

Plan C- Remote Learning Guidance for Franklin County Schools Families

On Monday July 27th, the Franklin County Schools Board of Education approved Plan C-Remote Learning for the first nine weeks of the 2020-21 school year. We will continue to monitor health and safety conditions in our community to make a determination beyond the first nine weeks.

As Superintendent, I know that many of you have questions regarding Plan C- remote learning. I wanted to provide you with some information on what this will look like for our students when we come back to school in a few short weeks.

Instruction will look different from last spring.

First of all, I want to emphasize that the remote learning instruction that students will receive will look very different from what they received under remote learning last spring. We have had more time to prepare, and we have developed a remote learning plan that focuses on meeting the needs of students when they are receiving instruction at home.

Student schedules will provide for a full instructional day.

Students will be engaged in instruction for a full instructional day. Here's a sample schedule for the day:

Level	Synchronous Instruction <i>(Live instruction with teacher. Prioritizes relationship building, opportunities for interacting with peers and new learning, and personalized support.)</i>	Asynchronous Instruction <i>(Recorded instruction by your child's teacher or FCS specialists, Assigned activities (either digital or hands-on) to build skills or knowledge or practice and reinforce learning. Reading (assigned and personal choice reading)</i>
Elementary	8:30-9:00 (ELA)	9:00-9:30
	9:30-10:00 (Math)	10:00-10:30
	10:00-10:30 (Science)	10:30-11:00
	11:00-11:30 (Social Studies)	11:30-12:00
	12:00-2:00	Engagement with specialists, electives
	2:00-3:00	Conferencing with students, PLCs, planning
Middle	8:30-9:15 (ELA)	9:15-9:45
	9:45-10:30 (Math)	10:30-11:00
	11:00-11:45 (Science)	11:45-12:15
	12:15-1:00 (Social Studies)	1:00-1:30
	1:30-2:00	Elective 1
	2:00-2:30	Elective 2
	2:30-3:00	Conferencing with students, PLCs, planning
High	8:30-9:15 (Block 1)	9:15-9:45
	9:45-10:30 (Block 2)	10:30-11:00
	11:00-11:45 (Block 3)	11:45-12:15
	12:15-1:00 (Block 4)	1:00-1:30
	1:30-3:00	Conferencing with students, PLCs, planning

This may look different from school to school and teacher to teacher, but it will provide you with a sense of what a day in the life of a student will entail. As you can see, instruction will begin for all students at 8:30 am. Students will log in to class for direct, or synchronous, instruction. During this time period, the teacher will provide instruction via a google hangout, which is really just an online meeting between the teacher and their students. These sessions will be recorded and posted in Canvas on the class page so that if there are concepts that a student (or parent) needs to review, they can access them again later. These sessions will last 30 minutes for our elementary students, followed by time to work independently on assignments on that subject. This independent time is called “asynchronous” instruction. At the middle and high school levels, students will have longer blocks of time for direct instruction, followed by independent work time. Students at the elementary and middle school levels will receive instruction in ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and electives such as PE, art or music each day. High school students will follow their four block schedule.

Assessments will be conducted to gauge student understanding.

We will have assessments to gauge student understanding of key concepts. Since we were remote learning last spring and much of that time was deemed review based on state guidance, we recognize that there are specific skills that students may have missed. We are assessing students at the start of the school year to determine gaps in understanding so that we can plan instruction that targets student needs. We have also built in review and revisiting of key skills and concepts for the beginning of the year, so that we can hit the ground running.

Grades will be administered to reflect student work and progress.

Students will have assignments for completion online. These assignments will be submitted electronically for grading. Last spring, grading for the majority of our students was based on state legislation of “pass-fail.” Unlike last spring, we will have grades just as you were accustomed to prior to last year’s remote learning period. At the elementary level, we have standards-based grading. In grades 6-12 students receive traditional numeric grades. We will have progress checks on a weekly basis.

Planning is underway to meet the needs of our EC students.

For our students who are part of the Exceptional Children’s (EC) Program, a task force has been formed specifically to address the needs of identified students as they participate in remote learning and as they prepare for a smooth reentry into the classroom environment. School staff will be reaching out to individual families to schedule IEP meetings and make other arrangements as needed to prepare for the start of remote learning.

Accountability measures are in place for students and teachers.

Student and staff accountability is critical to the success of this remote learning period. For students, attendance will be taken daily. The best way to engage and be in attendance for instruction is through logging in during the scheduled instructional time. This allows for direct interaction with the teacher when key concepts are being taught. It’s a time to listen, to ask questions, and to assist the teacher as he/she works to gauge student understanding. In order

to provide the greatest flexibility to our families while also establishing expectations for attendance, students can receive credit for class attendance by completing at least one daily assignment, attending the google meet session hosted by the teacher (preferred method), or logging into google classroom or canvas to access teacher directions and assignments. Students who are in need of consideration for a regular schedule that deviates from the classroom daily schedule will need to gain prior administrative approval.

Communication is key to our success.

Communication is critical to our success in remote learning, and we are committed to keeping a direct line to our families. Even during remote learning, our teachers and school staff will be reporting on site to provide instruction. Our schools will act as a hub for information, resources and support. Teachers will keep office hours- a minimum of two hours per week- and weekly communication with all families by our teachers is an expectation. Parents who need to reach the school or teacher can call the office or schedule an appointment to provide for student needs. Just keep in mind, our campuses are operating under DHHS guidelines and temperature checks, health assessments, masks and social distancing are required by all visitors to school grounds.

Technology plays an important role in remote learning.

One critical method of communication during this time is through technology. As I stated earlier, each student will receive a device for home use. At K-1, this is a tablet. In grades 2-12, a chromebook will be provided. Schools have provided information on device pickup dates. Please be on the lookout for this guidance from your school, and reach out to your principal if you have not received that information. For those of you who struggle with internet access, there are a few avenues for support for you. These include Kajeets, or individual hot spots; wifi access in the parking lot of any of our schools during the instructional day, community partners who are designated as “free wifi” spots (these are identified with an FCS wifi decal in the window), and through wifi buses that will be stationed throughout the county to provide internet access in remote areas.

Orientations will be provided to prepare students and parents for the new school year.

In preparation for the start of the year, you will be receiving guidance from your school principal regarding orientation sessions. These sessions are intended to provide you with additional information that will help you and your child feel better prepared to kick off the new school year successfully. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your school with any questions or concerns.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

We look forward to the day when all of our students can return safely for face-to-face instruction. In the meantime, we are committed to providing a high quality, engaging learning experience for your child. Thanks for your support!