



ASBVI - Lion's Pride!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

2020-2021 Fall Re-Entry
July 22, 2020

We are very grateful to our ASBVI Family for your patience. ASBVI 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 DESE, 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.

Title of Organization/Program	Acronym
Division of Elementary & Secondary Education	DESE
Arkansas Department of Health	ADH
Arkansas Activities Association	AAA
Center for Disease Control & Prevention	CDC
Individualized Education Program	IEP
Gifted & Talented	GT
Advanced Placement	AP
Friends of ASBVI	FAB
English Language Learners	ELL
Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired	ASBVI
North Central Association of Schools for the Blind	NCASB

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?

Per the Governor and the Secretary of Education - the current date for reentry is August 24, 2020.

Will we have a traditional open house/registration?

No, but parents will have opportunities to make appointments for registration activities with staff. Key personnel will be calling parents to make registration appointments beginning August 3rd - August 14th. Teachers return to campus on August 17th and will contact parents to introduce themselves and their students.

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. More specific information will be provided the week of July 27.

Will times of the school day be different?

No we are not planning to change the times of the school day.

Will students attend school every day?

Yes. Students will attend school face to face Monday through Thursday, and virtually every Friday.

Will the master course schedules be different?

Not for the most part. We have altered transition, recess, cafe times, bells and locations in order to reduce the number of students congregated in one area at any one time.

Will the same courses be offered in the high school?

Yes. In fact, we've added courses and multiple offerings to provide more opportunities for students, and to reduce class sizes for physical distancing.

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

No. We are transitioning to a blended learning environment that must include teaching new learning.

Will students be taught the content/standards that were missed in the Spring?

Yes. Teachers are preparing to address the unfinished learning that occurred when campuses were closed last spring and no new learning was introduced. We will spend the first few weeks of school focusing on unfinished learning via the Back to School Playbook.

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

Yes, they will still have all of those classes. Pre-K through 6th grade students will still have at least 40 minutes of recess per day, but we will limit the number of students on the playgrounds at a time.

Will Seniors still be able to be enrolled in the Independent Living class/apartment class?

Yes, through social distancing practices and the low number of students in the senior class we are still offering this class with the experience of living independently in an apartment.

Registration of New-to-ASBVI students:

Grades PK-12 will take place by appointment during the weeks of August 3rd through the 14th. This will either be in person in the Multi-Purpose room, zoom, or by telephone. More information will be provided soon.

Will Related Services (OT, PT, SLP, O&M) and GT programming still be offered?

Absolutely! All related services and GT programming will be offered face to face or virtually (teletherapy, zoom, google meet). ELL students will also receive prior identified services. Such services will be offered 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 chromebooks, laptops and assistive devices for every student at ASBVI. Parents are encouraged to purchase headphones for their students.

Will face coverings be required?

Yes; 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. ASBVI will provide up to 3 disposable masks for all students. We will continue to monitor guidance in regard to face coverings and will have more specific information to share as it is received.

Will water fountains be available?

No, however, we do have a water bottle filling station in the main building and bottled water will be made available for all students in all areas. Additionally, students will be asked to use personal water bottles. Bottled water will also be available for all students and staff.

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.

Are we still going to be able to have track and field on campus?

We are hopeful that our athletes will be able to compete intramurally. More information will be provided from recommendations from NCASB.

Are we still going to be able to have wrestling on campus?

More information will be provided as soon as it comes available.

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

Yes, however 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?

Teachers may request specific supplies that they may need for their classrooms, however if you are not able to obtain supplies, basic supplies will be provided by ASBVI.

What changes are expected to lunches and breakfast? Can students still bring their lunch/breakfast from home?

We've made changes to the location of where lunch will be eaten to prevent crowds in the cafeteria. Students will eat in the areas in which they enter the school. Additionally, we will not be allowed to have self-service items such as salad bars, the hot bar or slushies. Yes, if a student has issues with foods we are offering (cultural differences, dietary restrictions, etc.) a sack lunch may be sent with your child.

Will food be offered/provided to virtual learners?

YES! If you would like food, please contact Ms. Barbara Cole at (501)- 296-1817. Food must be requested in advance and will be available for pick up twice each week. Each Thursday prior to departure, meals will be sent home with all students for consumption on Friday.

Where will I drop my student off and at what time?

We are trying to "divide and conquer". Students will not be allowed to enter the school until 7:15 AM.

- All Learning Center students will need to be dropped off or directed to the Learning Center front door and will immediately go to their assigned seat in their home room.
- All West Wing students will enter the North door (across from the shop area) and will go to their assigned area.
- Primary building students will report to the front door of the Primary building and will go to their assigned seat within their home room.
- Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade students will enter the main building through the East Lobby door that is above the cafeteria. Fourth grade students will practice social distancing in the fourth and fifth grade classrooms. Fifth and Sixth grade students will practice social distancing in the Sixth grade classroom.
- Seventh and Eighth grade students will enter the vocational building through the double doors that faces Prewitt Hall and report to Ms. Strojek's classroom.
- Ninth and Tenth grade students will report to the cafeteria and will practice social distancing.
- Eleventh and Twelfth grade students will report to Shults House.

Will temperature checks be required for students and staff?

Yes, we are planning to have paraeducators and teachers screen students each day prior to their entrance into their respective classroom or entry area. Temperatures will be taken and documented and shared with the Infirmary each day.

Will there be changes to the bus/transportation schedules?

We do not anticipate any changes at this time. However, information will be shared as it becomes available.

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

We will follow all of the guidelines mandated by the CDC, ADH, DESE & 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. Because all classrooms are different we cannot provide diagrams of the rooms; however, students will be socially distanced as much as possible.

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

No - 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.

If I opt to homeschool my child for the 20/21 school year will he/she be allowed to compete in AAA sponsored events such as football, basketball, band, etc.?

No, AAA rules prevent him/her from competing for 365 days.

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 using technology tools such as Google classroom and Google meet. Once on campus, teachers and students will be using these tools daily and weekly to ensure all are proficient to make pivoting to offsite less confusing. We have more than enough technology devices for every student and are working to find solutions for our families without adequate internet connectivity at home.

Will ASBVI be offering a full time virtual option to families who are fearful about sending their child to school?

Yes, at present we are strongly encouraging all students to attend school on campus. We respect the right for families to choose the virtual option and will continue to meet with each family individually to discuss needs, concerns and present options. We understand that certain family situations may require flexibility on our part. We believe our students need to be in school and we are committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff. If a student is not making adequate progress with distance learning, we will re-evaluate and determine if a student needs to come back to campus to receive their education. If it is not feasible for the student to attend face to face instruction we will conduct due process meetings and determine if ASBVI remains the best placement for your child. Again, we strongly encourage all students to attend school on campus and require students to participate in all educational activities in real time.

Questions or Concerns?

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