



Ready for Learning

August 2020



FAYETTEVILLE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Since 1871



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August 24, 2020

To: Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

From: Dr. John L Colbert, Superintendent

Re: Ready For Learning Plan

Fayetteville Public Schools is prepared to reopen schools on August 24. Our **FPS Ready for Learning Plan**, presented here, and the district's [Reopening Plan](#) were developed with input from our [Ready for Learning Committee](#) and in consideration of the public health information currently available. The district would like to extend our gratitude to this group of individuals for their dedication to our students, our district, and the community.

This committee met on four dates via Zoom. Parents, physicians, a state representative, classified and certified staff were invited to serve on the Ready For Learning Committee. Using Zoom breakout rooms, district staff were able to conduct focus groups. The feedback and questions raised by each focus group were outlined in the district's [Ready for Learning Committee Report](#) developed by Dr. Kelli Dougan, Director of Assessment, Research, and Accountability.

On June 25, the report was shared with the Fayetteville School Board. At the June board meeting, parents and teachers who served on the committee shared their thoughts and provided additional recommendations for reopening schools.

During the month of July, teachers, principals, and district administrators collaborated to develop documents which support teaching and learning, safe schools, social and emotional learning, trauma-informed classrooms and schools, blended learning, and resources to support school staff. Teacher teams and district leaders identified priority standards and key skills and curated digital resources by grade/content. All professional development and back-to-school district meetings were limited in an effort to provide teacher teams with additional planning time, time to review the resources created by teacher teams, and time to prepare lessons and units.

Fayetteville Public Schools works closely with county, government, and health officials to monitor the CDC guidance and state education agency guidelines for schools. The recommendations of state and regional health officials continue to guide our planning for reopening and continuing school. As we move forward and new guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the CDC is received, this plan may be adjusted to best support the

health and safety of our staff and students. Updates will be posted on the district website and shared with staff and families.

Communication was, and continues to be a critical component throughout the process, with frequent updates to our community and staff through district webpages, emails, video and other methods of communication. Two-way communication was facilitated through web surveys and a FAQ webpage. A Reopening Plan outlining the available learning options and back to school procedures was produced and shared with families and staff members.

Currently, Fayetteville Public Schools offers [five options for learning:](#)

- Traditional (Blended) Learning (K-12)
- 2 x 3 Hybrid (Blended) Learning (K-12)
- 4 x 1 Hybrid (Blended) Learning (7-12 only)
- Home Campus Virtual Learning (K-12)
- Fayetteville Virtual Academy. (K-12)

We believe that the district's Ready For Learning Plan and the Options for Learning, guided by the ongoing work of collaborative teacher teams, district leadership and the Ready for Learning Committee support the successful reopening of schools.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Colbert".

John L. Colbert, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Fayetteville Public Schools

Fayetteville Public Schools Ready for Learning

District Assurances

Action 1: Fayetteville Public Schools will ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended learning (K-12) and diagnostic assessments (K-8).

Fayetteville Public Schools teachers develop lessons and units, aligned to the [Arkansas Academic Standards](#). Arkansas' Learning Standards describe what students must know and be able to do in each academic content area. Collaboratively, in Professional Learning Communities, teacher teams communicated with teachers from the previous grade level to determine key prerequisite skills, learning targets, and transfer skills that were not taught in the spring of 2020.

The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education worked with Arkansas teachers to create [The Arkansas Playbook](#). The playbook highlights unit plans, state standards, and tools to support teachers as they plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Fayetteville Public Schools uses the Arkansas Playbook as a guide for planning back-to-school units.

Fayetteville Public Schools maintains a [long-range curriculum revision plan](#) which closely follows a prescribed cycle of activities. Through each curriculum review, the district has worked with teachers, specialists from the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, content specialists from the Northwest Arkansas Educational Resource Center, and University of Arkansas professors, along with national consultants and professional organizations.

During the review of existing programs, courses, and curricula, teachers and administrators focus on alignment to the Arkansas Academic Standards and the goals of the school district. The Board approved curriculum provides a guaranteed and viable curriculum. If schools need to pivot to virtual instruction during the school year, the curriculum is ready to support teaching and learning in a school setting and in a virtual or online environment. The work of teacher leaders to develop a guaranteed and viable curriculum supports decisions related to teaching and learning.

Diagnostic Assessments

Fayetteville Public Schools teachers assess student skills to determine readiness levels. Teachers focus on student strengths and develop lessons to meet the needs of each learner. One assessment that teachers administer is NWEA MAP, a computer-adaptive test. Teachers use assessments such as the NWEA MAP to identify possible gaps caused by the school closings last year. Professional Learning Communities use MAP data to plan and revise our guaranteed and viable curriculum units that have been created by our content task force leaders. Formative assessment is used throughout the unit and can be administered in a traditional/blended learning classroom or in a virtual setting. The district is preparing to administer MAP testing to all students who learn remotely and support is provided to families during this assessment. This data provides the student with personalized learning options and can assist the teacher in determining areas that need additional review or enrichment.

Action 2: Fayetteville Public Schools will address unfinished learning from the prior year by using the Arkansas Playbook: Addressing Unfinished Learning.

- The Arkansas Playbook is used as a starting point for identifying standards and key skills that need to be taught or reviewed at the beginning of the school year.
- Teachers identified the standards and key skills that were not taught in depth or need to be reviewed at the beginning of the school year.
- A [Reopening Schools Task Force](#), with teacher leaders from each school met to determine key prerequisite skills, learning targets, and transfer skills that were not taught in the spring of 2020.
- Fayetteville Public Schools staff provide guidance to teachers related to the following areas:
 - a. Key Skills and Concepts (by grade level and course) and Pacing
 - b. Social and Emotional Learning curriculum
 - c. Culturally Relevant Instructional Strategies
 - d. Four Corrology Questions of a Professional Learning Community
 - e. Trauma-Informed Classrooms/Schools
 - f. Blended Learning
 - g. Personalized Learning
 - h. Resources for Staff
 - i. Formative Assessment Resources

Virtual Learning

If schools are able to open with little or no restriction and parents prefer a virtual learning option, the school district offers all learning experiences and services online. This delivery model provides flexibility and alleviates any health concerns related to school attendance.

What does virtual learning look like?

Virtual students address the same key skills and concepts in a virtual setting as the students enrolled in a traditional classroom. Students are taught by licensed Fayetteville Public School teachers. Virtual students are allowed to participate/attend extracurricular activities and other events.

Virtual classes utilize web-based curriculum, Google Classroom, online assessments, games, and interactive tools. Students are expected to participate in the virtual environment daily; however, schedules may be fluid to meet the needs of students. Attendance is taken daily. Families who opt for virtual learning for their child(ren) are provided with a device for home use. The Arkansas Cares Act and the State of Arkansas provides funding to support Wi-Fi access points to students free of charge. In addition to the Wi-Fi access points provided by the State of Arkansas, Fayetteville Public Schools received support from the Walker Family Foundation and the Fayetteville Public Education Foundation to support purchase of wifi hotspots in buses and for personal use.

Fayetteville Virtual Academy

Fayetteville Virtual Academy, available by application for grades K-12, utilizes a blended approach to learning by providing a web-based curriculum. FVA employs FPS teachers who are certified in the State of Arkansas.

FVA follows the FPS traditional school calendar ensuring that students complete their courses on time and stay on track for graduation. FVA offers a large variety of courses from multiple sources, creating unique opportunities for students. Fayetteville Virtual Academy requires an application to be admitted. Please visit fva.fayar.net to learn more. This option is for students preferring a more permanent transition to virtual learning.

Action 3: Fayetteville Public Schools will utilize a Learning Management System.

Fayetteville Public Schools utilizes Google Classroom as a Learning Management System. Beginning this summer, professional development has been and will continue to be offered related to blended learning, developing online lessons, assessment for learning tools, and the district's Learning Management System. Fayetteville Virtual Academy utilizes Buzz as the K-12 Learning Management System.

Action 4: Fayetteville Public Schools will provide Teacher Training for the Learning Management System (LMS).

Staff received training on the district's Learning Management System during the month of August. Staff learned the following tools, instructional strategies, and Learning Management System options:

Learning Management System: Google Classroom

- Digital Learning Expectations for Students
- Developing a Communication Plan: SchoolStatus
- Making the Pivot from on campus to off campus instruction
- Delivering Digital Content
- Personalized Learning Strategies
- Planning online learning as a Professional Learning Community

Action 5: Fayetteville Public Schools will provide teacher training for Blended Learning.

Fayetteville Public Schools provided extensive training for teachers. The training focused on instructional strategies, online tools, Google Classroom, communication with students and families, research-based strategies for online learning, administering online assessments, and flipping the classroom. Online tutorials and modules provide teachers with the opportunity to continue using digital tools and blended learning strategies throughout the school year ([Fayetteville Public Schools EdTech Academy](#)). The chart below outlines the training modules.

FPS EdTech Academy Training Modules

Part I: Developing the Online Learning Environment

- Learning Management System: Google Classroom
- Digital Learning Expectations for Students
- Developing a Communication Plan: SchoolStatus
- Making the Pivot from on campus to off campus instruction

Part II: Delivering Digital Content

- Chunking Content & Flipping the Classroom
- Video Delivery of Content
 - Screencastify
 - EdPuzzle
 - FlipGrid
- Best Practices for Online Articles
- Interactive Technology for Content Delivery

Part III: Communication & Collaboration

- Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning and Communication
- Collaboration Tools
 - FlipGrid
 - Padlet
 - Google Tools

Part IV: SAMR & Documenting Learning

- SAMR Overview & Review
- Documenting Learning
- Rubrics

Part V: Exploring Digital Tools

- Explore Digital Tools
 - Presentation Tools
 - Assessment Tools
 - Communication Tools
 - Management Tools

Part VI: Online Assessments (*Virtual Teachers Only*)

- Requirements for NWEA MAP Testing Training

Action 6: Fayetteville Public Schools will provide support for parents/guardians and students.

Digital Learning Support

Fayetteville Public Schools provides support for families utilizing virtual learning. Videos and resources have been made available on the district's new [Digital Guide For Families](#) page on the district website. The webpage provides support with Chromebooks, Google Classroom, Zoom, and Home Access Center (HAC).

During the first weeks of school, students will be trained and resources will be provided related to Google Classroom. Students will review how to submit work and will have lessons related to blended learning, Zoom, and online tools to support student understanding.

Technology Support

Students have a device to support blended learning and virtual learning. Fayetteville Public Schools provides families with an overview of the online tools, such as Zoom, Google Classroom, and other instructional tools. We look forward to partnering with families as we provide multiple options for learning. The online resources support the Arkansas Academic Standards and the Learning Targets established by Fayetteville Public Schools. Students will have weekly access to teachers during classroom instruction and through feedback that teachers provide via Google Classroom and other online learning tools.

The Arkansas Cares Act and the State of Arkansas provides funding to support Wi-Fi access points to students free of charge. In addition to the Wi-Fi access points provided by the State of Arkansas, Fayetteville Public Schools received support from the Walker Family Foundation and the Fayetteville Public Education Foundation to support purchase of WiFi hotspots in buses and for personal use.

Academic Support

Academic services are outlined in the [Fayetteville Public Schools Reopening Guide](#).

The Traditional (Blended) Option: students attend school five days onsite for face-to-face instruction each week.

The Hybrid (Blended) 2x3 Option: students attend school on campus two days per week and receive virtual instruction for three days per week. Students with last names A-L attend school for onsite instruction on Monday and Tuesday and students with last names M-Z attend school for onsite instruction on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Home Campus Virtual Option is available for families who prefer students to take all classes virtually, associated with their school of record, for the fall semester.

Fayetteville Virtual Academy remains another long-term placement option for students to take all classes virtually. An application process is required for this option.

The Hybrid (Blended) 4-1 Option: students attend school on campus four days per week and receive virtual instruction one day, on Friday, per week.

Social and Emotional Support

Elementary and Middle Schools will continue to implement the Choose Love curriculum. Choose Love teaches children and adults how to understand and manage their emotions. It helps people make good decisions and work towards positive goals while caring for and nurturing the relationships around them. Choose Love programming is built upon a simple formula: courage, plus gratitude, plus forgiveness, plus compassion in action equals Choosing Love.

Jr. High and High Schools will continue to implement the G.U.I.D.E. For Life and Habitudes. Counselors, social workers, teachers, and school administrators have been trained on topics related to social and emotional learning, trauma informed classrooms, academic and behavior intervention and support, and supporting students with anxiety, grief, depression, and other emotions. Staff at all schools received training from staff at Ozark Guidance/Arisa Health. If families are aware that a child may need support, please contact your child's teacher or counselor.

Physical Support

Throughout the school closure period and ongoing into the 2020 school year, Fayetteville Public Schools offers assistance to students and families through the district's Student Services Department. The FPS Outback served over 1,800 families during the school closure and summer months, and will continue to serve families throughout the school year. Additional community resources are available on the district Community Resources page.

The Fayetteville Public Schools COVID-19 Point of Contact

Melissa Thomas, RN, Director of Health Services
479-305-0022

COVID-19 Health Protocols may be found on page 27 of the Reopening Guide. Reporting forms for COVID-19 are available [here](#).

Action 7: Fayetteville Public Schools will provide a written communication plan for interaction with parents, students and the community.

Ready for Learning Communication Plan

Fayetteville Public Schools Department of Communications and Public Relations is committed to building public confidence in the safety of students, staff members, and parents as we return to school. The district is working closely with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on guidance for students, parents, and staff to prepare for the reopening and continuation of school and the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 to students and staff members.

Our goals to inform and update parents, staff and our community include:

1. Providing timely information on FPS' preparation for, the incidence of, and response to COVID-19.
2. Offering communication, visuals, and frequent reminders of proactive steps to decrease fears, and promote prevention and containment of COVID-19.
3. Assisting in communicating ADH and CDC's guidelines.
4. Supporting Contingency Plans Such as Options for Learning and Meal Service Options.
5. Supporting return to school (Fall 2020) elements.

FPS uses a variety of methods to communicate to all stakeholders. Communication is provided in both English and Spanish and other translations as necessary. Communication methods and vehicles include:

- Email
- Phone Calls
- Text Messaging
- Push Notifications
- Video Productions
- Website
- Social Media
- Various Parent Messaging Systems (Thrillshare, Schoolstatus, Class Dojo, etc.)

Holly Johnson, Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations (479.973.8685)

oversees all district communications via email, on websites, social media, phone systems to ensure accuracy, clarity, and consistency in messaging.

COVID-19 COMMUNICATION PLAN		MARCH - AUGUST 2020
COMMUNICATION OF TRANSITION PLANS/COVID-19		
Development of <u>COVID-10 Specific Webpages</u>		FPS Website
Provide the latest information regarding school closure and concerns from ADH, DESE, et. al., to staff, parents, media, and community <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Videos From Superintendent• Email Messaging from Superintendent• Additional School, Campus and Activity Updates		Email Text Phone calls Social media News releases Web pages
Update FPS website with the latest information regarding school closure, AMI and information from the ADH, DESE, et al.		FPS Website
Provide <u>Meal Service Program updates</u>		Email Text Phone service Social Media News releases Web pages
Communicate with District Leadership Team via weekly Zoom meetings		Zoom
Communicate the <u>Revised Learning Options</u> for the Fall Semester 2020 with staff, parents, media, and the community		Email Text Phone calls Social media News releases Web pages
Develop and distribute the district's <u>Reopening Guide</u> to staff, parents, community, and media.		Email Text Social media News releases Web pages
Survey all parents regarding Learning Options		Email Website

Communicate the results of the Revised Learning Options Survey to staff via video message at Convocation 2020	YouTube
Communicate the results of the Learning Options Survey with staff, parents, community and media	Email Text Social Media News Releases District App
Communicate the campus-specific plans for re-opening to staff, parents, and students	Email Text Social media News releases District App Zoom
Meet monthly during the school year with PTA/PTO Presidents via Zoom	Zoom
Provide COVID-19 specific updates to staff members weekly	Staff Monday Newsletter
Provide COVID-19 specific updates to FPS Board of Education	Superintendent's Weekly Memo
KEY STAKEHOLDER INPUT	
Participate in the Ready for Learning Committee	Zoom
Monitor " Share Your Thoughts " questions from parents and patrons and update Questions & Answers webpage	Web
PROVISION OF TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION FOR TEACHERS & PARENTS/GUARDIANS	
Communicate the Learning Options Survey for the Fall Semester 2020 with staff, parents, media, and the community	Email Text Social media News releases District App Zoom
Respond to media interview requests	Zoom In-person interviews
Monitor " Share Your Thoughts " questions from parents and patrons and update Questions & Answers webpage	Website Email

District Leadership Team monthly Zoom Meetings "Ask the Superintendent"	Zoom
Monitor and respond to Facebook queries	Web Email
PROVISION OF RESOURCES FOR PARENTS	
Health & Safety Updates	COVID-19 Webpages
Digital Learning Guide for Families	FPS Website
Creating Balance for Families	FPS Website
Talking About Trauma with Children Supporting Your Child During COVID-19	COVID-19 Webpages
COVID-19 COMMUNICATION AUGUST 2020 & FORWARD	
Communication Regarding School Reopening	Email Text Social media News releases District App Web pages
Communication with Parents & Stakeholders regarding safety, learning and transition	Email Text Social media News releases District App Web pages
Communication to Parents regarding Student Progress & Assessment Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAP Assessment Data Reports • Report Cards 	Email Text Social Media District App
Ready for Learning Committee Updates	Email Website
Evaluation of COVID-19 Communication across all platforms	All Platforms

School Closure or Emergency Communication as needed
provided on all Platforms.

All Platforms