

Orange County Schools Resources for Families

Enlace a la versión en Español

[Link to Spanish Version](#)



[Click HERE for the latest Letters to Parents about Band and Chorus](#)

**NEW
UPDATE**

NEW Return to School Details (In English and Spanish)

REVISED PLAN B HYBRID SCHEDULE

Updated from the February 12, 2021 OCS School Board Meeting

On February 9, 2021, the North Carolina Senate approved Senate Bill 37 which will require public schools to provide in-person instruction for all students within 15 days of the Bill being signed into law by the Governor. Currently, the Bill is awaiting approval by the House.

Based on the potential implications of this legislation, OCS staff and principals provided an updated timeline that would provide students in Grades 2-12 returning to in-person instruction orientation opportunities before a full return of all in-person for Cohort A students on March 8 and a full return of all in-person instruction for Cohort B students on March 15.

As a reminder, OCS will operate an alternating weeks schedule, Monday - Thursday, for in-person students with Fridays (Asynchronous Fridays) serving as remote learning days with small group instructional opportunities.

Now is the time to help your child become accustomed to wearing a cloth mask/face covering ...
View the following article for tips on how to ease into this new requirement for attending school in OCS.
The University of Rochester Medical Center published this article online:

[A Toolkit for Helping Your Child Wear a Mask during COVID-19](#)



OCS COVID-19 Metrics Monitoring Task Force Update



As we enter our second nine weeks, we want to remind everyone that we are committed to returning to the classroom when it is safe to do so. The OCS Board of Education requested the development of a task force to collaborate in conjunction with the Orange County Health Department to make recommendations to the Board based on data regarding when we will shift from Plan C: Remote Learning to Plan B: Hybrid (in-person and remote learning). The Orange County Health Department provides COVID-19 data to the OCS COVID-19 Metrics Monitoring Task Force so they can make data-driven recommendations to the Orange County Board of Education regarding the following 4 metrics:

1. **Daily Case Count:** the number of lab-confirmed cases in Orange County
2. **Cumulative Case Count:** trend over a three-week period
3. **Trends in Types of COVID-like Illnesses:** COVID-19, Influenza, etc. during this time period in Orange County
4. **Percent of Positive Tests**

[Read more here](#)

WEAR A MASK

WASH YOUR HANDS

WAIT 6 FT APART



Plan B: Mask Breaks in Orange County Schools

(February 24, 2021)

What is a Mask Break?

A mask break is an opportunity for students to remove their mask at school while being more than six feet apart from one another and under the direct supervision of an adult.

Previously mask breaks were acceptable at specific times and under specific circumstances. However, in light of new data, we know that masking is the number one defense against transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, mask breaks are not allowed in OCS, except when food is actively being consumed.

[Link to the most up-to-date Guidance on Masking](#)

Note: As we continue to learn more about how to operate in this pandemic, guidelines, expectations, etc. will continue to evolve, be revised, and change. OCS documents will be revised accordingly.

Thank you for your flexibility, grace, and understanding.

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¿Necesita servicios gratuitos de salud mental, por discapacidades o consumo de sustancias?

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Llame a cualquier hora del día o la noche. Hay servicio de traductores y 711/TTY para dificultades de audición.

¡COVID-19 nos causa estrés a todos!
¿Necesita ayuda? Cualquier persona puede llamar.

Encuentre esperanza. Encuentre ayuda.

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Upcoming Info Sessions with LIVE Q&A

PLEASE NOTE: ALL info sessions will be recorded and included in the chart below for 24/7 access for our families.

INFO SESSION	DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION	LINK
Virtual Academy Offerings	November 10	6-7PM	If you want to know more about the offerings for Virtual Academy so you can make the best remote decision for your child, join us and hear from our teachers and staff.	YouTube link from the Info Session on November 10: https://youtu.be/pzx9DnfP-Wg
Virtual Academy Offerings	November 12	6-7PM	If you want to know more about the offerings for Virtual Academy so you can make the best remote decision for your child, join us and hear from our teachers and staff.	YouTube link from the Info Session on November 12: https://youtu.be/Jzn2vBCHtZw
Safety Measures for Plan B in OCS	November 16	6-7PM	If you want to know more about the safety measures in place and the guidance OCS receives from our health department, state, and medical professionals, join us for this webinar.	FAQ Coming Soon...
Safety Measures for Plan B in OCS	November 18	6-7PM	If you want to know more about the safety measures in place and the guidance OCS receives from our health department, state, and medical professionals, join us for this webinar.	YouTube Link Coming Soon...

Previous info session recordings

PREVIOUS INFO SESSION	DESCRIPTION
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Secondary Digital Resources	Learn about digital resources for students throughout the district, including Newsela for reading and vocabulary support across content areas, Discovery Education with tech book resources and interactive materials across the curriculum, as well as OpenUp Math resources and Desmos Math resources.
Elementary Digital Resources	Dreambox is an online math program that is both engaging and proven to boost your child's math performance. The DreamBox platform provides your child with the individualized lessons they need to succeed.
Parent Wellness Session	Are you tired of being tired, anxious, depressed, overwhelmed? Are you concerned about your child's well-being with remote learning? Join us for this webinar for parent wellness support. Learn simple, practical tools for feeling better and helping your children feel better during this strange and difficult time. Kelli Underwood, LCSW E.C. Behavioral and Mental Health Specialist
Seesaw (K-5)	Seesaw for Parents and Guardians of Elementary Students Seesaw is a digital portfolio that allows students to show what they know using pictures, voice recording, videos, drawings (including annotating a PDF or photo), and links to Google Files. Teachers can share activities with students and leave feedback in the comments below. Families can communicate with teachers through the app and can comment on student work.
Canvas Grades 6-12 COMING SOON!	Canvas for Parents and Guardians for 6th-12th Grades. Canvas is a learning platform that students will access content and digital tools for learning.
Canvas Grades K-5	Canvas for Parents and Guardians for Elementary students. Canvas is a learning platform that students will access content and digital tools for learning.
Remote Learning	Learn more about what remote learning will look like for students as we start the new school year. This session will include technology needed, what to do if you have limited technology, sample schedules, and what families need to know to best support their children.
Middle & High School Band	Learn more about how our middle and high school band programs will deliver quality instruction remotely. If you need an instrument, here is the request form: www.rebrand.ly/instrumentrequest
Virtual Academy Grades K-8 Virtual Academy Grades 9-12	A new opportunity for OCS students for the 2020-2021 school year is the Orange County Schools Virtual Academy. The OCS Virtual Academy is a 100% online learning opportunity where students will not have any in-person instruction and is available for K-12 students. This is not the same as remote learning. The goal for remote learning is to return to the classroom for in-person learning. The goal for the Virtual Academy is for students to continue school online. Because all students are starting the school year remotely in Plan C, the Virtual Academy will officially start when we are able to transition to Plan B: Hybrid (remote and in-person learning) where families will choose to either return to school in-person and remotely in alternating weeks or remain online in the Virtual Academy. There are unlimited Virtual Academy seats for current or new OCS students.







National Hispanic Heritage Month




RESOURCE	GRADES	DESCRIPTION
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with VIDEOS	All ages	Learn more about the diverse cultures and experiences of Hispanic and Latinx Americans. Explore a special collection of stories that highlight their voices and contributions. PBS
Google Arts and Culture Online Exhibit - Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: People, Places and Events on Stamps	Grades 7-12	This is a Google Arts and Culture Online Exhibit that shows how different people and events in Hispanic Heritage history have been commemorated on U.S. Postage Stamps. This can be used to learn about history as related to Hispanic heritage, and can prompt discussion on how we show what we value in the United States - Who do we see represented here?
Hispanic Heritage Month	Grades 5-8	Here you will learn how Hispanic Heritage month started.
Video Segment: From Tobacco to Tortillas: How Latinos have Remade Durham, NC	Grades 7-12	This video from NBC News explores the rise and influence of the Latino population in Durham, NC.
UniRumba Fiestas Patrias Festival Durham Parks and Recreation	All Ages	UniRumba en Fiestas Patrias is kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month! This free event for the whole family will celebrate Hispanic culture. The event will feature local music, appearances from on-air personalities from Noticias 40, and special guest Luis Sandoval from Despierta America. Come learn and experience the Hispanic culture through music, local organizations, and delicious Latin-American food!
NCMA's Durham Convention Center Mural Celebration at CenterFest	All Ages	Celebrate the gorgeous Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo-inspired pieces are by Cornelio Campos and Cecilia Lueza.. During CenterFest on September 21 from 1-4 p.m., "visitors can have their portraits taken in front of the murals by a local photographer, enjoy a family art-making activity, and learn about the exhibition." These new additions to Durham's robust public art scene come courtesy of the NC Art Museum, Durham Convention Center with help from NCMA's Teen Arts Council, El Pueblo, and El Centro Hispano.

Oprah Winfrey - Hispanic Heritage Month	All Ages	For Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 through October 15, OprahMag.com is highlighting stories from Latinx perspectives. Click here for articles, book ideas, and interviews.
Virtual Ways to Celebrate	Grades 3-12	Virtual ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 2020.



General Resources

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
 OCS Meal Deliveries	UPDATED SEPTEMBER 1 - FREE MEALS THROUGH DECEMBER 2020 The USDA extended the free meal reimbursement plan. All children, ages 0-18, can receive FREE meals via our multiple pickup locations.
 Do you Need an OCS Hotspot?	We are working very hard to connect all OCS families and students to the internet, especially during Plan C: Remote Learning. The unfortunate reality is that there are areas in Orange County that are not equipped for cell or internet service. This is an unfortunate reality for rural areas throughout the state and the country. A solution to address this will require a significant investment by our government officials. We are working with our Board to advocate on behalf of our families.
2020 AIG Learning Lab	Advanced Learning Labs are great extensions for students to explore logic puzzles, go on field studies, engage in research explorations, and continue engaging with math and literacy -- all through remote learning.
 OCS Tech Login & Password Guide for K-5	This handy one-pager is a great tool for K-5 families and students to keep up with logins, passwords, and how to access the tools used for remote learning.
 Orange County WiFi Access	Locations and addresses that provide FREE WiFi access in their parking lots for Orange County

	students and families.
 Parent Toolkit – What To Know When Looking for School-Age Care	Provides answers to frequently asked questions from parents/families about school-age care that supports remote learning.
Licensed Child Care Information	The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) set up a child care hotline (1-888-600-1685) where families can call to get information about local options for infants through children age 12. The hotline is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. When families call the hotline, specialists provide referrals to licensed child care programs that are open and have vacancies for the age of the child(ren) who need(s) care. As of the beginning of August, there are currently about 30,000 slots available for school-age children in licensed child care offices across the state, but availability varies from community to community.
 Supervised Learning Labs	In addition to the licensed child care options, our team is discussing other safe, in-person program possibilities. These options are meant to safely support students' educational and academic success, while also supporting our families' financial security by going to work. We are working with the Orange County Health Department to launch our Supervised Learning Labs to accomplish these goals.
 YMCA Scholastic Center	YMCA Chapel Hill-Carrboro is providing supervised learning options to OCS students in K-8 at the OCS Welcome Center. Scholarships are available. Contact Aubrey Vinson at Aubrey.Vinson@YMCATriangle.org
Remote Learning	Learn more about what remote learning will look like for students as we start the new school year. This session will include technology needed, what to do if you have limited technology, sample schedules, and what families need to know to best support their children.
Remote Learning Tech Support	Answers to frequently asked questions for OCS technology support during remote learning.
Public WiFi Access	Public WiFi access is available in public spaces and parking lots outside of local businesses. A full list of these locations can be found here .
Attendance Expectations	Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life.
Appropriate Use of OCS Technology	Parents, please speak to your children about the importance of online safety and following school rules during remote instruction. If you or your child witness any harmful behavior during remote learning please contact your teacher or school administrator immediately.

Say Something Anonymous Reporting App	Allows students to submit secure & anonymous safety concerns to help identify and intervene upon at-risk individuals BEFORE they hurt themselves or others. The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System Crisis Center remains open and available 24/7 for immediate response to all tips.
School Social Workers: Contact Information	Every OCS school has a School Social Worker. School Social Workers support students' social and emotional needs and support students and their families with accessing resources in the county such as food, housing, and clothing.



iPad Resources – PreK & Kindergarten

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
Parts of an iPad	What are the parts of an iPad and what are apps?
Zscaler	How to connect through a filter system to keep your student safe on the internet
Connect to WiFi	How to connect to the Internet on an iPad
How to Login to EdCloud with QR Code	How to access various digital resources used by Orange County teachers through a single sign-in process
How to Login to EdCloud with Number and Password	How to access various digital resources used by Orange County teachers through a single sign-in process
Swipe to close	How to close apps on an iPad to save your battery




Chromebook Resources

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
Guide to a Chromebook	A quick go to for your questions about a Chromebook and differences from a computer at your home.
How to open a chromebook	How to open your Chromebook.
How to add a person	The first time a student logs into their Chromebook they need to add a person.
How to sign out	How to sign out of your Chromebook.
Zscaler	How to connect through a filter system to keep your student safe on the internet
Trackpad & left/right click	Learn how to use the trackpad on the keyboard instead of an external mouse.
How to connect to WiFi	How to connect to the internet
How to Login to NCEdCloud	How to access resources used by Orange County teachers through a one-step process.
Black screen	Learn what to do when your Chromebook screen turns black to save battery life.
Second sign in to laptop	How to log on to a Chromebook after the account has been created
How to open a Chrome window	How to browse the Internet.
Bookmarks	How to add bookmarks to your Internet browser.
Access camera	How to use the built in camera
External Mice	How to connect external mice
Allow Camera/Microphone Access	How to use your camera and microphone for communication
Top row buttons	Learn what each button means on the top row
New desk- how to close	New feature in tablet style chromebooks to offer more space for students to do work
Access on-screen keyboard (touchscreen	How to turn on the on-screen keyboard when you have the Chromebook in tablet mode

chromebooks only)	
Ctrl+shift+refresh- rotate screen	Learn how to correctly adjust the Chromebook screen
Seesaw Extension	This extension will be used when students submit work to their teachers through Seesaw; a digital portfolio of student work.



Resources for Middle & High School Students

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION
How to Access Gmail	A video tutorial on accessing Orange County Schools email, Gmail, for students, as well as tips for using their email for class.
PowerSchool Parent Tutorial	A video tutorial to show parents how to access the PowerSchool parent portal to check student grades, gradebook comments and student attendance.
Middle & High School Band	Learn more about how our middle and high school band programs will deliver quality instruction remotely. If you need an instrument, here is the request form: www.rebrand.ly/instrumentrequest
ACT Digital Resources	ACT is offering webinars and digital resources to prepare students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
UNC TV at Home	UNC-TV and the NC Department of Public Instruction are partnering to support school-age children learning at home by providing free, curriculum-informed, over-the-air content that is widely accessible to students—especially those with limited or no internet access. Each weekday, two blocks of programs on UNC-TV's North Carolina Channel will serve students: fourth through eighth grade, from 11 AM-2 PM , and ninth through twelfth grade, from 2 PM-5 PM (actual times may vary, please check the weekly schedule online here).
 Driver's Education	Driver's Education is an integral part of the Graduated Licensing Process and required in North Carolina for a student to obtain a learner's permit or driver's license before the age of 18. Orange County Schools currently charges students a fee of \$50 to offset the cost of providing the program. In order for a student to obtain a driver's permit, they must complete 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind the wheel (BTW) instruction.