

From the Navy Elementary School PTO:
Questions & Answers from Mr. Coch about
Return to School Options for 2020-2021
Updated 7/10/2020

PLEASE NOTE THAT FCPS IS REGULARLY UPDATING ITS FAQs PAGE:
<https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/return-school-questions-and-answers>

Option A: Full-time online instruction. Virtual, interactive instruction will be provided four days a week.

Option B: At least two full days of instruction in your child's school each week with students engaged in independent study and work on the days they are not in the school building. It's possible we will be able to provide more than two days of instruction at school each week depending on the number of students who choose to go virtual, full time.

Questions regarding Option A - Full-time Virtual

- 1. What time will synchronous instruction start each day? Will it be the same time for all students, or will the start times vary by grade level?** The school will try to sync the class schedules between Option A and Option B which could help both groups of students to connect.
- 2. FCPS has indicated that grades K-2 will receive approximately 2.5 hours of synchronous instruction per day and grades 3-6 will receive 3.5 hours. Can you confirm that this is the expected schedule for Navy?** Exact synchronous learning times have not been determined but will range between 2.5-3.5 hours. Elementary schools within the same pyramid will follow similar online schedules.
- 3. Will students meet with Specials teachers (Art, Music, Spanish) during synchronous learning time, or will Specials be posted online as independent work?** As of today, the proposal is for students to have 30 minutes of specials each day. There will be a hybrid on synchronous teaching and independent work.
- 4. FCPS has indicated that online classes may be larger than normal. What is the student:teacher ratio for online instruction?** Class size caps are set based on three governing documents. The standards of quality set maximum class sizes by grade range. In FCPS, Regulation 1302, Elementary Class Size Guidelines, establish class size maximums below those dictated by the standards of quality. Finally, certain schools are identified for lower class size limits as part of the Virginia K-3 Class Size Initiative.

FCPS is in communication with VDOE to clarify what flexibility to the standards of quality and K-3 Class Size Initiative may be available for online class sizes from the state level.

Additionally, FCPS is currently exploring proposed revisions to Regulation 1302 that would raise online class maximums to align with state guidelines.

5. **FCPS has indicated that some mixing of students and teachers between schools could occur. Do you expect Navy students to be assigned to Navy teachers, or is it more likely that students will be mixed across school boundaries?** Each school has a goal to keep its students in-house.
6. **For the upper grades that normally change classes, will students receive instruction from multiple teachers online or will one teacher cover all academic subjects?** If there are fewer students in the virtual learning program, then one teacher would be assigned to teach all the subjects. If there are more students, then there may be a split amongst additional teachers.
7. **FCPS has indicated that additional instructional time may be provided for advanced students. Do you have any information on how students might receive Level III and IV instruction? Will advanced math be offered online (i.e. 6th grade math to a 5th grader)? Will there be full-time AAP classes online?** Full-time AAP students will receive Full-Time Level IV instruction. Level III students will receive one hour a week of Level III instruction from an Advanced Academic Resource Teacher. The school or pyramid will have to be creative and there may be pooling of some teachers from Crossfield, Waples Mills, Mosby Woods, & Oakton elementary.
FCPS FAQ: <https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/return-school-questions-and-answers#curr>
8. **What is the plan for communicating teacher lesson plans and expectations so that parents can make sure that kids stay on track with virtual and independent learning?** The county is streamlining SOL standard guidelines and is working out a pacing guide for the online students. Will put out objectives to parents at a later time.
9. **How will reading and math assessments be performed? Will any placement testing be offered next year? (CogAT, Naglieri)** This is unknown until the student numbers are finalized. Parents will be notified after the school year starts.
10. **What is the plan for distributing computers to students who do not already have an FCPS laptop? Will graduating 6th graders return their laptops to Navy? Will rising 3rd graders receive laptops?** Navy students from 2nd-6th grade will receive a laptop. FCPS is purchasing new laptops for 6th graders. Students in KG-1st who need a laptop will be accommodated. Information about the distribution of laptops is coming in July/August.
11. **What online-safety curriculum will be provided to students?** This information will be provided by the county.

- 12. What mental health resources will be available to children as they adjust to less social interaction, playtime, and whatever they may be exposed to with spending more time online?** Social emotional and mental health resources will be available to support students this fall. Schools may use morning meetings/ check-ins, intervention blocks, or advisory periods to provide instruction on social emotional topics using new and existing curriculum. FCPS instructional staff will have required professional development that focuses on understanding mental wellness and appropriate tools to support students. Clinical and counseling staff will provide mental health support and resources, including group counseling and consultation for students and families as needed as well as individual counseling with students and related consultation with families and staff.
- 13. If conditions improve and schools are able to fully reopen, will students who were learning online go to school in person? If so, will their teacher remain the same?** If health conditions improve that would allow FCPS to resume in-person instruction for all students, we would reassess FCPS's operating status at that time.
- 14. What is your best estimate for how many teachers will choose Option A?** This is currently unknown. Teachers who need to work from home will be given preference in a tiered fashion a) personal medical issues b) family medical issues c) personal needs such as childcare and family care.
- 15. If a parent chooses Option A, can they later switch to Option B?** The decision for a student's service model (full-time online or in-person) is intended as a year-long commitment. Any need to change a student's service model will be addressed on an individual basis at the school level, based on identified changes to a student's or family's needs.

Questions regarding Option B - At least 2 days in school

- 1. Will the school day begin at 8:50 and end at 3:35?** Facilities are looking to change the bell schedules at some schools due to transportation. There may be a possibility for time change. Once Mr. Coch knows, he will share with parents. Daily schedules during face-to-face learning will look the same as a normal in-school day.
- 2. Will students remain in the same classroom all day - even for Specials and lunch? Could some academic class time be spent outdoors (weather permitting)?** As of right now there is flexibility, for students to switch classes, for example for advanced math. Students will follow a mask protocol through the hallways. If there are enough face-to-face classes to departmentalize, they will do that by moving teachers vs moving students. Navy can have class outside and will push for it more, especially with PE. Will move rooms as needed. Lunch will be in the classroom rather than in the cafeteria. May be able to use the cafeteria as a classroom.

3. **Will students have recess on the playground? Will there be any P.E.?** Yes to PE and recess as long as the county approves it.
4. **Will Navy students attend classes at Navy, or could they be assigned to another school? If assigned to another school, will FCPS provide transportation?** Every school has a goal not to move kids to different schools. If a very large percentage of parents want face-to-face in our school and we can't fit everyone, then students may have to move. The ultimate goal is to have all students stay at Navy.
5. **FCPS has indicated that certain students and staff will be required to wear cloth face coverings. Which students or grade levels will be required to wear masks at Navy? Will masks be worn all day (other than during lunch)? What about during recess or P.E.?** Students (where developmentally appropriate) and staff will be required to wear cloth face coverings including on bus transportation to and from school.

From a meeting on July 10, FCPS is developing a policy where students/staff will be required to wear a mask throughout the entire school day, except for eating, exercising, and possible breaks built in from the teacher. If your child will be going face to face, it's very important that you help build their stamina of wearing a mask for a long period of time and get a mask that is comfortable to them. Mr. Coch was able to find a comfortable Indianapolis Colts' mask. More information will go out to the community about this policy soon.

FCPS FAQ: <https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/return-school-questions-and-answers#masks>

6. **For the upper grades, will teachers change classrooms to teach different subjects, or will one teacher cover all academic subjects for their assigned classroom?** Teachers will most likely switch classrooms when needed (e.g. Advanced Math). A lot depends on student numbers and the best way to spread resources. May have teachers switch classrooms rather than kids.
7. **FCPS has indicated that students may attend more than 2 days a week depending on enrollment numbers. How soon would parents be notified of the number of attendance days?** After parents submit their return to school choice to FCPS by July 15th, each school will determine its own class composition. Parents will receive their child's final schedule by August 10th. This date could change since the student start date for school was changed to September 8, 2020. The school will group siblings together, so they are attending school on the same days (including middle school and high school siblings). Mr. Coch is willing to work with families that want their children to attend on DIFFERENT days but needs to know ASAP. The county is emphasizing equity in their decision to schedule students to attend more than two days. It is unlikely that some schools in the county would go more than 2 days in person while other schools would attend 2 days a week.

- 8. If the Music and Art classrooms are not being used for Specials, could they be used for academic instruction, allowing more students to attend school more often?** The answer to this question depends on the number of students that will be attending face-to-face. No final decision about classrooms has been made.
- 9. On the days when students are not at school, how much time are students expected to spend on independent work?** This will depend on the teacher's requirements.
- 10. FCPS has indicated that the 5th weekday will be used to work with students who require ESOL, IEP and other support. How much teacher time during the 2 days in school will be spent pulling kids for intervention?** One day each week will be set aside for teacher planning and intervention support for some students in either scenario. The plan includes increased in-person or synchronous instruction for students with disabilities and English Language Learners. Regarding intervention on the two days schedule, Navy still has plans to provide additional math/reading help. Will need to be creative to meet the needs of the students.
- 11. Will there be any physical changes to the building to improve health and safety conditions? For instance, is FCPS considering adding foot handles to open and close doors versus traditional door knobs?** There has been no mention of any physical changes to the school building at this time.
- 12. Will temperatures be taken before a student gets on the bus or enters the school at Kiss & Ride?** FCPS is working closely with Fairfax County Health officials to address student and staff health and safety. FCPS will use a daily health screening process that requires parents to self-report their child is asymptomatic and has not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms. All staff will be required to self-report being asymptomatic and without exposure to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms when reporting to worksites.

On a practical level, Navy will have to create a waiting space for sick students to wait until parents pick them up. Taking daily temperatures will depend on what FCPS guidelines state. This is still to be determined.

FCPS FAQ: <https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/return-school-questions-and-answers#health>

- 13. What mental health resources will be available to children as they adjust to school under socially-distanced conditions?** Social emotional and mental health resources will be available to support students this fall. Schools may use morning meetings/ check-ins, intervention blocks, or advisory periods to provide instruction on social emotional topics using new and existing curriculum. FCPS instructional staff will have required professional development that focuses on understanding mental wellness and appropriate tools to support students.

Clinical and counseling staff will provide mental health support and resources, including group counseling and consultation for students and families as needed as well as individual counseling with students and related consultation with families and staff.

14. What happens if a child or family member gets sick? Can the student attend online classes during their time at home? Ideally, yes, but this is TBD.

15. If conditions improve and schools are able to fully reopen, would students begin attending 5 days a week? State, CDC, and Fairfax County Health Department guidance will inform future changes that allow for additional student capacity and changes to health and safety protocols as social distancing requirements are eased. If health conditions improve that would allow FCPS to resume in-person instruction for all students, we would reassess FCPS's operating status at that time.

If there is a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus that requires a closure of schools or an individual school, all students would participate in online distance learning. Students would receive four days of synchronous instruction and one day of asynchronous learning with this model.

16. What is your best estimate for how many teachers will choose Option B? Mr. Coch does not have an estimate yet.

17. If a parent chooses Option B, can they later switch to Option A? The decision for a student's service model (full-time online or in-person) is intended as a year-long commitment. Any need to change a student's service model will be addressed on an individual basis at the school level, based on identified changes to a student's or family's needs.

Please remember to read the FCPS FAQs for more details. Their website is being updated regularly. <https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/return-school-questions-and-answers>