Association AAA

Center for Disease Control & Prevention CDC

Individualized Education Program IEP

Gifted & Talented GT

English Language Learners ELL

**Definition of Blended Learning: Blended learning (defined by ADE) allows students to continue learning grade level or content standards through the use of technology-based and face-to-face instructional approaches.**

#### **When will school reopen for students?**

The current date for re-entry is August 24.

#### **Will we have a traditional open house?**

No, but **new** students will be able come on campus and meet teachers. Elementary is working on an appointment schedule for parents and students. Additional details will be provided in August.

**How normal will the school day be for my child?**

We are committed to providing the most traditional and 'normal' school experience for all of our students. We are putting as many safeguards in place as we possibly can to maintain this sense of normalcy for our students and families. We will practice social distancing when possible. We are working on schedules for lunches etc. to try to maintain large group gatherings.

**Will times of the school day be different?**

We are not planning to change the times of the school day.

**What is a Digital Day?**

A digital day is a day where students will not be on-site for instruction. The district will take the opportunity on these days to clean and make necessary adjustments on campus. We are building in Digital days in the calendar and may be forced to use those days during the event of an active case in one of the buildings.

**Will we be doing AMI again in the event school campuses are closed?**

No. We are transitioning to a blended learning environment that must include teaching new learning. AMI will now be digital days as described above. Students will be well versed in handling these digital days. Our staff has been working during the summer to deliver content to students in the event of school closures.

**Will students attend school everyday?**

Yes. Students will attend school everyday following a traditional schedule, except for the first two Fridays, those will be digital days so we can make adjustments in cleaning and schedules without students on campus. There are also additional digital days built in the calendar later in the school year.

**Will the same courses be offered in the high school?**

Yes. There should not be any significant changes to class offerings.

**Will elementary students still have art, music, pe and recess?**

Yes, they will still have all of those classes. Kindergarten through 4th grade students will still have 40 minutes of recess per day.

**Will 7-12 grade students need to register for the new school year as in year's past?**

If you have attended Hector in the past, there is nothing you need to do. If you are new-to-Hector you may register at any time in our high school or elementary office.

**Will special needs and GT students still receive services?**

Absolutely. All gifted, special needs, dyslexia, ELL and 504 students will continue to receive services as outlined in their individual plan and/or IEP.

**Will the school provide a computer for every student in the event schools have to close or my child is sick and has to stay home for a period of time?**

Yes. We have enough devices for all students in K-12. The devices for K-1 are currently not on campus but we are expecting their arrival at any time.

**Will face coverings be required?**

The current ADH guidance for child care states: "Staff should wear cloth face masks to diminish potential spread from people who might be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19. For safety reasons, under no circumstances should a mask be placed on a child under the age of 2. Face coverings are not required for children under the age of 10, as many children in this group will have much difficulty consistently wearing a mask. However, if a child older than 2 but younger than 10 is able to consistently wear a face covering, it is encouraged."

We can say with confidence that there will be times throughout the day when face masks will be required for many students.

**Will water fountains be available?**

No; we are working on solutions for the absence of water fountains. Bottled water will be allowed for students to carry.

**Will students still be able to participate in clubs, sports and extracurricular activities?**

Yes. All students who are enrolled as full time on campus students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities, as well as students who attend virtual academy.

**Are we still going to be able to have football and basketball games on campus?**

We are hopeful that our athletes will be able to compete.

**Will we still be able to have assemblies, concerts, etc?**

The current guidance only allows for these events to take place via a virtual setting.

**Do I need to purchase school supplies for my child?**

No. Hector School District will provide school supplies for all students.

**What changes are expected to lunches and breakfast? Can students still bring their lunch/breakfast from home?** Yes, students can still bring food/snacks as in the past.

We will not be allowed to have self service items such as salad bars.

**Will temperature checks be required for students and staff?**

Staff members will monitor temperatures but students will not be required for temperature checks.

Please monitor your child and do not send them to school if they're sick, running a fever or not feeling well.

**Will there be changes to the bus/transportation schedules?**

We are adding additional bus routes to help with social distancing.

**How will HHS handle a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19?**

We will follow all of the guidelines mandated by the CDC, ADH & ADE.

**How can children socially (physical) distance in their classrooms?**

Teachers have been asked to remove all non-essential furniture from their classrooms to provide additional space for student distancing. We are working to reduce class sizes in the high school. Because all classrooms are different we cannot provide diagrams of the rooms; however, students will be socially distanced as much as possible.

**Will parents, visitors, volunteers, etc. still be allowed to visit campus or each lunch with their students?**

Current ADH guidance does not allow visitors in the school buildings except for the reception/lobby areas. Parents and families will not be allowed to eat breakfast or lunch with the students. We are saddened by this requirement but we must follow the current guidance.

**Can I walk my child to class?**

We are sorry but no. You may walk them to the front door of the school building and a staff member will assist them in getting to class. Visitors inside the school will be limited to essential activity.

**Will we still have parent teacher conferences?**

DESE is working with districts on ideas and suggestions for parent teacher conferences.

**What will happen if the school is forced to close again?**

We have been working all summer and will continue to work to ensure that we are more prepared in the event that we are forced to close. Teachers continue to be trained to use blended learning that will enable them to seamlessly pivot from face-to-face instruction to digital instruction using Lincoln Learning. Once on campus, teachers and students will be using these tools daily to ensure all students are proficient in digital lessons, so as to make the transition to remote learning less confusing. We have more than enough technology devices for every student. For families without internet we are working on hot-spots to place throughout the district.

**Questions or Concerns?**

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