



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Will staggered schedules be used to accommodate increased car line traffic?**

A. Yes, we are considering staggered schedules to adjust to an expected increase in scholars being driven to school. We may need to use multiple entrances which will impact bus schedules.

**Q. What will the Fully Virtual: Learning at Home option look like?**

A. Parents can elect to have their child “attend” school virtually. Scholar’s will participate in synchronous learning activities from kindergarten through 4th grade that follow their typical schedule for in person learning. Learning resources and assignments will be delivered through the digital platforms utilized in the spring: Seesaw (K-4) and Zoom (K-4). Synchronous learning opportunities will provide a structure to the school day and access to our high-quality instructional program delivered by teachers. Scholars will not be expected to be “online” all day but will have a schedule where they participate in live teaching and then time to complete assignments and independent work.

**Q. What if my child starts in the in-person model but I want to move my child into the Fully Virtual Model later in the school year? Will I be able to make this switch?**

A. Yes. To help us plan, we hope that parents will make a decision that they can commit to for at least a marking period/trimester.

**Q: Distance learning did not work well for my scholar last spring. What improvements were made in the event that we are in a Blended Learning or Fully Virtual learning environment again?**

A: When we closed our school on March 16, we had to quickly pivot and create a Flexible Learning Plan. We’ve had a chance to look back and learn from this experience and examine the feedback we received from staff, parent, and scholar surveys to develop a strengthened plan that contains more opportunities for synchronous learning and more structure to the school day. Some of the areas that we focused on included making improvements in the areas of virtual live interactions between teachers and scholars, providing a consistent way for scholars to find and organize their work, returning to a traditional grading/assessment model, and standardizing virtual instruction to reflect best practices.

**Q. Will newly registering families have the option of selecting fully virtual learning?**

A. All new families that enroll will be provided with information on the two options as part of the school registration process and will need to select an option so that scholars may be assigned to appropriate classes.

**Q. How does the fully virtual model provide services to scholars with Individualized Education Plans?**

A. Services and programs will continue to be offered. Your child’s IEP team will review the implementation of specially-designed instruction and related services with regard to the blended and fully virtual model. For specific questions, Lindsey Horton, Coordinator of Scholar Services, can be reached at [lhorton@henryjohnsoncs.org](mailto:lhorton@henryjohnsoncs.org).

**Q. What measures are being put into place to protect scholars & staff health and safety?**

A. HJCS has been working closely with the County Department of Health officials to address scholars & staff health and safety. Safety and health protocols and procedures have been developed in the areas of personal hygiene, environmental hygiene, face coverings, physical distancing, and symptom monitoring. These procedures and protocols are more fully defined in the 2020 HJCS School Re-Opening Plan.

**Q: Will the school district try to prepare scholars for a different kind of school day, given that some social distancing and face coverings will be in place?**

A: Yes. The district will actively work to prepare and acclimate scholars, and make the return to school as positive as possible. We will be sensitive to the mental and emotional health needs and concerns of our scholars and families. During the first few weeks of school, a focus on community building, orienting scholars to new routines, clarifying expectations, and reestablishing a sense of security and safety will take place.

**Q. Will attendance policies be flexible to account for more scholar absences due to the need to stay home more often?**

A. Yes, as we are asking parents to cooperate with keeping their child(ren) home when they are sick, we anticipate more scholar absences. We will be adjusting our Attendance Policy to allow for more days of absences if needed.

**Q. Can you talk about the analysis that has been done on all schools and classroom spaces?**

A. HJCS Response Teams have assessed every square foot of space in our school building to see how many scholars we could safely have in those instructional areas, as well as our larger areas (cafeterias, gyms, large group instructional rooms) while maintaining social distancing.

**Q. Will scholars be screened every morning?**

A. We are asking all families to screen at home by responding to a daily Prescreening Symptom Checklist that can be responded to on a computer, tablet, or phone. Scholars must be fever free (without fever reducing medication) for 24 hours. It is important to everyone’s health and safety that parents engage in a true partnership and spirit of cooperation with HJCS in monitoring their children’s health. Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they are sick. Symptoms of COVID-19 are listed below. Families with children who are sick may be encouraged to have their child access instruction occurring in their classrooms through virtual, live streaming opportunities.

Column A (1 or more symptoms)	Column B (2 or more symptoms)
Fever (99.5°F or higher)	Lack of smell or taste (without congestion)
Cough	Sore throat
Shortness of breath	Chills
Difficulty breathing	Headache
	Congestion or runny nose
	Nausea or vomiting
	Diarrhea
	Muscle pain

**Q. Will there be temperature checks for scholars before they get on the bus each day?**

A. No, temperature checks will be part of the daily Prescreening Symptom Checklist that parents and staff have to complete. Temperature checks are not a robust measure of protection as many children are asymptomatic. Attempting to temperature check scholars upon entrance to buses or arrival to school would create congestion that could increase the risk of COVID-19.

**Q: If a scholar is sick, or exhibiting signs of COVID-19, what will you do? What will happen if a parent sends their child to school sick?**

A: Our school nurse will continue to assist scholars who are found to be ill, or become ill at school. They will isolate the scholar, notify the scholar’s parent/guardian, and will send the scholar home if they display concerning symptoms, such as fever, shortness of breath, coughing, or other flu-like symptoms. Families will be required to follow up with their primary care physician.

**Q. How will the building be cleaned and disinfected when schools reopen?**

A. Sanitation and disinfection of high-touch surfaces (door/sink handles, handrails, light switches, desks at the secondary level, bathrooms, fountains, sensory room, shared materials) and objects (staplers, copiers, phones, keyboards, coolers, gym equipment) within the school will occur several times daily. All buildings will be fully cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected at the end of each day. At the secondary level, desks and chairs will be disinfected between class periods.

**Q. What is HJCS doing to ensure clean air circulation in buildings?**

A. Maintenance staff conduct routine and preventative maintenance on all mechanical, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems – including replacing air filters. In areas where an indoor air quality concern is identified we use high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to enhance air cleaning. Rooms will be monitored daily for temperature, relative humidity, and dew point. Filters will be checked monthly and changed quarterly. When applicable, windows will be opened to increase outside air movement.

**Q. Has HJCS considered using outside spaces for learning?**

A. Yes, weather permitting, when possible, outside spaces can be utilized for learning activities.

**Q. I am worried about the emotional state of my scholar. Will that be addressed?**

A. We understand that many of our scholars will arrive at school having experienced some level of stress from the impact of COVID-19 and the school closure. Social emotional and mental health resources will be available to support our scholars. Especially for the first two weeks of school, a daily, explicit focus on social emotional learning activities will be implemented throughout the day. Schools may use morning meetings, advisory periods, and CE blocks to support this implementation as well as integrating development of skills into learning activities throughout the day. We know how important the positive relationships are between scholars and teachers and that all scholars need this relationship to be “ready to learn”. We will spend a great deal of time creating those bonds the first weeks of school to ensure those connections are made. During professional development, our faculty and administrators participated in training in a social-emotional-ethical learning framework as well as trauma-informed approaches. Teacher teams have been working throughout the summer to develop implementation of these approaches. Professional development in these areas will also continue.

**Q. Will on-site before and after school care continue for elementary scholars?**

A. Yes, HJCS will continue to offer after school care for enrolled in person elementary scholars following the procedures and protocols of the Health and Safety Plan.

**Q. What about technology for scholars who may need to move to the remote learning option?**

A. We will have devices for all our scholars and will help support internet accessibility for those devices.

**Q. Where will scholars be eating meals?**

A. Lunch will be served in classrooms. Food and Nutrition Services is currently exploring meal service options in collaboration with school administrators. School populations and their participation will be the main drivers of our meal service possibilities - impacting how meals are served and where meals are consumed.

**Q. Will school lunches be available to scholars on days when they are not physically in the building?**

A. Scholars attending the virtual instruction will have the option of picking up “grab and go” meals, so they can have a school lunch five days a week. Lunch will be available for pick up for scholars that opt for the fully virtual option.

**Q. If the health conditions worsen, how will things change?**

A. Scholars may have to move from in-person learning to virtual learning at some point in the year if health data and recommendations from the DOH, or the Governor's Office necessitate closing schools. The Department of Health will continue to monitor community transmission rates and other surveillance metrics across the commonwealth, including school specific outbreaks of COVID-19. Based on this disease monitoring and surveillance DOH may, in close coordination with SED, issue guidance related to targeted school closures as part of a wider public health mitigation strategy.

**Q. Does my scholar have to wear a mask on a regular basis?**

A. Yes. Scholars are required to wear a mask upon arriving to school daily or when they are on the bus. There will be times during the day when scholars will be allowed to take their mask off for a break. We know it will be challenging for our scholars to be in a mask for large amount of time but our first important priority is the safety of our school and community.

**Q. Will teachers have masks on in the classroom?**

A. Yes. Teachers are required to wear a mask daily and practice social distance when they are in the classroom with scholars.

**Q. How will you practice social distance throughout the school day?**

A. HJCS will have scholars practice social distance in the classroom by using properly spaced desks. We are limiting the amount of transitions around the school building. Scholars will be eating breakfast and lunch in the classroom. We are still having extra-curricular activities like gym, music, and art but those classes will be held in your scholar's homeroom.

**Q. Will my scholar still receive a high-quality education on a daily basis?**

A. Our mission statement is clear that regardless of a global pandemic we are going to facilitate a safe learning environment for all scholars to achieve academic excellence and great character.

**Q. Do you still provide services for scholars like 504, ELL, and IEP during this time?**

A. Yes. All services will be provided to scholars who receive services through HJCS. If a scholar needs services we will follow all the guidelines based on a scholar's home district.

**Q. What can I do to prepare my scholar for the upcoming school year?**

A. Scholars have been out of school for the last several months so conversation about wearing a mask and hygiene are key to keeping our community safe. Please practice having your scholar wear a mask with you in your house so they can describe their comfortability with wearing a mask. Scholars should practice washing their hands on a regular basis when they leave the house or use the bathroom. Here is a great link for kids to watch about why wearing a mask is important: <https://youtu.be/ilgSyLzQL5g>

**Q. How do I meet with my scholar's classroom teacher?**

A. We are still a school that wants to build relationships with parents on a daily basis. Starting during the first week of school August 31 teachers will be reaching out via Zoom per each classroom to describe what their classroom will look like during the school year.