

Lead Academy COVID-19 Update 8-14-20

To view all COVID-19 updates and videos [click here](#).

To view our updated calendar with 8/31 start date [click here](#).

To view our 20/21 School Supply Lists [click here](#).

First Week of School Decision

Based on current DHEC guidance and our reopening plan along with recommendations by the AccelerateED committee suggestions, we have decided to begin the first two weeks of school on Plan 0 or 100% virtual for all grade levels. Our goal, if conditions continue to trend positively, is to begin phasing students into the building on 9/14 beginning with Kindergarten and 1st grade students on Plan 4 (4 days of in person attendance) with Grades 2-8 remaining on Plan 0 (100% virtual). This plan is tentative based on weekly DHEC data. We will proceed by checking DHEC local data weekly and use the following decision making steps:

****Please note, when changing between plans, we will be looking for a couple of weeks in a row of consistent spread rate classification to avoid bouncing back and forth between plans frequently, causing more inconvenience****

Spread Rate	Attendance Decision
High With significant positive Trend	Bring K-3 on campus for at least 2 days per week
Medium	Bring K-8 on campus for at least 2 days per week
Low	Bring All grades on campus at least 4 days per week.

To view information about Hybrid attendance groupings and plans, view the document by [clicking here](#). This document will be updated and sent out weekly as decisions are made. Our plan is to communicate weekly plans and changes at least one week in advance. After reviewing the hybrid groupings, if you need to change the group your student is placed in, please complete the group change form, [by clicking here](#). After completing the form, Mr. Willingham will contact you to confirm your change. **Please note, changes will only be granted in situations where it will make transportation to and from school or child care easier on families.**

We realize that students remaining virtual is not ideal but feel it is the safest plan at this time for students and staff. We have spent a great deal of time making sure our virtual plan is top notch and will work to get students into the building as fast and safely as possible.

Students who have signed up for full virtual, will remain fully virtual until at least the end of the first 9 weeks. No changes will be granted at this time.

Dismissal- Until further notice, In-Person dismissal will begin each day at 2:15. The dismissal change provides adequate time for cleaning and gives teachers time to plan for instruction. We anticipate

moving back to 3:08 dismissal time when conditions allow elective rotations and a more typical school day schedule without rigorous social distancing protocols.

Chromebook and Paperwork Pickup

Families may pick up chromebooks (all grades) during one of the windows below:

Tuesday, August 25	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Wednesday, August 26	2:00PM to 6:30PM
Thursday, August 27	7:00 AM to 1:00PM

Every family should plan to come during that time in order to pick up chromebooks and other important information. If one of those times does not work for you, please contact the front office to arrange a different time.

LEAP Week (Week of August 24th)

Some teachers will be present during pick up to meet students. Their availability will be shared shortly. Second and Third grade students will have a fifteen minute reading test to complete during this time. Please click on the appropriate grade to schedule your individual time [2nd Grade](#) or [3rd Grade](#). Testing will be held following all DHEC guidelines.

**New Information Added Since First Published: Students at all grade levels should sign up for a time to come in for reading and math testing. 2nd and 3rd grade sign ups have not changed and are listed above. For all other grade levels, please click the appropriate grade to schedule your time. All times are within the window for Chromebook and Paperwork Pickup. [Kindergarten](#) [1st Grade](#) [4th-8th Grade](#)

Meet the Teacher

Meet the Teacher will be 100% virtual this year. Each teacher will make a presentation through Nearpod, our technology platform for the year. Directions for access will be communicated through our app. The presentations can be viewed starting on 8/24. If you need help accessing, we would love to help you at your materials pick up.

Paperwork

It is very important that all paperwork is completed by all families by August 28th. To complete paperwork, you have a few choices. 1. You may come during one of the pick up windows above to complete all paperwork. 2. You may come during the week of August 17th to fill out paperwork. 3. You may pick up paperwork during the week of August 17th and return it the week of August 24th. OR 4. You may download, print, fill out the paperwork, and drop it off in the front office. A link to the paperwork will be sent out next week. The front office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 4:00.

Chromebooks

Chromebooks will be issued to all students Kindergarten - 8th grade this year to make virtual learning easier on families. K5-2nd grade families may opt out of this option if they have a computer at home that can access the internet, hold video conferences and access interactive learning sites. To receive a chromebook, we ask that you sign our chromebook use agreement and pay a \$30 insurance fee. The \$30 fee covers any damages that occur to the chromebook and save you from having to pay for costly repairs out of pocket. If you cannot pay the \$30 at the time of pickup, payment arrangements can be made in the front office to provide flexibility.

Student Schedules and Teacher Assignment Updates

Due to the current need to have teachers work as a team to both teach virtually and in-person classes, all students in Grades K-5 will be assigned to both grade-level teachers. They will receive instruction from both teachers at various times. This will allow us to deliver the highest quality instruction while also making sure that teachers are not trying to teach both formats at one time. This may change if and when we can return to 100% normal school. Full schedules for Grades 6-8 students and elective schedules for Grades 4-5 students will be handed out at chromebook pickup.

Virtual Schedule

Teachers

In Kindergarten through 2nd and 4th grade we will have one virtual teacher and one hybrid teacher.

	Virtual	Hybrid
Kindergarten	Ms. Schneider	Mrs. Wetmore and Ms. Stephens
1st	Ms. Greggs	Ms. Noyes and Mrs. G
2nd	Mrs. Schell	Ms. Stanbro
4th	Ms. Lusardi	Ms. Black

3rd grade: Co-teachers Mrs. Kelley and Ms. Montgomery

5th grade: Mr. Lindley - Science and Math, Ms. Sawyer - ELA and Social Studies

6th grade: Mrs. King - Science and Math, Mrs. Rutter - ELA and Social Studies

7th grade: Mrs. Gray - Science and Math, Mr. Puello - ELA and Social Studies

8th grade: Mrs. Perry - Science and Math, Mr. Ruby - ELA and Social Studies

Virtual Schedule:

Even if you chose the hybrid model, this will be your schedule for the time periods we are virtual. Instruction will be a combination of live teaching and filmed. All instruction will take into account the physical and technological needs of that grade level. The teacher will be present and students will receive the one on one or small group support which is necessary. You will receive your student's small group schedule the first week of school.

K-1	2-5	6-8
8:00-11:00 - instruction 11:00-12:00 - lunch break 12:00-2:15 - independent work and small group meetings	8:00-11:30 - instruction and small groups 11:30-12:30 - lunch break 12:30-2:15 - independent and small group work	8:00-12:00 - instruction and small group 12:00 - 1:00 - lunch break 1:00-2:15 - independent and small group work

Fall Athletics Update

At this time, we are unable to field fall athletic teams at Lead Academy. There are many factors that went into this decision with the primary reason being our athletics league's fall schedule. Our league is currently not adjusting their schedule to provide more prep time or practice time in accordance with SCHSL recommendations and we do not feel we can safely field teams on the timeline we need to. We are hopeful conditions and circumstances will improve for winter and spring sports. Any questions about athletics can be directed to Coach Keller at wikeller@myleadacademy.com

Mask Policy

Masks should:

- Be cloth or disposable
- Cover nose and mouth securely
- Not be distracting or offensive in design

Masks must be worn by staff and students (all grade levels) when they cannot maintain required social distancing (6 feet). Examples of times where social distancing may not be possible: Entering or leaving the building, In the hallway, restroom, crowded waiting areas, lunch line or inside the classroom when group work or transitions are occurring.

Masks must be worn at all times on the school busses by both riders and driver.

Masks should be provided by families for each student so they are comfortable with the mask and it fits properly. If a student arrives at school without a mask, one will be provided and a reminder will be sent to families.

If a student refuses to wear a mask after visual and verbal cues, the issue will be handled by administration. Depending on the age and motivation of the student, the issue will be handled through conversation, reminders, or through disciplinary actions.

Students who are unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons must provide medical documentation to Lead Academy administration.

Updated Attendance Policy

To view our updated attendance and truancy policies [click here](#).

A copy will also be placed in your paperwork packet.

Pay close attention to how students will be marked absent or present in different attendance scenarios:

How will attendance be taken during virtual and Hybrid scenarios?

- If a student is registered for in person instruction, they will be counted present when attending on their assigned attendance days and absent if they do not attend in person on their assigned attendance days.
- If a student is registered for virtual instruction or is participating in virtual instruction due to it not being their assigned in person attendance day or the school being on 100% virtual, a student will be marked present if they:
 - Watch instructional videos either live or recorded AND complete all assigned work and assignments within the communicated deadline for the assignments. Any students who do not complete assigned work within the established and communicated deadlines will be marked absent.

Meals During Virtual Learning

When students are in attendance in person, meals will be served just like a normal school day. Also, when students are at home participating in virtual instruction, Lead Academy has the opportunity to provide meals for pickup if interested. Meals will be charged the same price and method as typical meals with students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch also eligible for the same pricing for these meals. [If you are interested in picking up meals at the school during virtual learning, please complete this survey to indicate your interest.](#)