



LEARNING PLAN TRANSITION QUESTION & ANSWER

[Basic Overview of Hybrid and Distance Learning Models \(PDF\)](#)

GENERAL

Are there any plans to provide hot spots to families without strong internet access?

Our technology department is available to provide access support for families needing assistance. We do have hotspots available and parents/guardians can contact our technology department using the GJPS [HelpDesk](#) to submit a request for support.

What will happen if our county alert level changes back to red or improves to yellow?

If the alert level changes we will follow recommendations from Franklin County Public Health (FCPH). These recommendations are likely to contain guidelines on social distancing, which will determine how many students we can safely allow in a classroom setting.

Will there be an opportunity for families to change the learning model choice made for their students if the model is not working or if the district is able to bring all students back for full time in-person learning?

We will work with families on an individual basis if the learning model they chose is not working for them. We want to be as flexible as we can be, but in some cases hybrid classrooms might be full and we may need to make a teacher change to accommodate a learning model change.

Will students in the same family/household be placed in the same hybrid group and when will information about assigned hybrid groups be shared?

We will work to ensure families have the same hybrid learning days and we hope to have grouping information ready to release by the end of the week.

What will it take to get students back in school full time 5 days a week?

Returning to the classrooms at full capacity 5 days a week will require a recommendation from Franklin County Public Health. This recommendation would likely vacate the need for social distancing, which would allow us to have a full class of students in the classroom at the same time.

Why are we waiting until October 13th to return to in-person learning?

There are many factors that went into our decision to delay our transition to the end of the first quarter. We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding how distance learning is going at

the current time and we wanted to allow our staff and students time in a model that is proving to be successful so we could maintain some instructional continuity for all.

We also know that the success we are experiencing now is in large part due to the time and preparation our staff put into getting ready for distance learning and we know that in order to ensure our hybrid model fosters teacher-student connections both at school and at home, we are working to prepare teachers and our classrooms for live streaming. Streaming instruction from classrooms to our students at home is an innovative approach that will allow for learning to happen anywhere. It will allow us to nimbly adjust to the unpredictable and keep learning going even as public health guidance changes.

We are also watching the COVID-19 data closely and we want to avoid the potential for a quick change to hybrid followed by a quick switch back to distance learning. We know this decision is not an easy one for families.

Why didn't the district offer full time traditional learning and online learning as the choices so families could choose between those models?

The district could not offer traditional full-time learning. It was against Franklin County Public Health recommendations. The district could also not afford to staff both traditional learning and online learning with a Gahanna teacher and maintain reasonable class sizes.

What is the plan for standardized testing?

At this time, we do not have details around the full requirements of state testing. Once information is released from the Ohio Department of Education we will make plans and will communicate with families. We will be offering the PSAT to 11th graders on Tuesday, October 27th and an "opt in" SAT for current seniors on Thursday, October 29th.

In the hybrid model, if a child is scheduled to be in the building and has symptoms that require him/her to stay home, but he/she is still well enough to tend to work, are they able to change to online for the day instead of being absent?

In grades 3-12, if a student is quarantined without symptoms or if a student is required to stay home for symptoms, but is well enough to participate in class, he/she will be permitted to join into class virtually. This will not be possible for PK-2 students, but work will be provided as they would be on a regularly missed day of instruction.

What will bus transportation look like for students in the hybrid model and when will we receive information about routes and pick up times?

Safety precautions will be in place for all riders including masks (K-12 required) and social distancing. Students will sit no more than two students to a seat, according to guidance from FCPH, and buses will be cleaned in between routes. Information about bus routes and pick up times will be shared closer to the beginning of October.

Will you require waivers for children to return to school?

No. We will not be asking parents to sign waivers.

Can you please share the reasoning behind allowing for extra curricular activities/sports but not allowing students to be in the school building full time?

We want to offer as many activities as we can under guidance from Franklin County Public Health. Athletics and extra-curricular activities are permitted when specific safety protocols are followed. We are not, however, permitted to be in school full-time. The guidelines for social distancing will not allow us to do that. Most of our extracurricular activities currently take place outside, which is safer than indoor activities.

If a teacher must quarantine due to exposure or symptoms, will there be subs available? If so, will subs be able to carry out this intricate model?

We hire substitute teachers from the ESC of Central Ohio, which has worked to train substitutes to use Google Classroom. There is a shortage of substitute teachers at this time and we are working to find alternative ways to cover classrooms which may include utilizing our support staff. If teachers are well and can continue teaching in a distance model, we will utilize substitutes to help in the classroom with students while the teacher continues with instruction.

Will students need to bring new supplies to school for the hybrid model, as well as have supplies at home for distance days?

Students do not need two sets of school supplies and will bring supplies back and forth to and from school based on need.

STRUCTURE AND SCHEDULING

Can we continue to use the block schedule that is being used in the current distance learning model?

When creating schedules, many factors such as shared staffing, student and teacher schedules, and length of lunch periods compared to class periods must be considered. We have received positive feedback about the current block schedule from parents, students and teachers, and we would like to be able to continue using that schedule if it can be worked out logistically. Our administrative teams are working hard to consider all options to make block scheduling work in the hybrid model.

Will classes that are traditionally blocked at the high school (ex. robotics, SWAG, etc.) be scheduled in a way that they don't always fall on an at-home day for a hybrid student?

If we operate on the traditional daily schedule, all classes including traditionally blocked classes at Clark Hall, will run on single periods. Students will have the opportunity for in-person instruction for these classes. We continue to work on making adjustments that would allow us to operate a block schedule.

What will the daily schedule look like for full distance learning students being streamed into the classroom?

In grades 6-12, students in the continued distance learning model will log on throughout the school day to access instruction and participate in learning with their hybrid model peers. Students will not be expected to stay online, in a Google Meet all day or full full class periods.

There will be time for teacher-directed instruction (live or through recording) and students will also be released to complete independent work. There may be some days that are a continuation of the previous day's learning where students do not log in for a lesson and instead continue working independently, with peers or in a small group with their teacher. Each teacher will determine the best structure for each day depending on learning objectives and planned activities and will communicate schedules and expectations with students.

What will lunch and recess look like?

Lunch and recess will definitely look and feel different. In the cafeteria, students will be socially distanced and may be eating in extended cafeteria spaces throughout the building. Student seating will be tracked to assist with contact tracing if needed. Recess will include structured activities, class specific recess equipment, masks and social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

If the district has to change back to an ALL distance learning model, will elementary students have to switch teachers again?

Students will not have to switch teachers if we need to move to all distance learning.

If we have a senior and their last class is done before lunch, can they leave or do they have to stay.

Seniors will be allowed to leave after their classes are complete.

What will the class sizes be for hybrid and distance learning?

We will not know class sizes until we have information from the survey. However, we know there will be no more than 12-15 students in most hybrid classrooms to ensure for social distancing. In performing arts classes, where classroom spaces are bigger, there will be more students, but social distancing will still be adhered to.

Our distance learning class sizes will mirror the traditional classroom setting with 25-30 students.

INSTRUCTION AND LIVE STREAMING

What do you mean by distance learning will be the “anchor” for this school year?

Our teachers have worked hard to create a distance learning environment that is strong and robust. In a short amount of time, they have learned to simulate a regular school day. Distance learning is a model we may need to switch to for a number of reasons. For example, if teachers or students need to be quarantined, it is our goal to keep learning going by way of streaming lessons.

What percentage of elementary students do you anticipate being able to keep their teachers?

Unfortunately, we do not have estimates at this time as the Hybrid Opt Out survey data is not complete. We understand how difficult switching teachers is for students and families, and we will work very hard to limit the disruption as much as possible.

When will elementary families know if their student is being reassigned to a new teacher?

Once the survey data is complete, we will work hard to complete student groupings and staff assignments as quickly as possible. Elementary families should know by the end of September if they will have a teacher change. We are committed to making this transition process as smooth as possible for students.

Will there be another teacher or aide in the classroom or Google Meet to monitor the students?

We do not have enough staff to provide additional staff support in every classroom. Some classrooms may have the support of an Intervention Specialist, Gifted Specialist, Reading Support Staff, or Educational Aide, at various points in the day, but that is not standard in all classrooms.

Will the classroom teacher prioritize the students who are actually in school or the students participating online?

Teachers will have the ability to see and interact with students in class and on the stream. Teachers will present lessons and share instructional material in a manner that both groups of students can access. Students at home will have the opportunity to participate in discussion and partnerships; however, it may take some time for teachers to get used to this new model and to create systems and structures that help the classroom run efficiently. In-school days for students in the hybrid model will provide a better opportunity for participation in hands-on learning activities such as labs.

What level of engagement will students in the distance learning model have with their teacher?

The distance learning option will require students to be independent, self-regulated learners. They will need to be self-motivated and willing to learn with a greater degree of autonomy.

Will teachers redeployed to K-2 have early childhood experience?

We will do the best we can to place teachers who have elementary experience in K-2 classrooms. However, it may not be possible in all cases.

While students at home are streamed into the classroom, will students in the classroom be logged into the Google Meet as well?

Students in the classroom will not be logged into the Google Meet to access instruction. They will receive it live, in person. Students in class may use Google Meet breakout rooms to participate in group work with peers at home, but they will access most learning experiences as they would in the traditional school setting.

How is the district working to prevent hackers from disrupting the online learning environment?

Our online learning platform, Google Meet, is secure to only GJPS staff and student accounts. The only way for an individual outside our GJPS domain to enter one of our online environments is for someone in our district to give their login information. Teachers have the ability to remove individuals from a Google Meet and block them from re-entering the class.

How much time will be taught by the teacher in both learning models?

This will vary depending on grade level and content. The traditional daily school schedule will be used in both models, however teachers will shape their class periods appropriately based on learning objectives and activities planned for the day. Students may be expected to log on for class instruction/discussion and then log off for independent work several times throughout the day as planned by the teacher.

Why did the district decide to use live streaming in grades 3-12?

We considered many models and options. After considering all implications, we felt it would provide our students the opportunity to continue participating in our robust course options without having to change their schedule. This model allows for continuity with the curriculum so teachers can get through more curriculum than in other models and also allows for the majority of students to keep their current classes and teachers.

Is there a district already doing the live streaming? What will it look like for at-home students?

There are other districts in Ohio currently streaming instruction for students at home, and we have been in contact with them to learn from their experiences. We have also modeled and simulated this streaming with administrators, instructional coaches and other district teachers several times.

Students at home will be able to stream into the classroom and take part in live lessons that look much like they do now. They will be able to see the teacher, students in the classroom and the instructional material being used in class. Mobile cameras with microphones carry the audio and visual load and students at home can be heard through classroom speakers when participating.

What will happen with children on the no photograph/video list when teachers are to be live streaming?

Students in these situations may need to turn off their cameras on their Chromebooks during streaming. We will work with individual families to accommodate their needs.

Why is the experience so different for K-2?

We realize students in K-2 are picking up the technology skills quickly. We think streaming with these grade levels is possible. We will continue to study and consider it.

Will students be permitted to sing in the choir classroom with other students?

At this time, guidance from FCPH allows students to sing in class with masks off as long as a minimum of 6ft. of social distancing is maintained. Masks will be worn during all non-singing times.

Will students in the distance learning model be able to perform in choir concerts and orchestra concerts?

While we are not sure we will be allowed to have concerts or other indoor performances, students who choose distance learning will be able to participate in these after school events should they take place.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

How will you keep students safe while entering the building and moving throughout the school?

Each building will have plans that utilize multiple controlled entry/exit points to decrease large gatherings of students. Students will be kept on the bus until a school staff member retrieves them in the morning. Hallways have been marked and staff will provide instruction to students about safety practices with hand hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing.

How will the new learning model choices impact elementary GATE students?

Students in the hybrid learning model will receive GATE services in person when at the building and through streaming when at home. We are still finalizing details related to how elementary GATE services will be delivered in the distance learning model, but they will be available. More information will be shared with distance learning families in the coming weeks.

How will services for students with an IEP be delivered?

If a family opts out of the Hybris Plan and instead chooses the all Distance Learning Model for their student with a disability they will continue to be provided their accommodations and individualized services similar to how have been provided those services through Distance Learning. Many of those services are provided through live Google meets or within our TeleHealth platform with the intervention specialist or related service provider. This applies to all students in grades PreK-Postsecondary.

Families who opt for their student to attend the Hybrid Model:

- Will also have their student assigned to a Blue or Gold Hybrid Group
- Will attend on their assigned days and will have their specially designed instruction and therapies will be provided during the days they are in the building, unless otherwise communicated
- May also need to be provided additional services during their at-home learning days which will be determined based on the individual needs of the student and their plan
- May have a schedule that is different in time or frequency from their same grade peers due to their unique strengths or needs (for students in special programs)

We have some students who are not yet able to come to school following the 1-2-2 full-day schedule in the same way as their peers or who may need to attend more frequently due to their unique circumstances. Individual communication will be provided to these families.

- Educational teams have already been in communication with a number of our families about potential altered schedules

Teams will continue to monitor the student's response to both Hybrid and Distance Learning and will consider adjusting either the methods used, the amount of time, or frequency of service when a student needs such a change.

Students with disabilities who are provided services through a 504 Plan will also continue to be provided their accommodations regardless of the model they decide.

If we choose the distance learning model and he/she is assigned a teacher from another building in the district, will the staff work together to make it a smooth transition and ensure my child's learning needs are met?

It is important to us that we help students and families transition to the new learning model as seamlessly as possible. Principals and teachers will work with one another across the district to gain information about students and continue the quality instruction that has been in place thus far this school year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Will the district be providing PPE supplies to every student?

The district has purchased PPE supplies (gloves, hand sanitizer, wipes, shields, plexiglass/other barriers) for each school building and classroom. However, parents need to ensure each student has their own mask. We will have masks available in the event a student forgets one.

What extra cleaning precautions will the schools be taking?

During the school day, custodial staff will be cleaning common spaces and frequently touched surfaces two additional times. Additionally, cleaning of desk/table/chair spaces will occur in between class/lunch changes. Each evening classrooms will be disinfected.

Will there be plexiglass or other barriers used in classroom spaces?

We will be using plexiglass dividers in all small group spaces as well as in classrooms at small group tables. Classrooms with tables will have plexiglass dividers, but we will not have barriers on individual student desks which will be socially distanced throughout the classrooms.

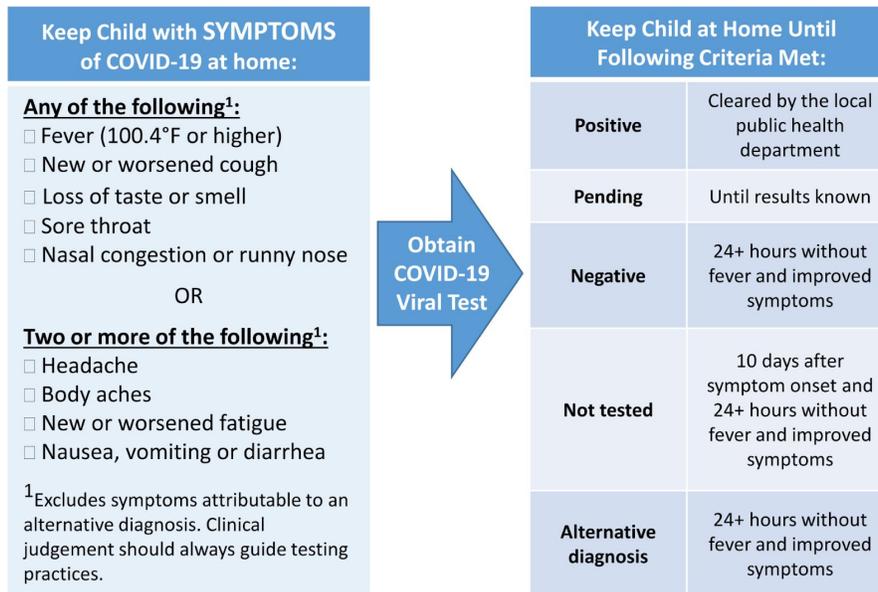
Will students be required to wear masks all day and are there any specific requirements for face coverings?

K-12 students are required to wear masks all day; however mask breaks will be allowed in class and will be monitored by the teacher. During mask breaks, staff and students must remain in their own personal space, social distancing of 6 ft. must be maintained, no one will be permitted to get up from their seat and there will be no talking.

There are no specific requirements for mask type, but it must completely cover the nose, mouth and chin. Currently, gaiters and face shields are not permitted as stand alone face coverings.

What COVID-19 health protocols will be used?

Parents/guardians are expected to do daily symptoms checks including a temperature check each morning before sending your student to school. If a student has the symptoms listed below, he/she should stay home and a call should be made to the school office. If a student develops the symptoms below during the school day, he/she will be isolated and the parent/guardian will be contacted and REQUIRED to pick the student up from school.



Why are we choosing to bring students back into school when COVID-19 is still a safety issue?

We are following the recommendations of Franklin County Public Health. We will follow all the mandated and recommended security protocols. We believe we can enter back into our school buildings and take precautions to minimize risks. However, we know we cannot eliminate all risk.

What should I do if my student has been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19?

If your student has been exposed to a confirmed case, you should keep the student home for monitoring and quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure and call the school office. If the student develops symptoms, you should contact your doctor for a possible alternative diagnosis or COVID-19 test order.

If one child in the family is experiencing symptoms and needs to stay home, will all students in the family be required to stay home?

If a student is experiencing symptoms, but does not have a confirmed positive case, siblings will not be required to stay home. Parents should use an abundance of caution regarding COVID-19 symptoms, keeping students who are experiencing symptoms home, but students who are not experiencing symptoms can come to school.

What should I do if my student tests positive for COVID-19?

If any student has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the parent/guardian should contact the school office to report the case in order for contact tracing and proper notification to occur. The student and parents will be instructed by FCPH as to when the student can return to school.

How will you determine who needs to be quarantined?

We have been working very closely with the Franklin County Public Health Department and have a plan in place which includes careful documentation. We will report each positive case of COVID-19 for them to review and follow up as needed. All information shared with them will remain confidential.

FCPH will guide us through the process of determining if and when a class, group of students, or a building needs to be notified and/or quarantined.

We have been working to ensure our safety guidelines are in place, including what happens when a student develops symptoms during school hours.

Communication will be going home to all parents ensuring they have a good understanding of when to keep their student home and what happens if they or anyone in their family experiences symptoms of COVID-19. That detailed information will be both emailed to parents and on our website.

How will parents be notified of confirmed COVID-19 cases?

Parents/guardians will be notified by email if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in their building. Students considered to be a close contact will receive additional communication with information about quarantine and next steps.

Will teachers/students be tested for COVID 19 throughout the year?

At this time the district is not testing staff/students, but instead if the individual develops symptoms, they should contact their doctor for a possible alternative diagnosis or COVID-19 test order.

Are temperatures being taken daily upon entrance to the school building?

Per licensing guidelines, temperatures will be taken at the preschool level upon arrival at school for both staff and students. Temperatures will not be taken for K-12 students and should be checked at home each morning. If a student is suspected of having a temperature or is not feeling well, a temperature check will happen in the clinic.

How will students experiencing symptoms be separated from other students in clinic spaces?

Each school building will have an isolation room separate from the clinic for students who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If a student has symptoms, parents will be notified right away to pick up their student.

What is being done to improve air quality in our buildings?

The district has worked with an HVAC company to introduce more fresh outside air into our systems. The district has also installed MERV filters which are made to block viruses.

Are there restrictions on non-students and non-staff entering schools?

Visitors, volunteers and activities involving other non-essential groups will not be permitted inside school buildings. When parents come to pick students up, they will be asked to call from the car and will remain at the front door to retrieve their student. Students experiencing symptoms will be escorted out to the car.

What is being done to keep students safe from bullying online and in person?

Inappropriate taunting and bullying will not be permitted, virtually or in the classroom. Teachers and administrators will follow up on reported incidents and students will be held accountable for their actions.

How are you going to ensure students keep their masks on properly?

We will teach students the importance of wearing masks at all times and reinforce this on a regular basis. Parents can help us in these efforts by working with their children regarding these expectations.

Can you ensure that all district personnel will follow protocols and guidelines, such as masks and social distancing, regardless of their personal views?

Yes. The district's safety task force has worked to create protocols. We have also talked frequently with Franklin County Public Health to define protocols and create best practices and staff will be expected to follow all precautions.