

Hello everyone!

This is Josh Arnsman, the new Middle School and High School Principal. Over the past couple of weeks, there have been many changes that were forced upon all of us. From the guidelines we have to follow and navigate due to COVID-19 to the switch to at-home learning, there are a lot of questions. With the help of teachers and community members, I created a list of frequently asked questions to send out to alleviate some of the stress that has come with our current situation. I listed contact information at the bottom of the document if you have any questions that were not addressed. I am looking forward to getting started this year and making the best out of any situation that comes our way. We are all in this together, and together we will get through this.

Why did the MS/HS choose this schedule?

We wanted to ensure that there was a set schedule that everyone could plan around. The idea is that with this schedule, we can switch between full remote and in-person hybrid learning seamlessly throughout this pandemic. This schedule will allow for much more accountability and time for students to work with teachers throughout the day.

What are the school hours for staff?

Teachers will be following the same daily schedule as the students. Teachers will also have available office hours from 2:00-3:15 for students and parents to contact them. They will also be reaching out to students during this time as well on an as-needed basis.

How will we know which day is A-day and which is B-Day?

We will post a monthly calendar on all of our social media pages and our school and district webpages. We will assign all the days at that point.

Will PowerSchool be updated regularly?

With this schedule, the intent is for grades to be updated regularly, just like we would on a regular in-person hybrid day. Attendance will also be taken.

What if my child has an appointment or is sick?

We will follow all procedures that we normally would follow for in-person learning. A parent or guardian will call into the school, preferably the building secretary, and they will mark them appropriately in PowerSchool. The student will be responsible for checking in with their teacher to see what makeup work they missed.

How will attendance be taken?

We will take attendance every hour following the block schedule, just as we would if we were in-person. There will be a check-in process for the students to follow, and the teachers will mark the PowerSchool. If a student misses one class (sleeping in for example), they can still get on for the next class and be marked present. Theoretically, parents or guardians could receive a phone call about your student being absent while sitting at home during remote if they are not checking in with their teachers. Again, we are treating attendance just like we would if we were in-person. Clear communication needs to be happening between teachers and students.

What constitutes a full attendance day for athletes/extracurricular on game days/activity?

We are requiring that these students must be in attendance from at least the start of 2nd hour (A-Days) and 6th hour (B-Days) in order to compete/participate in the game/activity that day. This means the student will be in attendance from 2nd hour through 4th hour on A-days and from 6th hour through 7th hour on B-Days. If a student has an appointment, please communicate with the building secretary and supply a doctor's note and this will not be an issue. If we do not receive a note or communication then it would be considered an unexcused absence and the student would not be allowed to compete.

What platforms will be used to send out information?

All teachers 5th -12th will be using Google Classroom to post things for their class. In addition, School webpages and social media pages will be used to communicate additional information.

How will my student access their classroom?

Teachers will set up their virtual classrooms and give students codes to access them before the start of school. It will also be imperative that students check their school e-mail regularly.

How will parents access homework information?

Parents will have access to their child's classroom schedule through Google Classroom and can see what is being posted daily. We are also working on some other options to help parents having access to all information.

What video application will the teachers use?

Zoom and Google Meets are two video apps that the teachers will use to communicate with their students and parents. Links will be shared with the students via Google Classroom or student e-mail.

Does my student have to have their video on during their scheduled time?

It is encouraged that they do, but we understand that some circumstances would require alternative arrangements. There needs to be clear communication made with their teacher to set this up. Some test-taking procedures may require videos to be on while taking a test.

What if my child cannot make a scheduled Zoom time?

Arrangements will need to be made with the teacher ahead of time or communicated to shortly after (family emergency, etc.). We are encouraging all efforts to be made to be in attendance during the required time.

Will lessons be available to my child if they miss a class or have a question and want to rewatch the lesson later?

In FULL REMOTE, zooms/google meets lessons can be recorded and posted for students to rewatch to help answer questions.

What happens if students do not have internet access?

Please call our new hotline number as soon as possible, 217-936-2111, ex 104. We will make sure to work with you on a plan moving forward.

What does virtual PE look like for my student?

Our teachers are planning a curriculum to ensure the students will have activities to do during their scheduled PE classes. This is a graduation requirement and therefore must be completed.

Do students need to log in during their RTI time?

Yes, we are currently going to use this class for an additional check-in time for teachers to catch up with students that may need extra help. This will also be a time that evolves throughout our full remote schedule.

What will the disciplinary actions be for students who are disruptive during meetings?

As a school district, we will follow school policies that are listed in the student handbook. We are trying to keep things as close to in-person as possible. With that being said, a teacher has the ability to mute and shut off video to a student that may be causing disruptions. That student can still watch and listen, but would not be a distraction to everyone else.

Why can't the middle and high school students start in-person and have the elementary start remote?

We have many older students that are responsible for younger siblings, so we felt it was best for all to remote during this time.

Further questions?

If you have any further questions please feel free to reach out to our hotline or email me.

Hotline: 217-936-2111 ex. 104 General Questions
ex. 125 Technology Questions

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