



Returning to School Frequently Asked Questions 2020-2021 School Year

GENERAL QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Q: Will students be returning to school?

A: Yes. Parents/guardians have 2 options for educating their students in the 2020-2021 school year.

- **Traditional In-Person-** Students enrolled in the Martin County Traditional School Model will return to school and classrooms 5 days a week with the traditional school schedule and in-person instruction. Health and safety protocols will be in place.

OR

- **Cardinal Online Learning** - Students enrolled in Cardinal Online Learning will experience online learning at home with identified support and contact with Martin County teachers. These students will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

Q: When is the first day of school?

A: AUGUST 26, 2020

Q: Once I choose an option, can I change my mind?

A: A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. However, we understand that parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another, so we will provide opportunities to do so when available. Transfers from one learning option to another would be best after the completion of a 9-week grading term at the ELEMENTARY level, and after the completion of a semester (after Christmas Break) at the MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL level.

Q: Could these plans change?

A: Yes. All plans are based upon guidance from Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, Kentucky Department of Education, and local health officials. Plans are subject to change. Parents will

be notified as new guidelines are released. The Martin County School District appreciates your patience. This document was last updated on July 17, 2020.

HEALTH & SAFETY QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Q: Will students be required to wear a mask?

A: Per Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools all students who are enrolled in first grade and above and staff should wear a cloth face covering, unless medically waived. Masks can be lowered during classroom time if all students and staff are seated 6 feet apart.

Q: Are there any specifications for the masks?

A: Masks should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and be secured with ties or ear loops. Masks should either be made of cloth or be disposable fabric face masks. Masks should cover both the nose and mouth in order to effectively prevent the spread of respiratory droplets. All masks must meet the guidelines of the school dress code.

Q: Will students wear masks in classrooms?

A: Per Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools, students are to wear masks when the ability to social distancing (6 feet apart) is not feasible. Students will not be required to wear a mask while eating, social distancing, or during outdoor activities.

Kentucky guidance can be viewed here: [#HealthyAtSchool](#)

Q: Will the school provide a mask for my child?

A: All parents will be responsible for providing a mask for their child. If a child forgets their mask at home, a mask will be available at the school.

Q: What steps will be taken to ensure a healthy environment?

A: School custodians will clean frequently touched services throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the end of each school day. Teachers will have access to cleaning supplies for their classroom. Our schools will partner with parents in educating students on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and common areas. Frequent hand washing will also occur.

Q: Will temperature checks occur?

A: All students and staff will have a temperature screening (touchless thermometer) completed by school personnel prior to school entry each day. Parents are encouraged to take their students' temperatures prior to getting on the bus or arriving to school. Children exhibiting a fever should be kept home.

Q: What happens if my child comes to school with a FEVER greater than 100.4?

A: Per Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools, schools will have a designated area for isolation of sick students with an ability to maintain adult supervision until student is picked up by a parent/guardian. Students with symptoms should not be grouped together.

Q: As a working parent, will I need to prepare for possible intermittent school closures?

A: Yes. Based on guidance from the Kentucky Department of Education, families should prepare for intermittent school closures or periods of online learning throughout the school year.

Q: What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

A: We will notify parents, not specifically identifying the student or staff member. We will cooperate with the Health Department as they conduct the appropriate notifications of individuals who have been in contact with the person infected.

Q: When should a student or staff member stay home?

A: Students or staff should stay home OR be sent home if any of the following occur:

- Temperature greater than 100.4
- Cough
- GI (vomiting/diarrhea)
- New rash
- Exposure to a COVID-19 case during a 48-hour period before onset of symptoms until meeting criteria for discontinuing home isolation. Contact the local health department for more detailed guidance.

Consult your school nurse if exclusion is unclear.

Q: Will water fountains be closed?

A: Water fountains will be closed. If possible, students should provide their own reusable water bottles to be refilled with water throughout the day.

Q: Will students be allowed to have food delivered from restaurant staff or family members during lunch periods or at other times of the day?

A: No, students are permitted to pack their lunch; however, no food from outside sources will be permitted to be delivered.

Q: Will visitors/volunteers be allowed in the school buildings?

A: Until further notice, visitors and volunteers will be limited. All visitors will be asked to wear a mask and have a temperature screening upon building entry.

Instructional Questions/Answers

Q: If I choose the Cardinal Online Learning option will I need to have my own computer or laptop?

A: Chromebooks will be issued to students in grades 4-12 that need a reliable device, who choose to participate in Cardinal Online Learning. Cell phones will not meet the requirement of allowing students to complete high-quality work. Dates for each school will be scheduled in August to pick up Chromebooks.

Q: If my family chooses the Cardinal Online Learning option, will we need to have Internet?

A: An internet connection will be necessary at home for those students to participate in the Cardinal Online Learning option.

Q: How will my child be enrolled in the Cardinal Online Learning option?

A: Each school will provide guidance in August on how students and parents can access the online program.

Q: Will there be an open house?

A: Yes, each school will host an Open House following social distancing guidelines. Dates will be released in August.

Q: Will Traditional in Person students be able to bring back packs or book bags?

A: Yes, lockers will be available at the middle and high school, spaced at least six feet apart.

Q: Can students participating in online learning be eligible for extra-curricular activities?

A: Yes. Students must be enrolled in a Martin County School (includes the Cardinal Online Learning platform) and meet eligibility criteria in order to participate.

Q: What are the expectations for individualizing use of hands-on manipulatives?

A: Materials can only be shared if they are used individually and then sanitized before being used by another student. Schools will be very specific about the materials that you will need to provide for your students in the student supply list.

Q: Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations if participating in the Cardinal Online Learning option?

A: All students participating in the Cardinal Online Learning option will have access to their accommodations.

Q: With both types of instruction taking place (at school/online learning) will students be held to the same expectations/grading?

A: Yes, online learning expectations/grading will align with the same expectations for students receiving traditional instruction.

Q: If students choose the Cardinal Online Learning option, will they be required to take state assessments (K-PREP) or ACT?

A: Yes. All students will participate in state assessment as mandated by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Q: If high school students are participating in Cardinal Online Learning, will they be permitted to come to the ATC to take their career and technical education classes?

A: No, they must be either participating in the Traditional In-Person for all classes or Cardinal Online Learning. There cannot be a combination of both.

Q: Can ATC (vocational) courses be taken online?

A: No. As of now, all ATC (vocational) courses must be taken in-person.

Q: Will my child have opportunities for physical education/recess?

A: Students can participate in physical education/recess if social distancing can be maintained and sanitation needs are met. All equipment will be sanitized before and after use. Students must wash their hands before and immediately returning from the gymnasium/playground.