



Hall-Dale Elementary School

26 Garden Lane, Hallowell, ME 04347

Kristie Clark, Principal
Katie Putnam, Administrative Assistant

“Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Kindness”

HALL-DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Frequently Asked Questions for the 2020-2021 School Year

Will we be in hybrid learning all year? The Maine Department of Education has required all schools to plan for potential instruction in 3 learning models: (1) All students in school; (2) Hybrid learning; and (3) Fully remote. Requirements from the state may allow or require us to move into one of the other models at some point this year. Schools must provide uninterrupted learning throughout the school year and more than one model may be required. If we need to switch learning models, you will receive communication from HDES and from the RSU.

What will my student do on at-home learning days?

All students will receive learning activities for the week via Seesaw, Google Classroom or Google Meets. All students are expected to participate in the at-home learning days.

What will Wednesdays look like for my student?

Students will meet virtually as a whole class (both cohorts). Teachers will have office hours

where they are available to help students, answer questions, etc. Classroom teachers will provide a schedule to families that includes office hours, classroom meeting times, and any other pertinent information. Some students will have scheduled interventions, or other supports on Wednesdays as well. In addition to working with students, teachers will also meet with their grade level teams, participate in data meetings, and plan for remote and in person instruction.

What time does school start?

Students may be dropped off (in the side Pre-K circle area) between 8:00-8:15 a.m. There will be several staff members outside who will guide your child inside the school. Parents/Guardians will not have to leave their vehicle, unless they need to help their child exit the vehicle. Parents and visitors will not be allowed to enter the building at arrival.

What time does school end?

Students riding the bus after school will be dismissed starting at 2:45. Parent/Guardian pick up will be **3:00-3:15**. Due to the large number of pickups that we will have this year, we ask for your patience as we work out any issues we may encounter.

We will dismiss students being picked up in both the preK car loop and the front bus loop. Parents/Guardians will need to wait until the buses have cleared out before driving into the bus loop area in front of the school. There will be several staff members guiding students out to their car. Parents/Guardians are asked to remain inside their vehicle unless the child(ren) you are picking up requires your assistance. We are excited to introduce a new app called **Pick Up Patrol!** You will receive more information about this soon!

Does my student need to wear a mask, or can they choose to wear a face shield? All individuals, including staff and students of all ages, must wear fitted cloth face coverings over both their nose and mouth to be in attendance at school or on the bus. Face shields may be an alternative for students or staff with documented medical or behavioral challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. If one of these exceptions is necessary, documentation from an expert such as a doctor's note must be provided. Students will take mask breaks during the school day as coordinated by their teacher. We strongly encourage all families to practice wearing masks prior to coming to school. This will make the transition easier for your child.

How will lunch and snacks work? Students will be seated 6 feet apart during snack and lunch. Surfaces used for eating will be cleaned immediately after use. **Microwaves will not be available for student use.** All students are asked to bring a snack daily. We ask that parents send snacks in containers that are easily opened by your children (sealed bags, plastic containers, etc.).

Are the water fountains available? All students are asked to bring their own water bottle daily. Students may refill their bottle using the fountain fill up area. Students will not be using the water fountain spigots.

Can we access school nutrition on remote days? Families who wish to participate will be provided with food for their at-home school days. Meals are available to purchase or subject to free/reduced eligibility.

- **Group/Cohort A Students:** Parents/guardians can pick up meals on **Tuesday** for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- **Group/Cohort B students:** Parents/guardians can pick up meals on **Friday** for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Will we have a Meet and Greet? Will my student be able to see the school before his or her start date? You should be hearing from your child's teacher on the Meet and Greet details, in addition a virtual school tour video has been created by our school counselor, Ms. Wilcox. It is posted on our school webpage. Classroom teachers will be sharing virtual tours of the classrooms too.

What should my student(s) bring to school? Your child's teacher(s) will send a basic supply list. In addition, students should arrive with a water bottle, a snack, lunch (if not accessing school nutrition), and appropriate clothing for both indoor and outdoor learning. Any personal items not serving an educational purpose should be left at home.

Will my student be participating in outdoor learning? While specific times may vary, all students should be prepared with proper clothing, footwear, and outerwear for outdoor learning. Recess can be conducted under our current guidelines with appropriate distancing measures in place.

What if my student is sick? HDES is requiring all parents/guardians to conduct a self-check of their child before he or she leaves for school each morning. If your child displays certain symptoms identified in the self-check, he or she will need to stay home until they meet criteria for returning to school and/or may require a note from their doctor to return to school. More information on the self-check will come closer to school starting.

What technology is available to my student? Students in grades PK-5 have access to iPads or Chromebooks during in-school learning times. If you need access to a device for at-home learning, please contact the main office at 623-8677.

What safety requirements are in place for my student? To open school, HDES must meet the following six requirements from the State of Maine:

1. **Symptom Screening Before Coming to School:** Students, parents/guardians, and staff members must conduct self-checks for symptoms prior to boarding buses or entering HDES each day. At this time, RSU 2 is finalizing a symptom screening tool as well as a protocol for return to school.
2. **Physical Distancing and Facilities:** Adults must maintain 6 feet of distance from others to the extent possible. Maintaining 3 feet of distance is acceptable between and among students when combined with the other measures outlined in this list of safety requirements. 6 feet of physical distancing is required for students while eating breakfast and lunch, as students will be unable to wear masks at that time. A "medical isolation room" must be designated for students/staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms

during the school day. Groups in any one area, room, or classroom must not exceed the Governor's gathering size limits.

3. **Masks/Face Coverings:** Students are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students on the bus. Educators and staff are required to wear a mask/face covering. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. The same applies to staff with medical or other health reasons for being unable to wear face coverings. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears. Medical documentation and prior approval is required for any person requesting to wear a face shield instead of a face mask.
4. **Hand Hygiene:** All students and staff in a school must receive training in proper hand hygiene. All students and staff must wash hands or use sanitizing gel upon entering the school, before and after eating, before and after dining or removing a face mask, after using the restroom, before and after use of shared equipment, and upon entering and exiting a school bus.
5. **Personal Protective Equipment:** Additional safety precautions are required for school nurses and/or any staff supporting students in close proximity, when distance is not possible, or when students require physical assistance. These precautions must be at a minimum include eye protection (e.g., face shield or goggles) and a mask/face covering. Classrooms and/or areas that have been used by an individual diagnosed with Covid-19 must be closed off until thorough cleaning and sanitization takes place.
6. **Return to School after Illness:** Sick students and staff members must use home isolation until they meet criteria for returning to school. Criteria is being developed by RSU 2 in consultation with other organizations.