



Fall 2020 Virtual Town Hall FAQ

District 101 thanks the parents and staff who participated in over 20 hours of virtual town hall meetings regarding the fall 2020 return to school. While many of the questions posed during these meetings are answered in some fashion in the handbook, the questions generated good conversations and sometimes, new ideas (or more questions!)

Your questions, participation and commitment to the students and staff are all factors contributing to a successful return to school.

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS FOR FALL 2020

Please note that the first few days of school, at every building, will include educating students on many safety-related topics such as mask etiquette, mask-break protocols, one-way hallways/stairwell protocols, social distancing, outdoor behavior, etc.

In addition, we will be using some of this important in-person instructional time to educate students regarding the expectations of remote learning time, including re-introducing the technology solutions that will be utilized (eg Google meets) during remote learning.

If your student has seasonal allergies with symptoms that mimic the symptoms associated with COVID, it would be helpful if you supplied your building principal with written notification of such, which can then be shared with the nurse's office.

UPDATES TO HANDBOOK (as of 8-14-2020)

- As required by the IDPH, mask breaks will only take place outdoors and with 6 feet of social distancing.
- All water fountains are shut off in the buildings and water bottle filling stations have replaced them.
- Per ISBE, D101 can no longer use a single, large space (eg the gym) in order to meet social distancing guidelines without the use of fire-proof walls separating each group of students in the space.
- Per IDPH, as of 8/12/2020, guidance regarding the definition of the term *exposure* and regarding response to close contact to someone with a COVID symptom has changed. You may access that new guidance [here](#).
- "Face coverings" shall mean a mask that covers an individual's mouth and nose. Gaiters and bandanas do not qualify as acceptable face coverings due to their lack of effective safety protection.



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COMMUNICATION DATES

D101 will share information with you as we have it. However, these are some of the target dates we have identified:

September 8: The target date for beginning the off-site Remote Learning Space option, based on off-site availability and capacity to match parent requests for this option.

September 28: The target date for consideration of a move to Phase 2 of Hybrid.

SPRING 2020 & IDENTIFIED LEARNING GAPS

At the end of the spring 2020 semester, D101 staff reviewed all core areas of curriculum to identify the degree to which typically spring instructional outcomes (learning standards & targets) were taught (ie. what topics were not addressed at all, what topics were introduced, and what topics were securely taught.) Most of the junior high curriculum was securely addressed with minimal impact into the next school year. Elementary impacts were most evident in science and social studies. Any curriculum that was not securely delivered was identified and will be addressed in the upcoming year.

SAFETY & CLEANING

Returning to school safely will take the entire community, and it will be impacted by behavior inside of the school and outside of the school.

We anticipate three reasons that would necessitate a move to our fully-remote model:

- 1) we are mandated to by the governor to do so or
- 2) there is an unacceptable rise in the local and neighboring infection rates. The Village of Western Springs website has a "COVID-19 by Zip Code" link which provides daily data provided by the IDPH. The IDPH/ISBE has established that schools may meet in person as long as the community has a positivity infection rate below 8%.
- 3) A determination that an outbreak of COVID cases is directly attributable to school(s) via our investigations and/or those of CCDPH contact tracing investigations.



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No one without a mask will be allowed to enter the building and, in addition to social distancing (6 feet apart), D101 teachers have been provided selected PPE and given the opportunity to order PPE to meet their individual classroom needs, including microphones and plexiglass desk shields. All D101 students will also be provided with a mask.

Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the buildings, and each classroom will house a refillable bottle of hand sanitizer. Additionally, classrooms will be outfitted with an individual HEPA air purifier and built-in classroom air conditioners (univents), which have filters that contain an anti-microbial treatment. All rooftop HVAC/chiller units will have Merv 13 or 14 filters, the highest level of filtering protection available is such units.

At McClure, students will be moving between classrooms, but this time will only be used to move from classroom to classroom. During this passing period there will be no bathroom stops or water bottle filling. 6th graders will have separate passing periods than 7th and 8th graders.

Cleaning protocols (hourly, daily, nightly) and a fact sheet on the disinfectant Vital Oxide will be posted on the website. "Vital Oxide has been approved by the EPA for use against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). We meet the EPA's emerging pathogen requirements for viruses showing efficacy against envelope and nonenveloped virus, both large and small" (source: <https://vitaloxide.com/>)

Guidelines for Outdoor Space

Playgrounds at each school will be off-limits prior to school. Students are asked to immediately line up as soon as they enter school grounds.

Busing

District 101 will continue to provide bus transportation for the 2020-21 school year with priority being given to students residing in legally required locations (i.e. live in an area with a designated safety hazard, reside 1.5 miles or more from school, require special education transportation, etc.) In meeting daycare purposes, the busses will stop at Grand Avenue Community Center and Montessori. To accommodate the AM/PM hybrid model, D101 has had to double the number of bus routes for the year. We do not anticipate being able to provide transportation to off-site remote learning locations in Phase II.

Travel

We have asked staff and parents to be cognizant of their travel and social interactions particularly in the two weeks prior to the start of school. The first few days of in-person school will focus heavily on educating our students about how to remain safe in the classroom, building and the community.



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SCHEDULE, CURRICULUM & STAFF

Committing to Hybrid or Remote

The hybrid in-person is the preferred method of instruction from the perspective of the District, but we will deliver a high quality remote learning plan. We will segment by age/grade groups and will employ the appropriately skilled D101 teachers as Remote Learning Teacher/Coordinators to meet the needs of these students.

However, parents are not required to commit to either learning plan on a yearlong basis. Parents should contact their building principal if they elect to switch to a different learning program, and the principal will work with the parent to accommodate the request. Administrators will be asking for a commitment for the first trimester of school some time in mid-September, following the first three weeks or so of school. This will allow students and parents a chance to “test drive” either the remote or hybrid option before committing through early-November, providing for stability for all students and staff through that period.

Based on the parent survey due August 5th, approximately 5% of our 1,450 students are planning on a remote learning start to the school year with another 3% of our families still undecided.

Hybrid Curriculum

1st Grade: Literacy and Math will be the instructional priorities.

2nd-5th Grades: English Language Arts, Math, and Science or Social Studies (rotating by unit) will be prioritized

6th - 8th Grades: All subject areas will be included in student schedules

Electives

Elective teachers are re-configuring their classes to meet safety guidelines, for example, avoiding shared materials.

Student Schedules

Students will attend daily, in-person schooling with their classroom teacher either during the morning or afternoon session. During this Phase, students will not spend time with other students in the same grade classes (for example, in the elementary schools there won't be any Tinker Time or Learning Lab.

The half-day program does not require students to eat lunch in the building, which, given the updated ISBE mandate that large spaces must be divided by fire walls and limited to housing no more than fifty individuals in any single space, is difficult to implement for all 4 buildings.

For students who are remote learning for ½ of the day, the expectation is that the student has 90 - 120 minutes of academic application connected to their in-person learning experience. The structure of the remote day is fluid based on grade and curricula area.



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Remote Learning Teacher/Coordinators (RLT/C)

RLCs are District 101 teachers who will work as a colleague with classroom teachers and specialists to support a group of students who choose to forgo the hybrid/in-person model or who are temporarily (but for an extended period) bound to learning remotely. Specifically, this part of the position will require use of district resources to coordinate grade-specific learning plans for the purposes of providing remote instruction. Academic, social and emotional growth will all be considered essential components.

Students Who Need Help

We will support small groups of students, by appointment and by need, with in-person academic support.

Volume of Work

Students will not be assigned homework in addition to the work expectations assigned for during remote learning time. Please let us know if you feel your child has too much (or too little!) academic work.

Testing

One benefit of the hybrid in-person model is the ability to administer fall MAP testing which will help us evaluate the impact last spring had on our student learning.

HEALTH SCREENING PROTOCOL & CONFIRMED COVID CASE REPORTING

All District 101 parents and staff are required to report a confirmed case of COVID-19 in their immediate family (same household) as soon as is practicable to the building principal and superintendent, who will report this information to the district nurse. As well, parents and staff are asked to provide similar information on suspected household cases of COVID to the building principal and/or superintendent.

D101 has a full-time Nurse in every school building. A nurse's annex, complete with PPE, has been established at each building - separate from the nurse's office - for students/staff exhibiting COVID symptoms.

D101 staff will utilize an online HIPAA-compliant, data-secure self-certification program related to the risk factors and symptoms of COVID-19. The self-certification questions incorporate the latest guidance from federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). If a staff member, utilizing this application to self-certify they are positive for a symptom identified with COVID-19, the staff member will be directed to stay at home and advised to contact their physician. At no cost to the staff member, a COVID-19 saliva test (RT-PCR) will be sent to the staff member's home which they will send via FedEx for processing.

Detailed information is available in the handbook.



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REMOTE LEARNING

100% Remote

If the Governor reverts the State of Illinois to Phase 3, it is likely D101 will be 100% remote. However, depending on the specific restrictions, we may be able to have small segments of students in person - specifically, ECE, kindergarten and special education students.

For students who elect 100% remote for the start of the year, each day will include two dedicated live opportunities - one focused on math and one focused on ELA.

Remote Learning Time for Students Participating in the Hybrid Model

Remote learning is intended to be as independent as possible with 90 -120 minutes of academic application connected to in-learning experience.

Supervised Remote Learning Spaces

This space ideally will be held within another school building, perhaps where a district is 100% remote and not utilizing their space. Targeted for Phase II, supervised remote learning spaces will not be offered implementation would put the hybrid in-person instructional time at risk for reasons such as broader exposure for students or staff, significant social distancing challenges, or impacting smaller cohorts of students.

If space/staffing constraints exist, availability may be rolled out based on grade level until full staffing/space solutions can be solidified.