

District & Nurse FAQs

What is the mask-wearing policy? Are face coverings provided by the school or do parents need to provide them?

All students must wear masks at all times unless they are actively eating or drinking, or are outside and appropriately socially distanced. The school will have masks available for any person who does not have one. We do recommend that students have 2-3 masks of their own that they are already comfortable with.

Are the busses running this year? How do I get my student on the bus list?

Busses are running this year. Any student that rode the bus last year will be able to ride the bus this year. If your student is new to the district or did not ride the bus last year, we can put them on the Bus Wait List. If your student rode the bus last year and you are choosing the virtual option for the Fall 2020, your spot on the bus will be saved for when you return to in-person learning as long as you filled out the Bus Reservation Form that was emailed to parents of students that rode the bus last year. If you did not fill out the Bus Reservation Form, your spot is not guaranteed. Please email Mrs. Carpenter rcarpenter@artsk12.org to be put on the Bus Wait List or with any bus-related questions. Bus riders will have their temperatures taken before boarding the bus. Parents **MUST** stay at the bus stop until their child has successfully passed the screening and boarded the bus. If the student does not pass the screening, they will immediately be sent home with their parent. All bus riders must wear a mask covering mouth and nose for the entire bus ride and while waiting at the bus stop. Busses will have seating charts so we can keep track of any potential exposure.

Is AAA staying on a non-traditional calendar this year? When is the first day of school?

We are attempting to maintain as much of our year-round schedule as possible. The calendar we will present to the board asks for the 24th of August as our first day of school.

Will students be allowed to bring their own hand sanitizer?

Yes, students are allowed to bring their own hand sanitizer. Gel sanitizer is preferred over spray for our younger students to help prevent accidentally spraying themselves or a classmate in the eyes. There will also be touch-free hand sanitizer dispensers in each classroom at both campuses for student use.

What happens if a student or staff member tests COVID-19 positive? How will the school community be notified?

Once we are notified of a positive case of COVID-19 (student, staff, or visitor), the school nurse will immediately contact the Arkansas Department of Health through the dedicated school hotline. The nurse will then compile a list of probable close contacts (6ft or less for 15 minutes or more and in the same classroom) and notify them to begin 14-day quarantine. The Arkansas Department of Health will then guide our school in the closure of the campus or campuses and the duration of the closure. Parents will be notified via mass text, social media, email, and any other platform to ensure communication is widespread.

If my in-person student takes daily pills during school hours, how will these be administered?

In an effort to keep as few healthy students out of the health offices, there are different procedures in place to provide daily medication. On the K-6 campus, Nurse Katie will travel to the student to administer medication. The student will be brought into the hallway to maintain privacy. On the HS campus, Mrs. Morgan will communicate with the front office staff regarding timing of medications, delegation, and education of appropriate medication administration. The front office staff will then locate the student at their assigned desk and administer medication. If the student would prefer to take medication in a more private location, the front office staff will escort them to a more secluded area to administer medication.

Do children with asthma need to wear masks?

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America recommends trying a different fabric or fit if wearing a mask is uncomfortable. It also depends on how frequently the student is needing his/her inhaler. Their pediatrician or Asthma/Allergy doctor should let you know what they think about your student's current asthma status based on the information you give them. They should especially weigh in if your student is unable to find a different mask that is easier for them to breathe in. According to the World Health Organization, medical masks may be easier to breathe in. We will have medical/surgical masks on hand every day for students who need them. It also recommends masks like a bandana that hang down from the nose, but cover the mouth. Moisture-wicking masks may also be worth a try. (<https://www.amazon.com/Unisex-Moisture-Wicking-Double-Washable/dp/B0882S24S7>) It will keep the mouth/nose area from feeling so humid.

What would cause the schools to pivot to all-virtual learning?

The decision to pivot to all-virtual learning will be determined by the Arkansas Department of Health. We have been provided Response Levels for On-Site Learning from the Arkansas Department of Education. Once we are notified of a positive case of COVID-19 (student, staff, or visitor), the school nurse will immediately contact the Arkansas Department of Health through the dedicated school hotline. Based on the number of positive cases within our school district and the number of positive cases in our community, the ADH will determine if we need to modify our daily operations or pivot to virtual learning. The nurse will then compile a list of probable close contacts (6 ft or less for 15 minutes or more and in the same classroom) and notify them to begin 14 day quarantine. Parents will be notified via mass text, social media, email, and any other platform to ensure communication is widespread. The notification process will maintain the infected person's privacy. Based on current guidance, our administration is planning to cohort students as much as possible to ensure those who may have been exposed are notified and kept off campus, but that the students and staff can remain on campus if all health and safety measures have been followed.

High School (7th-12th grade) FAQs

What are the learning options for the 1st quarter? How can my student change learning options after school starts if our first choice no longer works for our family?

Students on the 7-12 campus have three main options: 100% in person, 100% virtual, or a 50% blend during which students are on campus two days a week and learning remotely the other three. Students and parents are also welcome to set up customized times to be on campus by coordinating with individual teachers. If a family needs to change their selection, they should contact the school principal, Heather Wright 479-631-2787, and allow for a maximum of up to 5 days to process the change.

What screening and social distancing is being done on campus to keep my student safe?

Every person who arrives on campus will have their temperature taken and answer the Covid screening questionnaire. Students who ride buses will be screened before boarding the bus. Any individual found to be running a fever of 99.8 degrees or higher will be asked to complete more in depth screening with the school nurse and has the potential to be sent home. Students or personnel who develop symptoms during the school day will be isolated until a parent can pick them up or asked to return home. All 7-12 students on campus will be assigned a personal desk in one of three large well-ventilated areas: the PAC, the Commons, or the library. Student desks will be spaced 6 feet apart. Teachers will be able to retrieve small groups of students for in person instruction and desks in classrooms will be spaced at 6 feet apart as well. All shared surfaces and materials in a classroom will be sanitized using Virex between student uses. Bathrooms and other common spaces will be on a more frequent cleaning schedule throughout the day. Students will eat breakfast and lunch at their assigned desks.

How do I find my student's course schedule?

Student course schedules are available in eSchool's Home Access Center. If you are having difficulty accessing the Home Access Center, please contact our tech department. aaatech@artsk12.org An email with login credentials will be sent to all parents and students prior to the beginning of the new school year.

How will IEPs, 504s, PT, OT, Speech Therapy, and other special services be delivered to my student virtual? In-person?

IEPs and 504s are still in full effect. We must provide all modifications and accommodations as listed. If you believe that your student's IEP or 504 needs to be adjusted to best suit a student's needs during our new learning environment, please contact your building principal to get a conference scheduled. Students in a virtual environment will receive tele-therapy services. Students on campus will receive in-person therapy services with safeguards in place to protect the health of both student and therapist. Specific therapy questions should be directed to your child's assigned therapist.

How often will my student's grades be updated? Where do I need to look for the most up-to-date grades?

Grades should be updated on a biweekly basis at a minimum with the understanding that some long-term projects, research papers, or essays may take longer. Student grades will be housed in eSchool. Students and parents can login to eSchool's Home Access Center to access the most up-to-date grades on individual assignments as well as the current overall grade in a class.

Will there be an Open House Event? Can my new-to-the-district student receive a tour before school starts?

We are still in the early planning stages but are hoping to have virtual teacher introductions and a specific day for students to pick up school issued devices and planners from their advisory teachers before the first day of school. New students will be able to sign up for tours of the building prior to the first day of school. A link to sign up for those tours will be sent directly to our new families and posted on the website. Our registrar, Denise Lightbody, is already conducting tours. Tours with Mrs. Lightbody can be scheduled for Tuesdays or Thursdays via the school website. <https://www.artsk12.org/o/high-school/page/high-school-tour-calendar>

What is the earliest I can drop off my student? What is the latest I can pick them up? Will there be staggered drop-off and pick-up times? What are the carline screening procedures?

The earliest that students can be dropped off in the morning is 7:30 am and the latest a student will be allowed in the building is 4:15 pm. We must have staff available to complete screenings in the morning and our night cleaning crew will need ample time to clean the building each evening. Teachers who want to offer after school activities should coordinate with the principal and SSC cleaning staff to ensure plenty of time for sanitation.

What is Lincoln Learning? Which teachers/students will be using this online program? Are there any other programs/apps I as a parent should be familiar with?

Lincoln Learning is a digital curriculum company that has contracted with the state of Arkansas to offer digital curriculum resources and their online learning platform "Buzz" to all Arkansas schools. Each teacher has the opportunity to decide if they would like to use the curricular resources and how they would like to use them. The courses offered are only useful to our core teachers, primarily in grades 7 and 8. Our AP classes and Fine Arts classes will be using a variety of other sources and homegrown curriculum to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. We will prepare a list of all digital tools that teachers will be using to post on our website.

How will my student eat breakfast and lunch on campus?

Students on the 7-12 campus will eat breakfast and lunch at their assigned desks in one of our large study hall areas. Students who are eating food prepared from our cafeteria will pick up complete boxed meals from the cafeteria and take them back to their desks to eat. Students who bring lunch from home are encouraged to avoid allergens. The microwave will not be available for the first quarter.

What will arts classes look like for in-person? Virtual?

Arts classes in person will still require social distancing and students will be encouraged to have their own supplies where possible to limit shared items, Students will still be working towards improving skills and gaining expertise in their individual art form. Virtual students will be working on the same skills as students in the classroom, but the assignments will look different to accommodate for a lack in supplies or space.

Will my in-person student have physical activity / outside time?

Yes, students will be able to sign up for 30 min physical activity breaks or outdoor brain breaks throughout the school day.

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

SSC, our cleaning company, has stated that they will be engaging in flu season cleaning techniques every evening in addition to more frequently cleaning shared spaces during the school day. Teachers will be cleaning shared student surfaces or supplies in between student uses. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently and touchless hand sanitizer dispensers will be located in every classroom.

How is attendance calculated for 1st quarter in-person students? Virtual?

Attendance for all students will be based on active engagement in assigned activities including lectures (remote or in-person), assigned classwork, progress on long-term assignments, and answers to daily questions or assignments. If a student has been engaged in at least one activity for each of their teachers, they will be marked present for the day. The standard is the same for in-person or virtual students. Students must engage daily in order to be counted present each day.

Will my student be able to participate in arts events and sports events during 1st quarter?

A student enrolled in Arkansas Arts Academy, meeting the eligibility requirements, and abiding by the safety parameters put in place by administrators and our school board will be able participate in extracurricular events. For eligibility requirements, please see the student handbook.

Will I be able to visit my student while they are on campus? Can I deliver items to my student while they are on campus?

At this time, we are actively discouraging visitors on our campus. Items can be delivered to the front entrance of the school and school personnel will get them to the appropriate student.

Will students be going on field trips for the 1st quarter?

The ability of our students to engage in field trips will be determined by the willingness of destinations to accept school groups and our ability to properly maintain safety on school buses. Our administrators and staff are actively looking for virtual field trips that our students will benefit from. In most cases, these virtual field trips provide experiences far beyond our own region.

We love AAA! How can I as a parent volunteer help? How do I join PTG?

Parents can be most helpful by modeling a positive attitude about masks and the learning option your family selects. If you've selected the virtual option, please help your student set a regular schedule, encourage them to get up and get dressed as if they were going to school, and help them set up a quiet study area as free of distractions as possible in which to complete their virtual learning. The PTG membership drive will be starting soon. For more information, you can contact the PTG board members ptg.aaa.hs@gmail.com.

How will the school help fill any learning gaps my student has from the emergency learning last year?

Every student on the 7-12 campus will be completing a universal screener that will provide us data in regards to specific skills that your student may be missing. Teachers will use this data to help make decisions about what they are teaching in their classrooms this Fall and which students they may need to see to work on specific skills. In addition, the Arkansas Department of Education has worked with educators across the state to create a guiding document for every grade level to help address any skills or concepts that may not have been mastered before the end of last year without sacrificing the essential learning students will need to complete this year.

Will there be beginning-of-the year testing to see where students stand academically and artistically?

Every student will complete an academic screener at the beginning of the school year. Individual arts teachers will be assessing skill levels in their own classrooms.

What school supplies do I need to purchase for my student? Are there any fees this year?

There are no fees for classes this school year. The 7th-12th student supply list is posted on the website. <https://www.artsk12.org/o/high-school/browse/71975> The supply list includes a dollar amount that parents can choose to pay if they would prefer for the school to purchase supplies for their student.

How much time should I expect my virtual student to be on the computer each day?

7th and 8th grade students should expect to be actively engaged with a digital device between three and four hours a day. They may be working on assignments for school that do not require a device an additional hour to two hours. Students in high school may range from three to six hours depending on their course loads and scheduled courses. Again, there may be additional assignments that do not require a device to complete that may take up to an additional two hours. Individual students may need more or less time. No student should be spending more than seven hours (a normal school day length) working on assignments in any format. Assigned reading may exceed those hours, particularly for AP courses. Ideally students should be reading for pleasure or for school between 30 and 90 minutes everyday.