

VBPS Fall 2020 FAQ

Parents / Students

These questions were gathered from those asked in the comment section during the Facebook Live meeting,

Day-to-Day Logistics

- What day will the school year start? **September 1, 2020**
- What are the new start times for each of the buildings? **BHS - 7:16am - 2:04pm , McBride/Owen - 8:17am - 3:04pm, All elementary bldgs. - 9:15am - 3:59pm, Haggerty did not change**
- Will students at BHS and McBride still be switching classes/having passing time? **Yes - building principals will lay out their plan**
- Where will students be eating their food? **Students will eat in the cafeteria. In some buildings we may be using additional spaces such as gym for more social distancing.**
- Will the schools still be offering breakfast as well as lunch? **Yes**
- What will recess look like for K-4? 5-6? **Buildings will make their own recess plan**
- Can parents volunteer to help clean school buildings? **No**
- Can parents volunteer to make masks or other PPE? **Yes**
- What is the plan for student materials (computers / Textbooks / Schedules/ID cards) to be gathered for the fall at each of the buildings? **This process will be decided by each building principal and sent home to the parents**
- How do we register our students? **New students register online - Registration for Remote Learning or In-person Learning can be done through email/text sent to parents or forms can be found on the District Webpage**
- How do we complete our Kindergarten registration? **Contact your school if you are unsure if you have completed it correctly**
- Will truancy and attendance still be tracked and penalized? **Attendance will be taken and your child could be considered truant if they do not attend per the VBPS attendance policy.**
- How will you handle dismissal? **Dismissal and arrival times will be staggered to avoid overcrowding.**

Remote vs. In-Person Learning

- What is the process you're using to notify parents of this information, considering the tight timeline? **We are communicating this through social media, text messaging, phone calls, and our district website.**
- When can I sign up for Remote or In-Person learning for my student? **This began on August 7 and will continue through August 17, 2020**
- Can I switch between Remote or In-Person learning for my student if it isn't working well? **Yes, you can switch at the semester**
- Prior to choosing Remote or In-Person learning for my student, will I be able to see which teachers are going to be teaching which subjects? **No. A determination of the remote and in-person teachers will be made at a later date.**
- Can I switch remote teachers if I choose Remote and it's not working out with them? **No**

- Will there be a set schedule for Remote learning? **There will be a schedule for Remote Learning**
- If we move into Phase 5 or 6, will students automatically return to In-Person learning? **We will determine that at that time**
- Why can't you broadcast the instruction in each classroom, and kids log into that remotely?
- Will VBPS staff be the instructors in Remote learning, or is this an outside company? **The Remote Learning will be taught by VBPS teachers**
- How will GT and Honors courses be handled in Remote learning? **We are working to finalize this plan.**
- Will Remote learning be flexible to accommodate the schedules of parents/guardians? **There will be a predetermined schedule for students to follow**
- Is there a maximum number of students who can sign up for In-Person learning? **A maximum number has not been set.**
- Will BOS be a choice for parents when they have to choose? **The BOS program is a separate option**
- What restrictions will be in place regarding Parents or other visitors in classrooms for In-Person learning? **No visitors will be allowed in classrooms, unless required for learning, and only allowed in the buildings by appointment.**
- Are there some classes that will be unable to run due to restrictions? **Yes**
- If a student is forced to move from In-Person to Remote learning due to quarantine, what protocols are going to be in place to ensure that their transition is as seamless as possible? **The student will still be part of the in-person roster and work will be sent home from the in-person teacher.**

In-person Learning:

- If elementary students are going to be distributed to schools that are not their home school, will students from the same family be split up? **That will be taken into consideration.**

Remote Learning:

- How do I sign up for remote instruction for my student? **Sign up begins August 7 and will go through August 17, 2020**
- How will the Remote learning curriculum be different compared to what existed last Spring? **There will be a mix between live virtual instruction, that will occur during the regular school hours, where students are required to be present in the Google classroom at certain times, as well as recorded video lessons that the students are required to watch before their next live virtual session.**
- How many students will a teacher have for remote learning? **This will be determined after registration is completed.**
- Will Remote learning have specials/electives/focus classes? **There will be some that will be offered.**
- What happens if your remote teacher is sick? **There will be a substitute teacher for that time.**
- For Remote learning, what kind of resources/training are being offered to staff to ensure adequate Socio-Emotional regulation of students? **Professional Development will be offered to staff to cover Social/Emotional learning.**
- If I choose remote instruction, will my students be taking those classes with BHS teachers? **VBPS staff will be teaching remote classes.**

Protective Measures

Masks / Shields / Other PPE

- Will students be provided masks by the district? **No, parents will be responsible for providing masks for students.**
- Will all students be required to wear masks all day, even at their desks? **Yes**
- Will the schools provide a mask for a student who forgets, loses, or breaks theirs? **The district will have a very limited amount of disposable masks for these circumstances.**
- Will students have to wear masks at recess? During gym? Sports? Lunch? **Yes and for lunch they wear their mask to & from and only remove to eat.**
- How will you ensure that students will wear a mask all day as required? **There are going to be guidelines that parents and students will have to agree to and follow.**
- Is a face shield an acceptable substitute for a student who cannot wear a mask all day? (e.g. a student who has sensory issues) **A face shield is not an acceptable substitute for a mask unless the student has a medical waiver filled out by a doctor.**
- Will students have to wear masks on the buses? **Yes**
- Are students allowed to wear any mask, or will there be specifications? **As long as it does not cause a disruption to the learning environment and it covers their mouth and nose.**
- Do you have any suggestions for getting students used to wearing masks? **We suggest practicing daily wearing a mask.**
- Will gloves be required for In-Person learning? **Students will not be required to wear gloves.**

Building Measures:

- What cleaning procedures will be put in place at the various buildings? (includes classrooms & bathrooms) **In phase 4 cleaning will take place in accordance with the Return to School Road Map, which includes cleaning of restrooms every 4 hours.**
- Will common areas, such as restrooms, be cleaned more frequently? **We will be following the guidelines in the Governor's**
- Will there be additional custodial staff hired to clean the buildings? **Yes**
- Will student desks have partitions between them? **No**
- Are you updating and maintaining the school's ventilation systems? **Yes our schools' ventilation systems are up to date and maintained according to state regulations.**

Testing / Screening:

- How will contract tracing and reporting be conducted? **Tracing and reporting will be done with the help of our District Nurse and following CDC guidelines.**
- Will parents/guardians be expected to sign a waiver for their child(ren) to participate in-person school? **Yes**
- What happens if the parent does not complete the health screening for the day? **Failure to complete the daily screening will result in the child being placed into remote learning.**
- Will staff and students have COVID testing through school? **No**
- What is the process to self-report temperatures and exposures each morning? **Fill out the parent questionnaire online every morning before going to school.**

- What is the process when a student gets ready by themselves each morning due to parent/guardian employment? Parents will need to complete the form with the correct information each day.
- Will the health screening documents be checked each day before the students enter the building? Will this be a paper or online form? An online form will be available.
- How will you determine if a child is sick enough to go home? If a student presents with any symptoms that are out of the ordinary for them they will be sent home. If a child has any symptoms at all they should NOT be sent to school.
- If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, will the whole class need to self-isolate? We will follow the Wayne County Health Department recommendations.
- Will students and staff who have been quarantined be required to test negative before returning to school? We are not requiring COVID testing, although it is strongly recommended.
- What happens with staff and students who are waiting for their COVID test results? They will be in a self-quarantine for 14 days.
- If one student in a household is sick, will the other students in the same household have to self-quarantine? We will follow the Wayne County Health Department recommendations, currently this means that members of the same household will need to self-quarantine.
- Will education continue remotely for students who are quarantined, but are not sick? Yes

Technology

- If I choose Remote learning, am I going to get a Chromebook for each of my students? We will provide for students who need Chromebooks starting with the 5-12 being 1 to 1 and then proceeding down through the grades starting with 4th until we run out.
- For In-Person instruction, how will Chromebooks be shared between students? Every attempt will be made to get devices to as many students as we can but we will rely on the community to provide for their students if they can and we will support those who cannot with whatever we have to deploy.
- Will the district be providing any resources / devices to help with internet access for those who are without? We are working to obtain a limited number of HotSpots and will be providing our district Wi-Fi in some of our buildings parking lots.
- What sort of resources will the district be providing to help parents navigate the technology needs of Remote learning? Tech Dept will be building some how to documents for common technology issues and we will rely on our instructional tech coaches for support in the day to day use of some of the tools we are unfamiliar with. We will have a helpdesk system in place for our students to get assistance. We will also continue to support staff using the current helpdesk system they are already familiar with..
- What will be the learning platform that will be used for Remote learning? Google Classroom will be used by all for Remote Learning.
- Where do I go for MiStar help? Instructional Coaches, building secretaries and fellow staff members can often provide quick support. Tickets can be put into the helpdesk system and the IT Dept will help or they get routed to Brandice Doris in Pupil Accounting if IT cannot solve the issue.
- What is the MiStar Parent Portal? How do I access it and use it? It is the Districts system for providing a parent account to see all your students information such as grades, missing assignments, and directory information such as your current email address or phone numbers. You can get your access to your account information by calling your student's school.

William D. Ford Program / MIAT / Early College / AP Classes / New Tech

- Will students still be able to participate in the Early College program? Dual enrollment? Yes

- Will students be able to take AP classes both in person and remotely?
- Will students be able to participate in the William D. Ford? We are waiting to hear from Wayne Westland Schools as to their plans for the program.
- Will the New Tech program still run this school year? Yes

Transportation

- What will be the process for signing up for transportation this year? A form went out with the In-person registration and will also be available online
- Can we register for buses during the year if our employment situation changes? Yes
- What rules for buses will be in place in regards to COVID-19 precautions? During Phase 4- All students will be required to wear masks, use hand sanitizer as they enter the bus, and sit in their assigned seat. All other bus rules will still be enforced.
- What will be the consequences of students taking off their masks on the bus? If this is a persistent issue they will be moved to remote learning.
- Will there be any partitions or shields in place on district buses? No
- What kind of cleaning protocols are going to be put in place for buses? In phase 4 cleaning will take place in accordance with the Return to School Road Map, busing will be cleaned between each school run.
- Will students be social distancing on the buses? No

Special Education / 504s

- How will IEPs work with Remote learning? They will be followed. We may have to revisit the IEP and make changes, if needed for a virtual setting.
- My student was assigned a Paraprofessional to assist with their learning. How will that work with Remote learning? This will differ based on the individual student and the reason for which they have a paraprofessional assigned to them. For example, a student who has health care needs will not need the assistant of a paraprofessional in a remote setting.
- How will help work with students who received 1-1 therapy such as Speech and OT? This will differ based on the individual student and the services that are needed.

Extra Curriculars

- If a child chooses to be 100% remote, is he or she able to participate in school sports, clubs, etc. (if they are available). Yes but they will be responsible for the transportation to and from these activities
- If we go 100% remote, will sports and clubs be cancelled? MHSAA will determine the outcome of sport participation and clubs will be decided if that happens.

Latchkey

- Will latchkey be available? If so, how do we sign up? Yes, Happy Days Daycare will be providing that service.
- Can remote students attend latchkey? Latchkey services will be offered only before and after school.
- Will there be latchkey if the district moves to 100% remote? That will depend on any Executive Orders that could be in place at that time.

Miscellaneous

- Does the 3rd grade reading law still apply for the new year? As of now, the third-grade reading law will not be applied to 3rd graders from last year.
- What will testing (M-Step, PSAT, ACT, SAT, NWEA) look like this year? As of now, standardized testing will continue as planned. M-STEP, PSAT, and SAT will take place in the spring. Additionally, PSAT and SAT will be taken in the fall for students who will be in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. NWEA will continue to go on as planned as well.
- Is school-of-choice still in effect for this school year? Yes
- Will there be a Young Fives program? No
- Do school-of-choice families need to reapply again? If they were already accepted as SOC from previous years, they do not need to reapply
- What type of social emotional or mental health support will be provided for students? We have School Counselors and School Social Workers who will be available to support students.
- Will the children of health care workers and first responders be allowed to attend school in person?
Yes