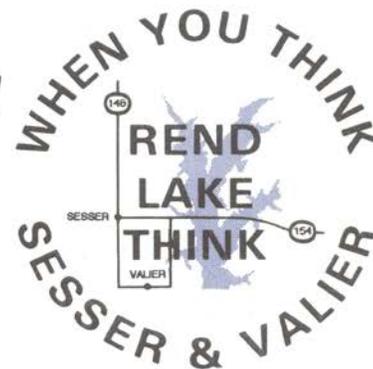


Elementary
Ext. 118
High School
Ext. 100
Health Office
Ext. 102
Guidance Office
Ext. 103
Athletic Director
Ext. 116
Administration
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DISTRICT RETURN-TO-LEARN REOPENING PLAN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Original: August 6, 2020

Updated: August 10, 2020

In-Person Attendance/Learning Groups

1. *Can a parent choose his/her child's learning group (Learning Group A or Learning Group B) or days of in-person attendance?*

No. Because the school district must manage group sizes, classroom assignments, family/household groupings, etc., parent requests cannot be honored. That said, there is no harm in reaching out to the applicable school office to express a preference. Please understand that does not guarantee assignment into the preferred learning group.

2. *If my child attends an out-of-district special education program, when does he/she attend?*

SV196 students who regularly attend out-of-district special education programs will follow the schedule of the program/host school.

3. *Will breakfast and/or lunch be served?*

Yes. When students arrive in the morning, they will go straight to their classroom. For students who want/need breakfast at school, it will be available (paid or free/reduced basis). Near mid-day, lunch will also be served in the classroom (also on a paid or free/reduced basis). During both breakfast and lunch, age-appropriate learning activities/tutoring may be presented.

4. *Will elementary students have recess?*

As of right now, the state guidance we've received encourages outdoor activities, as long as social distance can be maintained. A rotational recess schedule is something that would be developed at the building level and would likely be distributed within the first 1-2 weeks of school.

5. *Will students who are enrolled in the blended learning program have access to their teachers to answer questions on the days the student is learning remotely?*

Yes. Students who are participating remotely on any given day will have an opportunity to e-mail/call/videoconference with their teachers to ask questions and get help with assignments.

6. *Since the school is using a blended model for learning, have the school supply lists changed?*

As of right now, the previously-distributed school supply lists remain the same.

7. *Will there be music and band classes?*

Yes, though those classes may be very different from what we consider “normal” because of ISBE guidance about the health considerations of singing and playing an instrument.

8. *Will there be PE this year?*

Yes, though PE will look very different than what we consider “normal.” Locker rooms/changing to PE clothes will not be as usual this year. We also expect that PE activities will be more individualized this year because of health guidance regarding social distance.

9. *How will special education students who have learning disabilities receive the help they need?*

Our special education teachers will be preparing additional, individual plans for students under their care who may have trouble with the pandemic-disrupted school year. Students will have electronic access to their teachers on days when they (the students) are scheduled for remote learning, and all students will have access to their teachers, if needed, from 1:45 PM to 2:45 PM. Additionally, if schedule adjustments are needed to meet the learning needs of a special education student, our staff have broad latitude to make those adjustments (including recommending additional, in-person attendance).

10. *Will standardized testing be conducted this year?*

As of this writing, yes. ISBE has indicated that the federal government is not currently approving waivers to postpone/pause/cancel standardized testing in 2020-2021.

11. *Will teachers allow students to complete paper/pencil (physical copies) of schoolwork?*

Yes. Teachers have the latitude to do what is needed to best serve their students.

Remote Learning

12. Will attendance be taken for students who are participating in remote learning?

Yes. Students who are participating in remote learning (either in the blended, alternating day schedule or the full remote option) will be required to log attendance each day. At this time, we are hopeful that the TeacherEase system will have a remote learning login feature in which students (or parents, if appropriate) can record their start & finish times each day. If the TeacherEase system is not effective, the district will develop a manual log for student use.

13. If, after the start of the school year, we want to “opt-in” our child for remote learning, will that be permissible?

At this time, we are planning to allow students/families to opt-in for full remote learning at any time after the start of the school year. However, once a student opts-in for full remote learning, we are only planning to allow the student to return to in-person attendance at the quarter breaks (end of 1st 9-weeks, end of 2nd 9-weeks, etc.) unless otherwise directed or approved by the building principal.

14. Is the school checking-out laptops/Chromebooks/tablets to students for remote learning?

No. At this time, school personnel are applying for a competitive grant that would be used to purchase a supply of Chromebooks or other, similar devices for students who need devices to check out. Any student/parent who is contemplating purchasing their own Chromebook or other, similar device may contact District Technology Coordinator Regina Tinsley for helpful information about what kind of device might be best. While it might be a little easier, the school does not require students to have a device in order to complete remote learning.

15. I don't have good internet service at my home. How can my child(ren) access remote learning activities?

The district has approved the purchase/installation of two exterior wireless access points that will be located at each end of the main building (HS Student Parking Lot & Elementary School Staff Parking Lot). Currently, the district's technology service provider has indicated that the equipment is on back-order, but that it should be available soon. Additionally, it is our understanding that at least one church in the district is planning to make its internet service available to students for remote learning during the day.

16. *What if we have two students in our home but only one Chromebook, tablet, or other device? Can they share?*

Yes. We realize that this might be the case in several homes. We are committed to creatively finding ways to reach and teach all of our students, and we will work with students and parents to find a way to make this situation work. We don't want parents to worry about a lack of in-home devices. Our teachers have broad latitude to do what is necessary to get through this pandemic together.

17. *Will students who opt-in for full remote learning be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities? (Updated August 10, 2020)*

Generally, yes. The Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) latest guidance (updated August 5, 2020) regarding extracurricular activities is as follows:

“Students in any district learning environment must continue to have equitable access to extracurricular activities. Students in blended or remote learning environments must not be denied normal access to in-person extracurricular activities the district or school provides to students learning in-person.”

18. *Will remote lessons be recorded sessions that can be watched at any time during the day or will they be live streams?*

The way remote learning is conducted will be age-dependent. There will be an online component that is either recorded or a live stream. Parents will receive more information once students are placed in their homerooms.

19. *How will remote learning differ from the end of school year packets from the last school year?*

Remote learning in the district has been altered to be more interactive between teachers and students. Students that are receiving remote instruction will be required to complete the same work as their peers who are learning in-person. Instead of classes being pass/fail, students will receive a letter grade. District grading policies will be in full-force.

20. *Will parents be required to print assignments weekly?*

Students who are enrolled in the blended learning program will receive paper materials for the remote learning days when they are attending in-person. Students that are in the full remote learning program will probably have to print the materials from home.

21. *Are all students required to log on from 1:45 PM—2:45 PM every day? (Added August 10, 2020)*

All students will not be required to log in daily from 1:45 PM—2:45 PM. That timeframe is a time that teachers will be available to answer questions, set up small group meetings for re-teaching, and interact with students, etc.

Health Considerations

22. *If a student or staff member in a class tests “positive” for COVID-19, will all individuals in that class have to self-quarantine?*

As of right now, no. As long as the required health/safety guidelines are followed (mask, social distance, etc.), only individuals who had “close contact” with a person who tested positive would need to self-quarantine. “Close contact” means two people within 6’ of each other for 15 or more consecutive minutes in a 48-hour period.

The District will follow the guidelines of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and our local health department, Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health, that are in-place at the time of the occurrence.