

WSD Elementary Transition Information
Transition Effective Date January 11, 2021

K-5 Families

For the first half of the school year, your child(ren) has been attending school either *in-person* or *virtually*. It is now time for you to decide how your child will attend school for the second half of the year (January 11, 2021 through June 2021). Before completing this survey, it is important to read the *Overview of the K-5 Plan for January to June 2021* and the *Q and A Section* that follows.

Program Choice

Choose the option that makes the most sense for your family, and a choice that you are committing to for the balance of the 2020-2021 school year. If your child is changing from *in-person to virtual*, or *virtual to in-person*, it is very likely that your child will have a new teacher for the second half of this school year. A change of teacher may also take place if a virtual class size has an enrollment of 11 or fewer. Please keep this in mind when making your choice.

- I choose to have my child attend school 100% in-person** beginning on January 11, 2021, and through the balance of the 2020-2021 school year. *Note:* I do understand that if a significant number of families at a grade level in a particular school choose to have their child(ren) attend in-person, the district may have to use a targeted hybrid model. The targeted hybrid model is described in the “Overview of the K-5 Plan for January-June 2021.”
- I choose to have my child attend school 100% virtually** beginning on January 11, 2021, and through the balance of the 2020-2021 school year.

In choosing your program choice, be aware that you are committing to this program for the rest of this school year. Please also be aware that the district’s ability to offer an in-person option in January (and beyond) could be limited by ever-evolving COVID-19 matters—the plan may need to be adjusted if conditions are at any time deemed unsafe (see Question #8 in the *Overview of the K-5 Plan for January to June 2021*).

If you have any questions about the plan for January, please contact your school principal for more information and/or clarification.

Overview of the K-5 Plan for January-June 2021

Program Aspect	100% In-Person	In-Person Targeted Hybrid (Only if needed, see below)	100% Virtual
School Day	BB & SC: 8:15 AM – 3:20 PMLG and SG: 8:10 AM – 3:15 PM		
Days Attending	Monday – Friday (Every Day)	4 Days a Week In-Person 1 Day a Week Virtually/Off-Screen Work (The At-Home Day Will Be Consistent Each Week)	Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday (Full-Day Schedule) Wednesday (Early Dismissal Schedule)
Class Size	Consistent with District Guidelines, But Not Necessarily Equal in Any of the 3 Models		
Instructional Format	Teacher Instructs in Classroom	4 Days a Week In-Person Instruction 1 Day a Week Virtual Instruction (Combination of Synchronous & Off-Screen Work)	Teacher Instructs Synchronously from Classroom/Home
Programs	English-Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, PIE Time, Encore Classes		
Encore	Given that we have expanded our # of class sections at each grade level, we will be providing the variety of encore programs (art, Health and PE, library, music, counseling). Once we know the number of students enrolled in each class and the number of class sections, we will be in a better position to plan the Encore schedule.		
Lunch	30 Minute Lunch Break	30 Minute Lunch Break (In -Person) Student will have more flexibility on their day at home.	30 Minute Lunch Break (With Some Flexibility by Grade)
Breaks	Mid-Morning or Mid-Afternoon / Periodic Brain Breaks		
Computer Access & Tech Platforms	Using District Computer Devices & Tech Platforms in the Classroom District-Issued Computers Provided for Student Use at Home During School Closures		
Reading / ELD Intervention	Reading and ELD Intervention Services Provided During the School Day, In-Person and/or Remotely	Reading and ELD Intervention Services Provided Remotely During the School Day	
Special Education Services	IEP / GIEP Support & Services and Related Services During the School Day, In-Person and/or Remotely	IEP / GIEP Support & Services and Related Services Provided Asynchronously and/or Synchronously During the School Day	
Large Group Gatherings	No Large Group Gatherings – Concerts / Assemblies		
Substitutes	Every effort will be made to secure substitutes for in-person classes for purposes of supervision even though the supply of substitutes is dramatically depleted. The teacher will provide appropriate work for students to complete during his/her absence.	Substitutes for a teacher’s one-day or two-day consecutive absence will not be requested for virtual classes as we do not have a consistent set of substitutes with the knowledge, skills, and access to our district’s online system. For purposes of district server integrity, such access cannot be provided to non-district employees. The teacher will provide appropriate work for students to complete during his/her absence. In those instances where a virtual teacher is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, the district will make every effort to have a substitute who can guide the class through the school day.	

Question 1: How will students choosing to return to school in-person be assigned?

At each school, the principal will determine (from the survey results) how many students will need to be added to the current classes at each grade level. Our current in-person classes will likely have some room for additional students. First, the principal will fill the in-person classes with the maximum number of students that still enable us to maintain the 6-foot social distancing standard. Once these students have been placed, the principal will determine how many more students still need to be placed. If there are about 12 or more students needing a placement, the district will form a new class in a new classroom in their home school for these students. What if there are approximately 11 or less students still needing a placement? In that case, the principal will distribute the remaining students among the existing grade level classrooms. Since this grade level will now have more students assigned to their classrooms than the 6-foot social distancing standard allows, all students in this grade level would move to the, “Targeted Hybrid Model.”

Question 2: What is the “Targeted Hybrid Model”?

The “Targeted Hybrid Model” would apply to a single classroom or all classrooms in a specific grade level at a given school. Each class would be divided into fifths. Each day of the week, one fifth of the class would learn from home on a given day of the week, and the day of the week would be consistent. This would make it possible for the balance of the class to attend school and maintain the 6-foot social distance standard.

Question 3: In the “Targeted Hybrid Model,” what will students do on the at-home day?

The student will have a district-issued computer device assigned to him/her for use at home. On the at-home day, the student will log-on to Microsoft Teams for any direct instruction lessons. We anticipate that the student might attend virtually for morning meeting, a 30-minute ELA shared-reading lesson, a 30-minute Mathematics lesson, and possibly a science/social studies lesson. The balance of the day, the student would work off-screen and complete assignments prepared by the classroom teacher. The student might also receive other specialized services on this day (reading intervention, English Learner, and special education services as applicable.)

Question 4: Does the district anticipate needing to use the “Targeted Hybrid Model”?

While the district does not expect to use the “Targeted Hybrid Model” to a great extent, it is the one method by which we can guarantee that every student who wants to attend school in-person can do so. The enrollment at a given grade level and school will determine whether the targeted hybrid model will need to be used.

Question 5: If an existing virtual class has too many students switching to the in-person model, what will happen?

If the existing virtual class still has at least 12 students choosing to remain virtual, both the teacher and that number of students will remain with the teacher/class. If the existing virtual class has 11 or fewer remaining students in the class, these students will likely combine with another set of virtual students and likely have a new teacher. Until the numbers from the survey are determined, it is difficult to answer this question with any more certainty.

Question 6: Will class sizes be equal in the in-person model and the virtual model?

In both models, the district will do its best to remain within district guidelines (K-1 at 22, 2-3 at 26, and 4-5 at 27). It will still be possible for the in-person classrooms or the virtual classrooms to be larger or smaller than the others. Again, in-person classroom desks will be positioned consistent with the 6-foot social distancing standard.

QUESTION 7: Under what conditions would the district discontinue any in-person options and have all students be 100% virtual?

Two things could result in the district moving to 100% virtual instruction for a period of time. The first being COVID-19 transmission rates rising to a level, either locally or otherwise, that induces the Montgomery County

Office of Public Health to recommend (or direct) a closing of schools. Given the virus' evolving nature, and the medical profession's evolving understanding of the virus, exact figures or thresholds that would trigger such a move have not been provided at this time. But, we can state that if the Montco OPH determines it is unsafe and/or unwise to keep schools open, we will move to 100% virtual instruction until such time as it is safe to return. The second reason for moving to 100% virtual is known as a "functional closing," which results when the district cannot secure enough properly certificated staff members to safely operate a school. A functional closing can happen at any time for a variety of reasons (e.g., natural disaster), and it could theoretically happen for COVID-19 related reasons as well.

QUESTION 8: What happens if the district is 100% virtual for all students on 1/11/21 (the projected switchover date)?

If the district is 100% virtual for all students on 1/11/21 (for whatever reason—see above), then all K-5 students would stay with their current teacher until such time as the district is able to return to an in-person option. When the students are able to return to an in-person option, then the preferences indicated in this survey will be implemented and requested changes to modality will be enacted (with new teachers and new classes, as applicable).

If you have any additional questions, please contact your school principal for information.