

# Trailside Middle School

## Transitioning to Hybrid Instruction

### Frequently Asked Questions

Updated November 19, 2020

*[edits in purple]*

#### Hybrid Instruction

1. Once 2nd semester starts, will parents be able to switch from hybrid to distance learning (e.g. if COVID gets worse, or if the student would rather engage via DL)?  
→ **Parent selection of hybrid vs. distance learning is binding**, and cannot be changed once in place.
2. Could students' teachers or schedules potentially change, if their teacher is working remotely? If so, could a hybrid student login to that teacher's virtual class, rather than switching teachers?  
→ We do not anticipate having any schedule changes at this time. If they are needed, it will be minimal. If a teacher is working remotely, the students who select Hybrid will attend class in person with a proctor and "tune in" to their virtual instruction as well.
3. Under what circumstances would a student's schedule change?  
→ At this time, we do not anticipate having schedule changes. If this comes up, we will update the information.
4. Do parents need to take any actions moving forward with regard to distance learning vs. hybrid?  
→ Yes, by November 20, 2020 at 8pm, all parents/guardians should register their choices for the type of instruction for their students in the second semester, which begins January 21. **All parents/guardians should make a new selection for the second semester, even if your preference has not changed.**
5. How will teachers engage students in the classroom and those connected remotely at the same time? How many students will teachers have?  
→ Teachers are working to build on their concurrent instructional skills. While it will look different from class-to-class, teachers will utilize a variety of instructional methods (small group instruction, hands-on activities, flipped classroom, etc) to engage students both remotely and in the brick and mortar classroom. Teacher caseloads will not change when we make the transition to Hybrid Learning.
6. Will distance learning consist only of a live-classroom stream?  
→ Distance Learning will consist of both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
7. What will hybrid instruction look like when a teacher is working remotely?  
→ If a teacher is working remotely, the students who select Hybrid will attend class in person with a proctor and "tune in" to their virtual instruction, as well.
8. Will hybrid students only receive direct instruction on in-person days, or will they have virtual synchronous instruction when they are at home?

→ Hybrid students will receive synchronous instruction on their “at home” days. Please note, that this is different at the secondary level than it is for the primary level.

9. What will the hybrid students’ days look like on the days they work from home?  
→ Hybrid students will follow a schedule similarly to what they are currently following for Distance Learning on their “at home days.” They will engage in some synchronous learning, as well as some asynchronous learning.
10. Will in-person hybrid and distance learning students take the same assessments?  
→ Yes, assessments will be consistent between synchronous and asynchronous learners. However, there may be opportunities for assessment choice, such as paper/pencil v. online submissions.
11. Will the school technology support clear streaming for students at home?  
→ LCPS is aware of the technological lift that hybrid instruction entails, and has outfitted all teachers with state-of-the-art microphones to ensure the quality of any live stream for students engaging from home.
12. Are hybrid spots guaranteed for any students?  
→ All students who choose hybrid will be offered the opportunity.
13. How will you determine which days hybrid students will be attending in person?  
→ Hybrid students will attend either on **T/W or Th/F** for in-person learning. The current parent survey (due 11/20/2020) asks parents to provide their input regarding families attending on the same days at different schools. After this data is collected, the school clusters will work together to assign attendance days for their students. This information will be used in conjunction with class roster information and building capacity numbers given the guidelines.

## **Logistics**

1. Will you announce which teachers will be in person vs. teaching remotely? (That distinction is an important factor for our family’s choice of hybrid vs. distance learning).  
→ Teachers will be reaching out to the families of the students that they teach during the week of 11/17/2020 if they will be teaching remotely. If there are any staff members who will need to update their remote or brick-and-mortar status, they will reach out to families as appropriate.
2. How will you ensure students follow safety guidelines, e.g. with restroom use?  
→ We will be using a program that identifies how many students are going to each bathroom in order to limit the number to two students per bathroom. Bathrooms will be closed during class changes in order to limit the number of students in the bathroom at a time.
3. What will students do with their instruments before/after music class?  
→ Students with large instruments will be able to store them in the band room. We are still working on determining if all students will be able to store their instruments in the band room while they are in other classes.
4. How will 6th graders and new students know where things are and where to go?  
→ We have staff stationed throughout the building to help students find their next class during class changes.

5. Are students switching classrooms during the day, or will teachers rotate rooms?  
→ Students will transition to a different classroom each block.
6. Will lockers be used?  
→ No lockers will be used this school year.
7. Please discuss any changes to the daily schedule. Will distance-learning students have asynchronous work during learning lab?  
→ The daily schedule will look very similar to the current schedule. However, depending on the total number of hybrid students in the building each day, we may need to relook at the lunch block to be able to support all students safely.
8. How will HPE be conducted in person vs. in distance learning?  
→ HPE traditionally focuses on team sports, but during Distance and Hybrid learning, they will focus on fitness and health lessons to safely support students in their learning.
9. Please explain the rationale behind the 4-day week.  
→ Distance and Hybrid Learning is new for both students and teachers. It also takes a great deal of planning that is new for our staff members. Mondays are being utilized for professional development for staff members as well as asynchronous work for students.
10. Will students have 100% in-person instruction? If so, how many days per week would they be in the building?  
→ No, hybrid learning will be for only a portion of the week. At this time, the county is looking at a schedule that would allow for hybrid students to attend school in-person two days per week.

## **Multi-Student Families**

1. Will children in the same family attend hybrid on the same days?  
→ We will try our best to accommodate this request.
2. If I have two children at TMS, can one do distance learning and the other hybrid?  
→ Yes, families can choose what works best for each of their children.
3. Some families have elementary students already scheduled to return on set days. Will they be able to make arrangements so their TMS students can attend on the same days as their siblings (e.g. to give parents the flexibility to report to work in person)?  
→ We will try our best to accommodate situations such as these for multi-student families.

## **Health-Related**

1. Please discuss safety measures put in place with air filtering systems.  
→ Classroom air systems have been inspected by LCPS to ensure that they efficiently introduce fresh air into the system and/or have air-cleaning HEPA filters. Care rooms have HEPA filters to maximize air quality.

2. If a hybrid student feels sick and voluntarily stays home, will the student be marked absent if they attend class remotely?  
→ At this time, the answer is “yes.” However, this is a topic that is still being discussed at the district level.
3. If a hybrid student feels sick and stays home, will they need a doctor’s note or COVID test in order to return to the building?  
→ At this time, the answer is “yes,” via the Student Symptom Checker. However, this is a topic that is still being discussed at the district level.
4. How will you ensure that students have no symptoms before entering the building?  
→ Parents/Students will be asked to fill out the Daily symptom check each day before attending school. We also will do random temperature checks as students enter the building.
5. What happens if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID?  
→ LCPS is working closely with the Loudoun County Health Department to determine next steps for teachers and students who test positive for COVID. The individual that tests positive will work with healthcare professionals and follow their directives.
6. Under what circumstances would a student need to quarantine?  
→ Per the guidelines from the Loudoun County Health Department and the Center for Disease Control, students would need to quarantine if they come in “direct contact” with an individual who has tested positive (exposure within six feet for a cumulative time of at least 15 minutes), or if they are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
7. If hybrid students need quarantine, can they attend distance-learning classes on those days?  
→ Yes, however the district is working on determining protocols for attendance if this is the case.
8. Considering a possible COVID spike over winter, is there a protocol for when LCPS would discontinue in-person learning?  
→ This decision is up to the school board and the state government.

## **Masks**

1. How will masks be “enforced”? What happens when students don’t wear masks properly?  
→ Guidelines for mask-wearing have been sent out to all families. LCPS staff will be reminding students to keep their masks on throughout the day. If a student is not wearing an appropriate mask, we have additional masks on hand for students to use. If it becomes a recurring issue, Trailside staff will work with parents to support students in wearing masks appropriately, as this is a requirement for Hybrid Learning.
2. How will masks work during music and HPE class?  
→ Masks will be worn in all courses. When we transition to hybrid, students in music courses will be utilizing specialized masks to accommodate their needs. More information on this will be coming.

3. Please discuss mask breaks.  
→ Masks breaks will occur twice a day once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Each break consists of walking outside then removing their masks for a total of 5 minutes. All students will have over 6 feet between them during masks breaks.
4. What about students who have a valid reason for not wearing a mask (e.g. asthma)? Are they allowed in the building?  
→ All students must wear masks at all times while in the building beyond lunch and mask breaks.
5. Will students be able to interact with one another during lunch/recess?  
→ Once in their socially distanced seats in the cafeteria, students remove their masks to enjoy lunch. During that time, they are able to interact with those students seated near them.

## **Social Distancing**

1. How will you ensure social distance in the building?  
→ House (grade) areas have been designated and labelled as one-way (clockwise) traffic only. Other hallways can accommodate two-way traffic; they have been divided in the middle with either tape or a cord to remind students to remain on their right.
2. How many feet apart will desks be, 3' or 6'?  
→ Desks are currently set considering a radius of 6' between students.
3. What is the maximum TMS classroom capacity under social distance?  
→ Based on the current spacing, our classrooms are set up to hold up an average maximum of 9-12 students.
4. What will lunch look like? Will students be able to sit near their friends?  
→ Each student will sit at a paw print which makes student stay 6 feet apart from one another. When students are in their seat they may take off their mask to eat. Students can sit by their friends while eating but must keep a 6 foot difference at all times.

## **Transportation**

1. Will buses be operating? Is there already a schedule and list of stops?  
→ The LCPS Department of Transportation is working to develop the plans for bus stops. Busses will be operating, but details will not be released until final numbers for Hybrid Learning are known and they are able to map out their areas. There is not a schedule and list of stops prepared at this time.
2. How early can parents drop students off, and how late can they pick them up?  
→ Students may arrive as early as 8:05 am and students must have a way home at 3:23. (Bus, walking, or parent in the pick up line)
3. Please describe car-loop drop off and pick-up procedures.  
→ When a student is dropped off, the parent/guardian will drive through the car loop and release the student at the end of the circle. For pick-up, parents will display their assigned number in their

windshield and TMS staff will call for students by number to be released, in order to support social distancing.

4. Will students be able to ride their bicycles to school?  
→ Yes, students are able to ride their bicycles to school.
5. Will there be snow days under the hybrid model?  
→ Yes, in an effort to equitably consider multiple factors, LCPS confirmed on November 14, 2020 that it will continue to observe snow days.

### **Pilot Days (November 13, 17 & 18)**

1. Will any pilot feedback be shared?  
→ During the PTA meeting on November 18, Mrs. Beichler will be giving an overview of the Pilot Days. Beyond that, feedback and survey data will be shared as appropriate!
2. How do the pilot days relate to 2nd-semester hybrid instruction?  
→ Our pilot days are a multi-pronged way to test our current plans with regard to hybrid instruction, while informing building- and county-level decisions ahead of January. In addition to giving students a sense of logistics (e.g. transportation, social distance, etc.), pilot days afford teachers the opportunity to explore the supporting technology and pedagogical dynamics of hybrid and concurrent instruction.
3. Will there be any simulations that families can watch?  
→ In order to respect student privacy, we cannot make videos available which show students. We will otherwise be sharing pictures from those days—search for [#TMSPilot on Twitter!](#)

### **Distance Learning**

- Will distance-learning students have dedicated DL teachers, or will they strictly be watching a live hybrid stream?  
→ Distance Learning students will be participating in synchronous and asynchronous learning with their teachers. The teachers will be doing both hybrid and distance instruction. Therefore, they will be engaging in live-stream instruction, designed to support both virtual and in-person learners!