

## FAQ's for Distance Learning

Families: thank you for your on-going questions. We will continue to respond to ensure you get the answers you deserve.

Question Category	Question from Community	Leadership Response
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	What if I am not receiving updates from Blackboard?	Student contact information is shared with the Blackboard system from ASPEN, our student database. Make sure your contact information is accurate in ASPEN, our DCPS student database by contacting Ms. Thompson in the main office at (202) 698-3244 or e-mail <a href="mailto:Brittney.Cloyd@k12.dc.gov">Brittney.Cloyd@k12.dc.gov</a>
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	How can we continue to build community in this virtual environment? For example, my kids have expressed concern that they don't know their teachers- building trust and individual relationships with students is much more challenging, yet even more important in this environment, what are the ways we as a community can come together to build relationships between teachers and students and between families in this virtual world?	Building the whole child is still high priority for us. Once teachers arrive (virtually) they will begin contacting families and set up the whole class communication method and individual communication method. In our virtual schedule, students will engage in a Smart Start which includes opportunities for students to engage in purposeful partnering and community building. Parents can reach out to their child's classmates to build relationships.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	Will the school be able to share contact info for parents (with their permission of course) so that children could potentially safely meet classmates, parents could create "pods", etc.?	Our planning priorities have been promoting academic excellence (through schedule design) and integrating our values of enhancing the whole child in a virtual space (virtual strong starts, social stories, etc.). We are not able to support the building or communication for the development of pods. Canvas (new online learning management system) is designed with the ability for students within a class to email each other.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	How will schedule and information from the parent meetings be shared?	All material will be posted online, except for a personalized letter indicating homeroom teachers, which will be mailed via USPS. All teachers will contact all students during pre-service week. We are working on having a list of classes (first initial.last name) posted in the building during Curriculum Materials pick up time. Additionally, we will use the school website, Blackboard, Canvas and Bloomz to communicate updates with families.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	Why weren't class lists shared with families as in past years?	We decided to not share class lists with families to ensure the safety and privacy of all students. Instead we have sent individual class assignments to families via USPS. Additionally, you can contact the school for your individual class assignment.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	Will the school send classroom assignments to parents electronically? Since USPS mail- has not been working out for DC and is referred to as snail mail, what are alternatives?	All material will be posted online, except for a personalized letter indicating homeroom teachers, which will be mailed via USPS. All teachers will contact all students during pre-service week. We are working on having a list of classes (first initial.last name) posted in the building during Curriculum Materials pick up time

Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	When should we expect to hear about IEP implementation and from whom?	Teachers and casemanagers will begin reaching out to families beginning the week of August 24 - 28 to discuss IEP implementation and related service providers' scheduling.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	Will students have the opportunity to meet their teacher (virtually) prior to the start of the school year? When should we expect a call from our child's teacher in order to be ready for the first day? Will teachers do regular individual check ins with families? Should we expect teachers to use a notification system to be kept abreast of class info such as Bloomz, ClassDojo or remind?	Yes, teachers will be reaching out the beginning of pre-service week. Yes, teachers have blocks in their schedule for individual student check in's. Yes, teachers will use a common platform to communicate with families.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	When will we receive schedules and curriculum?	School schedules have been shared. Specific classroom schedules that include small groups will be developed over time by the classroom teacher.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	Can we get bios for new teachers and staff?	Bios will be shared as teachers connect with families.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	Do you have recommendations for the social/emotional learning component that comes with interpersonal interactions through school which clearly isn't happening if we are strictly social distancing?	Our morning strong start (morning meeting) will provide the social aspect that's foundational to learning. In general, you can start practicing virtual play events if you can given our playground is open. Teachers personal levels of comfort range so I can speak to one approach vs. individual preference.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	Can we pick up items left in our child's cubby and medication left with the nurse?	Yes, come August 26 - 28 between 10 AM and 4 PM to pick up materials for this year and medication and other student items left last year.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	We still have library books and materials from last year; when can we return them?	Yes, please return them next week, August 26 - 28 10 AM - 4 PM, when you pick up your materials for this year.
Communication, Relationships, Social-Emotional Learning	How many platforms will we need to juggle?	We will use Canvas, MS Teams, and Clever for instruction. We will use the school website, Blackboard, and Bloomz for communications. We will also work with our ECE teachers to determine if MS Teams is best developmentally.
Learning experiences and assessment	How involved are parents expected to be throughout the virtual school day?	Parents are expected to support their students in making sure they log-in on time for live lessons, participate during the sessions and complete the lesson assignments and any asynchronous videos as detailed in student schedules.
Learning experiences and assessment	What is the expected level of engagement for younger students? What are the baseline expectations for how long they are online from the start?	Students are expected to follow their schedule. However, we understand that stamina must be built in the beginning of the year.
Learning experiences and assessment	What is blended learning and what is required?	Blending learning are the online platforms students use for acceleration in math, literacy, etc. This year all students will have access to IXL. Students will also have access to RAZ Plus, Lexia, Zearn (K-2) & Raz Plus, iready, and Zearn (3-5).

Learning experiences and assessment	<p>What is the expected amount of work that children will be required to complete?</p> <p>Will students have specials?</p> <p>During the last Distance Learning I felt the kids were receiving work from various teachers with the same due dates and this became troublesome trying to meet so many expectations on a weekly basis, as well as being overwhelming for the children.</p>	<p>Teachers will work more intimately with you. Our goal is to increase academic ability even while virtual.</p> <p>Yes, ECE through grade 2 will have Spanish, science, art, music, and PE. Grades 3-5 will have PE, Science, and Spanish</p> <p>Grade level teams will be very much aligned in their assignments and due dates.</p>
Learning experiences and assessment	When and how will we get logins for Canvas?	Teachers will distribute students' Canvas log-in credentials during Pre-service Week (August 24 - August 28).
Learning experiences and assessment	How will we know what materials we can use or will I? And will there be a continued need to pick up materials through the next few months?	Teachers are designing wish list by grade level and classroom to support all learning at home including tactile. We also have curriculum materials for all grades including ECE to support learning at home. We will continue to build this as we grow and learn virtually, so we cannot say if we will need more materials distribution days at this time.
Learning experiences and assessment	If ECE is not able to sign on daily for lessons while the school is remote can we still remain enrolled so that we don't lose our spot once school does open back up in-person, whether that be this school year sometime or next? Thanks for all your time and effort in this difficult time.	<p>DCPS attendance policy: <a href="https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/FAQs/">https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/FAQs/</a></p> <p>We will work with all families to support attendance, enrollment, and learning. To keep your spot, you must remain active and more language for this is forthcoming from DCPS. Please stay tuned.</p>
Learning experiences and assessment	Will second grade students stay with their teacher or rotate?	Second grade is not departmentalized as in the past and students will remain with their homeroom teachers except when they take their specials.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will there be more small group instruction in the Fall?	Yes. See the our published schedule and teachers will provide even more details once they have student data to make the small groups.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will the virtual classroom experience lend itself to classmates podding together during virtual sessions?	Yes, we normed schedules to allow for students at the same level to engage during the same times and attempted to align across all grade levels with respect to developmentally appropriate practices.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will the children be issued books (eureka math books) for use so that they are not only on the computer all day.	DCPS has discussed but not confirmed packets for PK and in specified areas for K-5. K-5 consumables will also be provided. Curriculum materials will be distributed August 26th-- August 28th from 10am-4pm.
Learning experiences and assessment	One issue that has come a few times is the social emotional needs for kids and the need for non-academic social interaction for students. Will you be facilitating virtual, structured interaction with the social workers or other staff beyond academic/class interaction for students?	We are still working on the integration of this and what this "looks like". Stay tuned for additional details.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will there be small group learning for math and ELA or opportunities created for those kids to interact more?	Yes!

Learning experiences and assessment	What will Distance Learning "classrooms" look like? How many kids will be meeting together? Will there be only 1 teacher?	We have City Year joining us this year and with those staff and the aides we were able to support every grade level with additional adults to support with attendance, troubleshooting and responding to student needs as teachers lead.
Learning experiences and assessment	How will standardized testing be done for 3rd-5th graders if we stay virtual?	DC state testing is TBD at this point.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will last year's teachers participate in initial assessments?	No. Students' current teacher will administer assessments.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will teachers record their teaching sessions or will it be live? Will "live" sessions be recorded?	Both. Live lessons will be recorded.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will supplies be provided for ECE students (beyond packets)? Some schools are providing "curriculum in a box" for students in ECE since they aren't going to get much out of online learning. Will any manipulatives, activities, etc. come home to support learning?	We are also still working on this important question and have a plan. We need to confirm funding.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will additional reading and math tutoring be available if needed?	Our interventions will go on as planned. Specials teachers will also support.
Learning experiences and assessment	Would you consider having in person PE activities in small groups? PE outdoors!	In-person classes are not up to Ludlow-Taylor leadership. We are following the guidance of DCPS. There are conversations happening at the Chancellor's level and I hope we hear soon.
Learning experiences and assessment	What are the specific expectations for younger students' engagement? How long are they required to stay on-screen?	Students are expected to follow their schedule. However, we understand that stamina must be built in the beginning of the year.
Learning experiences and assessment	Why doesn't fifth grade have music and art?	We built schedules in accordance to DCPS guidelines and teachers' contractual hours, unfortunately we were unable to offer music and art for everyone within those limitations.
Learning experiences and assessment	Are you considering to use the fields outside the school for some kind of in person circle time for the little ones?	Playgrounds are allowed for use with groups with no more than 50 persons. However we want to balance how comfortable our staff is with in-person gatherings.
Learning experiences and assessment	Will the specials learning be more robust in the fall? At a minimum weekly live engagement	Specials will be daily synchronously and asynchronously.
Learning experiences and assessment	Are aftercare and afterschool clubs and sports still happening? And if so, what does it look like? And can we opt out of afterschool until we return in person?	DCPS is not offering afterschool activities during virtual learning and we are following their lead.
Learning experiences and assessment	Is Ms. Burton, Librarian, going to continue doing her video story time for ECE? And can she do book clubs for upper elementary students?	These details will soon come as there comes more DCPS guidance around roles and responsibilities.

Learning experiences and assessment	I am glad to hear there will be small group instruction for differentiated learning. How will teachers assess the students' levels for placement in groups without the normal in-person interactions that typically take place at the beginning of the school year? How soon will small group instruction start? How often can we expect small-group teaching via DL?	Many assessments will still happen, even those that are typically 1-on-1. Small groups will start as soon as teachers are ready with strategic groupings. Small groups will happen every day for the teacher. A students' schedule will be based on need.
Schedules/Attendance	How were class schedules determined?	The Academic Leadership Team and each grade level teacher team and used the DCPS scheduling guidance and community feedback from previous distance learning to construct the schedules.
Schedules/Attendance	Will teachers be making individual class schedules available next week?	Yes, you will receive more personalized schedules that describe in more detail the blocks, the roations, testing, etc.
Schedules/Attendance	We have heard that Wednesdays will not be "regular"/full instructional days for students and will be reserved for teacher planning, preparation and one-on-one as needed. Can you let us know if that is the working plan?	Yes, that is the plan. Students will have specials on Wednesdays.
Schedules/Attendance	The schedule doesn't seem to include any unstructured time for kids to get outside/run around during the school day for K - 2?	Lunch and recess occur together. Students should enjoy unstructured freetime during their lunch block.
Schedules/Attendance	Is there any flexibility in the schedule so that particularly lunch, but also Specials could be at the same time on those four days given many families have kids in the different blocks?	No, lunch is staggered as it would be during the regular school day.
Schedules/Attendance	How big will online class sizes be?	Online class sessions will range from 15-20 students during whole group and six to eight for small group sessions.
Schedules/Attendance	Why are start times staggered?	We honored teacher input with their own personal demands while thinking about student outcomes. We finalized staggered start times to support tech support and logging in at the same time and teacher input.
Schedules/Attendance	Will attendance be taken?	For virtual learning days, students (or parents on behalf of younger students) are expected to sign into Canvas daily, and daily attendance will be recorded through this action. Students will be expected to log into Canvas each school day at least once between 6 am and 11:59 pm. Students who do not log in to Canvas will be recorded as absent for the day. Absences will be imported into Aspen automatically overnight.
Schedules/Attendance	Will all teachers in the same grade teach on the same schedule (for synchronous learning times)? This would be helpful for parents sharing child care with kiddos are in different classes. Thank you!	Yes! See our schedule for details.
Schedules/Attendance	Our family is planning to partner with another family to take turns overseeing the kids' school days. Will parents be able to request that their child is in the same classroom as another child?	We are not taking these requests.
Schedules/Attendance	How will the PreK A and B cohorts be determined? Will there be flexibility in the determination?	PreK teachers will connect with families during the first week of school to discuss student cohort placement.
Schedules/Attendance	Will PreK start 8/31 or have a phased start as in prior years?	PK will begin school on 9/3. Teachers will use the days leading up to make personal connections.
Schedules/Attendance	Why are lunches at different times?	Our schedule was designed with a lens of developmentally appropriate screen time. With the many priorities in the schedule, we could not align lunches.

Schedules/Attendance	We are starting virtually until Nov 6 but is it possible that the hybrid option is restored? or should we gear for virtual for the entire semester?	DCPS has shared no additional details beyond Virtual Learning for Term 1. Please be sure to register for the DCPS Parent University for updates.
Technology	When should parents expect to receive devices and hot spots needed for virtually learning? Has the school decided when technology will be distributed? My son is a new student.	Technology will be distributed to families who identified a need through DCPS' Technology Access Survey ( <a href="https://bit.ly/DCPSTechAccess">bit.ly/DCPSTechAccess</a> ). August 26th-August 28th 10am-4pm and again August 29th from 10am-12pm.
Technology	I received one technology confirmation e-mail but I requested two devices. Is that confirmation for both devices or just one?	We will make sure every family's device needs are met.
Technology	What are the recommendations for ECE technology- laptops or tablets?	DCPS has secured Microsoft Gos and Ipads for ECE students' use.
Technology	Last year, not all tablets were compatible with Zearn and other apps. Are there recommendations for technology needed at each grade level?	<p>Yes. While DCPS has not tested every specific laptop/tablet available, aligning with the following specifications is recommended.</p> <p>We recommend any device with the latest version of Windows 10 OS, macOS or Chrome OS, at least 4 GB of memory, a full keyboard and a camera will meet the requirements of our curriculum and distance learning standards. A touchscreen device is highly recommended for students in grades PK through 2.</p> <p>For our students in PK3 and PK4, as long as a device/platform can support Microsoft Teams video conferencing and our instructional apps used by our ECE teachers without performance issues they will be acceptable.</p> <p>All students will require access to reliable internet connectivity.</p> <p>Note about Chromebooks and Kindle Fire Tablets: While most online resources will function well, Chromebooks do not support full versions of some desktop applications such as Microsoft Office 365. Kindle Fire tablets do not perform well with video conferencing. They are also very limited on the instructional apps they can run and do not do well with browser-based platforms such as Canvas and Clever. We do not recommend Kindle Fire tablets for anything more than a reading tool.</p>
Technology	We initially didn't need a device; however now our situation has changed can we still get one?	<a href="#">Yes, complete the Technology Survey here =&gt; Tech Survey</a>
Technology	Can we test out the technology prior to the first day of school?	If the technology has arrived by then, yes. If not we will share DCPS Parent University trainings and host parent technology sessions during the year.
Technology	What does submitting work look like?	Canvas is a new dashboard that allows students the ability to do more i.e. annotate, highlight, note take, and submit work done on the computer. It also allows for pictures to be uploaded. We are still learning the platform and as teachers build their virtual classroom they will teach the features.
Technology	I have found that when my children used their tablets last year that they did not have all the features as when they were on a laptop. Does this device make sure that or have all features needed to be fully engaged?	We can't speak to features on personal laptops, but all DCPS-issued laptops will have all required features.

Technology	Is it important for each kid to have access to their own device, or is that going to depend on individual schedules?	It will depend on individual schedules and what works best for your family. We do want all students to have their own device. If that's not the case, please fill out the technology survey. (link at top of document)
Technology	Can paraprofessionals get a device for virtual support and hot spot? Paras may also need high speed connectivity that can support synchronis video.	Yes. All staff will have the technology they need to effectively teach or support virtual learning.
Technology	Can we get headphones?	Headphones are a part of the curriculum materials list.
Teacher or School Support/Action	What are the expectations for teachers communicating with students and families prior to the start of school?	Teachers will communicate with families during pre-service week, August 24 - 28.
Teacher or School Support/Action	How can we best support families without access to devices and other materials?	Donate to our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Email PTO@ludlowtaylor.org. We are also providing packets as supplemental materials for students unable to access or who want additional practice.