

GENERAL

ELEMENTARY

MIDDLE

HIGH

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Virtual Academy & Plan B</p> <p>Will my son’s teacher come from his OCS school or will they just be any certified teacher?</p> <p>What is the difference between Plan C: Remote Learning, and Plan C: Virtual Academy?</p> <p>Will Virtual Academy and remote students be learning together in the first 9 weeks? Will the schedule be the same or different for VA and Remote? The sample HS schedule for VA has 4 online classes per day while the Remote sample schedule has 2 classes per day (with each class held on alternating days). Do these differences still remain?</p> <p>Does my high schooler register for classes via Virtual Academy and if yes, how and when? How do we know what classes are offered and how they correspond to what he decided on earlier?</p> <p>It sounds like students will ALL be doing Remote Learning not Virtual Academy at the beginning. If yes, why? And if we shift to Plan B how do they transfer to VA?</p> <p>The similarities between remote learning & the virtual academy were discussed at the school board meeting on 7/20. What are the differences between the two?</p> <p>Is IB offered through the Virtual Academy?</p> <p>Once we return to school, will my child's teacher be teaching virtually and in person at the same time?</p>	<p>What is Remote Learning 2.0 that will be offered this school year and how will it differ from Remote Learning 1.0 that was offered in the spring last school year (March-June)?</p> <p>When schools were closed for instruction in March 2020 due to COVID-19, OCS staff provided opportunities for students to continue learning remotely (Remote Learning 1.0) through the use of Choice Boards, asynchronous (recorded) and synchronous (realtime) instruction, office hours, etc. By NCDPI guidelines, new material was not taught and student work was not to be graded. This will be very different starting the new school year with Remote Learning 2.0.</p> <p>Remote Learning 2.0 will be our model for instruction for the first nine weeks of our fall semester for <u>all</u> students, K-12, and will continue when we shift to Plan B (a hybrid of remote learning and in-person learning).</p> <p>Remote Learning 2.0 provides a blend of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● direct instruction and framing of activities ● independent, self-paced work ● live teacher instruction and support (synchronous instruction) ● Pre-recorded lessons (asynchronous instruction) ● small group instruction ● 1:1 student support ● checks for understanding and reteaching ● submission of assignments, meaningful feedback and grading <p>Teachers will teach new content daily, students will be graded for their work and attendance is required.</p> <p>What is the Orange County Schools Virtual Academy (OCS VA)?</p> <p>The OCS Virtual Academy provides instruction 100% online for students, K-12. Students enrolled in the OCS Virtual Academy <u>will not receive any in-person</u></p>

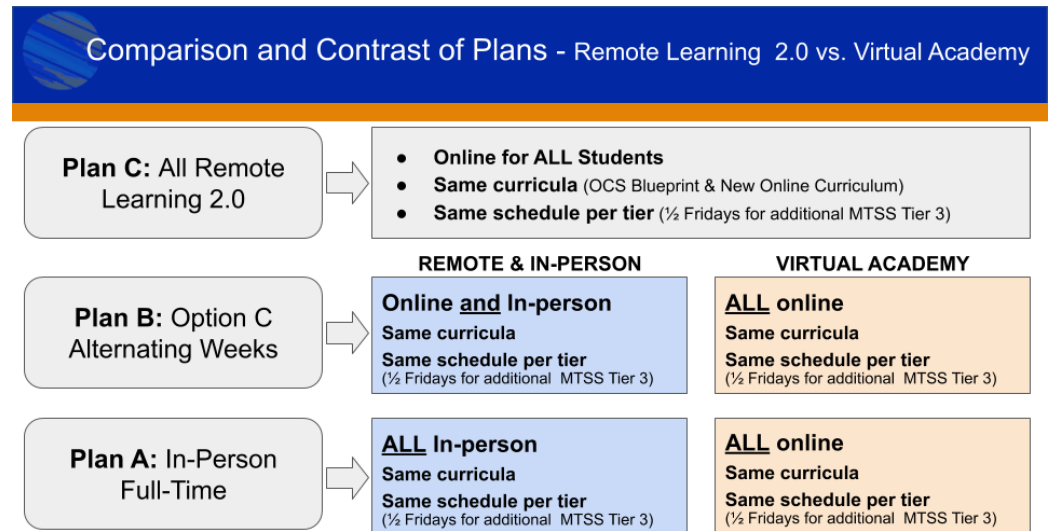
<p>Can band students participate if they choose the Virtual Academy?</p> <p>What should I do if I'm taking AP classes?</p> <p>How will remote learning 2.0 look different from the Virtual Academy?</p> <p>How will teachers communicate with parents about student progress?</p> <p>For virtual learning will students receive packets or text books?</p> <p>Is everyone going to be using 'Virtual Academy' the first 9 weeks so we can see what it's like and how it works for our children?</p> <p>How does remote learning benefit the students who have learning disabilities in our OCC Prep program?</p> <p>My major question would be to know the differences between remote and virtual learning. Other than the possibility of in person learning if/when that happens what are the differences between virtual academy and remote learning.</p> <p>The OC virtual school sample schedule for K-2 had kids doing school for seven hours a day. Is remote learning also going to expect this kind of developmentally inappropriate daily work schedule for K-2 learners? It's not good for kids and hard for parents to manage too.</p> <p>Will plan c and virtual academy be together for the first 9 weeks? Is IB offered through virtual academy?</p> <p>Will the first 9 weeks be Virtual Academy for everyone? Then if the option for in-person arrives we will be given the option to stay</p>	<p><u>instruction, even when the district shifts to Plan B: in-person and remote learning.</u></p> <p>In the OCS Virtual Academy, instruction will be delivered completely online and is an extension of each school--<u>students remain assigned to their current school.</u> The program is not self-paced; participating students will continue to be taught by OCS teachers, following NC state standards and a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction per the district's blended and/or new online curricula and supplemental materials available to teachers. The program meets all graduation requirements and has unlimited seats, K-12.</p> <p>Why was the OCS Virtual Academy created and when will it begin?</p> <p>The OCS Virtual Academy was created for families/students who want or need an online learning program. For example, some students cannot attend school for in-person instruction for health reasons; other students have found that they thrive in an online learning environment--it works for them and their families.</p> <p>The OCS Virtual Academy will begin when the district shifts from Plan C to Plan B. Teachers will live stream and will also record their instruction so students enrolled in the OCS Virtual Academy as well as students who on their remote learning week in Plan B will still continue to receive synchronous instruction.</p> <p>Why should a family select the OCS Virtual Academy?</p> <p>Families should only select the OCS Virtual Academy if they want 100% online instruction with no opportunity for in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. <u>There is no other difference between OCS Virtually Academy and Remote Learning 2.0.</u></p> <p>What is the difference between OCS Virtual Academy and Remote Learning 2.0?</p> <p>The only difference between OCS Virtual Academy and Remote Learning 2.0 is that when the district shifts from Plan C (Remote Learning 2.0) to Plan B (a hybrid of in-person learning and Remote Learning 2.0), students in the OCS</p>
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with VA or go to school? Do we sign up ourselves or are students automatically set up for remote instruction?

I would really like to get a better understanding of what exactly is being offered through Edmentum - from their website, it appears they have multiple products and programs but there is limited information available. Will our students have access to the entire suite of offerings? The assessment tools? What exactly is being managed through Edmentum and what exactly will be managed by HES teachers? Will we have access to the study island and courses offered in addition to live instruction? I know that VA is the right choice for our family, but I really feel lost and uncertain as to what exactly this will mean day to day, so any other info on this would be very helpful. Thank you!

Will the classes be taught by your child's home school?

Virtual Academy will not receive in-person instruction. OCS Virtual Academy students' instruction will remain 100% online. Students in Plan B and OCS Virtual Academy students will continue to have access to the same curriculum and instructional resources. Both groups of students will continue to be taught by OCS teachers and will follow the same daily schedule. The chart below shows a comparison and contrast of Remote Learning 2.0 and the OCS Virtual Academy.



OPT-IN or OPT-OUT OPTIONS ELEMENTARY AT MARKING TERMS, MIDDLE & HIGH AT SEMESTER TERMS; AT LEAST 2-WEEK NOTICE REQUESTED

What classes/courses will be offered in the OCS Virtual Academy and who will be teaching them, and how?

The same classes, curricula, and instructional resources offered and available in Plan B's Remote Learning 2.0 will be offered and available to OCS Virtual Academy. OCS Virtual Academy classes will be taught by OCS teachers. Instruction will be provided by OCS teachers both synchronously (using live-streaming capabilities) and asynchronously (pre-recorded videos).

<p>Attendance</p> <p>How is attendance recorded? How should I inform teachers when my child will be absent? If it is not feasible for a child to go online because a parent or parents work. How will they be counted present if they do their work later on in the day? Do students have to be logged in by a certain time? What if both parents are essential workers? Will truancy regulations be in place?</p>	<p>Will attendance be taken in Plan C and Plan B? If so, how?</p> <p>Yes, attendance will be taken this school year. 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. Orange County Schools Board Policy 4400 outlines compulsory attendance laws for North Carolina as well as excused and unexcused absences.</p> <p>Attendance in Plan C: Remote Learning 2.0:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are expected to be in attendance for class daily and present for each session. ● Daily/period attendance is taken by the teacher each morning in PowerSchool. ● A student is considered present for daily attendance during a remote learning day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a student completes their daily assignments, either online or offline that day; <p style="text-align: center;">and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a student has a daily check-in, a two-way communication, with the appropriate teacher(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In grades PK-5, homeroom teacher ○ In all other grade levels, each course teacher as scheduled <p>NOTE: A student cannot be considered absent solely due to not logging into an online resource/lesson on a remote learning day.</p> <p>Teachers will clearly communicate the type of two-way communication that will be used for tracking attendance. Examples of two-way communication include, but are not limited to the following: Google Form, Canvas engagement, virtual meeting, two-way email conversation, online work submission, or phone call for students without internet access. Assignments will be designated with dates for completion.</p>
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	<p>Teachers will maintain attendance records. If no engagement occurs by lunch, the teacher will count the student absent in PowerSchool or update attendance as needed. Data Managers (and attendance secretaries) will monitor and ensure fidelity and the reporting of daily attendance. Principals will oversee attendance records and two-way communication. After a certain day, students will be required to provide an absence note in order to be considered lawfully absent.</p> <p>How should parents inform the school/teacher if their child will be absent in Plan C and Plan B?</p> <p>When students are absent due to illness or connectivity concerns, the parent should send a note via email to the teacher or call the school number and leave a voicemail on the answering machine. School secretaries will be checking voicemail messages daily (except weekends). Teachers and secretaries should keep a record of the emails received as well as those left on the voicemail.</p>
<p>Schedules</p> <p>My children will be in daycare during the day since my husband and I will have to work. My children won't be able to log on during the day as their daycare has made it very clear that they will not help with school related work. What is the attendance policy for virtual learning? Will it be okay if my children will be completing their work in the evenings and on the weekend?</p> <p>Is there anyway that the teacher can tape MOST of their lessons in their classrooms instead of their homes? This would help resemble normal school for the student.</p> <p>What time will classes start?</p> <p>Are students expected to be in front of a screen from 8am-3pm? How will services be maintained for those with IEPs or AIG differentiation?</p>	<p>How will the school day be scheduled for elementary, middle and high school students? What are start and end times and how much time will there be for lunch?</p> <p>In Plan C: Remote Learning 2.0, students will attend classes remotely (online) Monday - Thursday per the schedule provided by each school. The daily schedule will mirror a full school day schedule to provide structure and consistency for when they return to Plan B attendance in-person. Instruction will be provided synchronously and asynchronously in smaller chunks of time using the whole group, small group and 1:1 formats. All students will learn asynchronously on Fridays. Some students will receive additional support through synchronous instruction on Friday mornings in Accelerating Learning Groups. Accelerating Learning Groups are for students who may need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● more instructional time in the form of <i>remediation</i> (reviewing previously taught content, but perhaps in a different way); and/or, ● opportunities to <i>preview upcoming content</i>; and/or,

How structured will the day be for MS and ES students?

(For high schoolers) Will most of the day be self-paced or will it be live?

How much flexibility is there in the schedule (for working parents, and limited attention spans)?

How much time will a student spend in front of a screen per day?

I've seen the proposed schedule. Do you really expect my 1st and 4th grader to be at the computer all day long?

For the working parents that can not do any school work until they get home, could there be recorded zoom meetings or videos of what the day consists of?? Seems like most everything is done during work hours and it hard for me as a single parent of 2 elementary kids to be in these meetings every day. I want to stay in the loop with my kids school work. Also will you be providing the kindergarten and 1st grade with computers or tablets? We have internet at home but nothing to do the electronic work on.

How are parents concerns about the amount of screen time being considered/addressed? A sample schedule far exceeds the AAP recommendations for time spent in front of a screen.

Will there be options for full time working parents to help their kids do work during "non-school" hours such as before work (7am-8am), potential evening (5pm-7pm) or even making up work on Saturday or Sunday?

- *enrichment opportunities*; and/or, more time to address their *social-emotional learning* needs.

Lunch blocks will be longer to allow families time to pick up meals at pick-up sites and to allow for additional time for small group support, independent work, 1:1 sessions, and brain breaks.

Please note: when the district shifts to Plan B, some daily and individual student schedules may shift. Schools will notify families should this become necessary.

How much time will be provided for lunch and why?

Lunch will be scheduled during a 1.5 hours block. This extended lunch block is provided to provide students the time needed to pick-up lunch from a district site and to engage in other things such as working on assignments; conducting independent reach; participating in an advisory, and/or engaging in additional small group or 1:1 instruction at the invitation of a teacher or other instructional staff.

Where will meals be disseminated and if I have students at different schools do I have to go to each of their schools to pick up their lunch?

Once meal pick-up sites are finalized, we will post the sites and times for pick up with the details. Please stay tuned.

Are students "off" on Fridays? What are expectations for students on Fridays? How will I know if my child was selected to receive additional support on Friday mornings in an Accelerated Learning Group?

All students will learn asynchronously on Fridays. Some students will receive additional support through synchronous instruction on Friday mornings in

<p>What about working parents who have childcare needs that make it impossible for their children to do the school work during the regular day?</p> <p>How will the first week of school look like ? Is it a full week of learning?</p> <p>How is a teacher going to be able to hold a kindergarten child's attention for any length of time?</p> <p>Will there be a set schedule?</p> <p>Is there a way to have a PM schedule for live classes or check-ins? Is there a possibility for some flexibility for kids whose parents cannot work their schedule around the schools live instruction schedule? I worry that such a strict schedule is only going to hurt students and parents disproportionately that are already struggling to make the remote learning schedule work. My son is in 2nd grade and requires a significant amount of monitoring to keep him on track.</p> <p>If both parents work, and we will have to be creative about finding time to help our child get his work done, which option (virtual or remote) is more flexible?</p> <p>How can schools ensure that students learn all of the material with Fridays off?</p> <p>What if my student is ahead in learning? Will the teacher work one on one to engage him? How?</p> <p>How does the schedule if the IB program is going to look like?</p>	<p>Accelerating Learning Groups. Accelerating Learning Groups are for students who may need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• more instructional time in the form of <i>remediation</i> (reviewing previously taught content, but perhaps in a different way); and/or,• opportunities to <i>preview upcoming content</i>; and/or,• <i>enrichment opportunities</i>; and/or, more time to address their <i>social-emotional learning</i> needs. <p>Teachers/school staff will inform the students and their families if they have been selected to participate in an Accelerated Learning Group. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or need more information.</p> <p>What will teachers/staff be doing on Friday afternoons?</p> <p>Friday afternoons will consist of required Professional Development (PD), planning & collaboration for instructional staff. Research supports ongoing PD for instructional staff. Effective professional development enables teachers to develop the knowledge and skills they need to positively impact student achievement. COVID-19 requires teachers to be effective in both in-person and remote learning environments. In an effort to build, expand and strengthen our teachers' ability to deliver high quality instruction in both in-person and remote learning and to address the academic and social emotional learning needs and challenges of their students, dedicated professional development time has been built into the weekly schedule every Friday afternoon to include related planning time.</p> <p>If my student has to take an assessment in-person in Plan C, will transportation be provided?</p> <p>At this time, transportation will not be provided in Plan C.</p> <p>Is there a school nurse, school counselor and social worker in every school? Can they be accessed while schools are in Plan C?</p>
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	<p>Yes, every school has a nurse, social worker and school counselor. They can all be accessed in Plan C, Plan B, and Plan A. The contact information list can be accessed here.</p> <p>When will athletic activities begin in the district?</p> <p>OCS will continue to evaluate when to resume athletic activities. Any resumption will continue to be conducted with the health and safety of our student-athletes and staff in mind and in full compliance with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s (NCHSAA) Reopening of Sports/Activities Summer Guidelines. OCS will also continue to follow guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Orange County Health Department.</p> <p>The following area school districts have also decided to postpone their original July 6th athletic summer workouts start date for the same reasons: Alamance-Burlington School System, Cabarrus, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Durham, Guilford, Wake, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth.</p> <p>We are also monitoring return to athletics trends from across the country. States, like Tennessee, that re-started athletics approximately 4 weeks before the NCHSAA allowed for the start of athletics, have since had to stop their high school athletics summer workouts. Again, the health and safety of our student-athletes and staff is at the forefront of all of our decisions. For more information see our Athletics FAQ here.</p>
<p>Technology</p> <p>Will laptops be provided and also what about the homes with no internet?</p> <p>What is the goal for technology for rising kindergarteners and who will teach the parents and kids the basics prior to Aug 17? If there aren't enough, what tech should parents try and purchase a bow or have available?</p>	<p>Will all students, K-12, receive a device this school year?</p> <p>Effective this school year, the district will provide devices to all students, K-12, extending the 1:1 device program by providing Ipads to all kindergarteners and Chromebooks to all first, second and third graders. New devices are expected around August 10 and schools will schedule drive thru distributions during the week of August 10-14.</p> <p>It is also time to refresh the laptops distributed to grades 4-12. These new devices are expected later this Fall. Once these deliveries arrive, schools will</p>

<p>what type of device do the students need and will it be provided?</p> <p>When can I pick up device at Central ES?</p> <p>Please provide specifics for parents who do not currently have internet services.</p> <p>How will iPads be distributed? What will a day of remote learning look like for a kindergartner?</p> <p>Will computers be provided for each child? I have three children to try to homeschool on top of being a single parent.</p>	<p>schedule drive thru schedules for distribution.</p> <p>For students with an IEP or Section 504 plan, Assistive Technology devices identified in their IEP or 504 plan will be provided. If, while in a remote learning environment, additional student needs are identified, assistive technology devices can be provided. Please contact the EC Department Chair at your building for additional assistance</p> <p>What instructional technology will be provided to teachers? To ensure teachers have the technology to support their blended model of instruction, the district is providing teachers with upgraded laptops and flat panels in their classrooms equipped with miracast technology to support live streaming and fully tech- integrated teaching and learning.</p> <p>Will families be charged a tech fee this school year? Yes, families will be charged a tech fee this school year. Families can pay their tech fee of \$20 at their school or via this link: k12paymentcenter.com. Waivers are available upon request.</p> <p>How can my family access a hotspot this school year? Wireless hotspots are wireless access points that provide internet access to mobile devices such as your laptop or smartphone. For students and staff needing hotspots for wifi access especially during total online learning, they need to submit a request by completing this Hot Spot Request Form. Hotspots will be provided to families and instructional staff at no cost.</p> <p>What if my family doesn't have connectivity even if we had a hotspot? Students with no connectivity will need to travel to locations such as any secondary school parking lots for hotspot service to download school work and to upload assignments. Students can then work offline. The district is looking to provide students with flash drives so they can receive work from teachers and students can submit their completed assignments. The flash drives will be</p>
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	<p>exchanged at meal pick-up sites.</p> <p>How can my family obtain tech support? Staff and students needing tech support are to contact the IT help desk at (919) 245-4014 or ocshelpdesk@orange.k12.nc.us</p>
<p>Class size What will the class size be for high school?</p>	<p>What are class size limits established by the state?</p> <p>For the 2020-2021 school year, the North Carolina class size law was amended slightly as outlined below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The legislated maximum for Kindergarten to 3rd grade for the 2020-21 school year are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ class size maximum district average is 18 ○ Individual class size maximum is 21 ● There are no legislated maximums for class size in grades 4-12. <p>These maximums apply to all K-3 classes regardless of instructional delivery method (remote learning or in-person learning). When a class contains a combination of grades of more than one grade, the maximum class size is determined by the grade span classification of the students constituting the majority in the class. If the number of students in each grade of the combination class is equal, the maximum class size is determined by the lowest grade classification of the students.</p>
<p>Hard Copies</p> <p>Will workbooks or printed pages for kindergarteners be sent home to work on alphabet formation and writing</p> <p>What is the plan for kindergarten students I'm regards to holding a pencil/handwriting, etc.? They can't learn everything they need on an iPad. Will packets/workbooks or anything of the sort be sent home? If not, you have failed these kids</p>	<p>How will kindergarteners learn to write if working on an Ipad?</p> <p>Teachers will provide learning activities that will require students to practice writing using pencil and paper. Family members will have opportunities to support their kindergartener with the activities to guide student learning. For more information please contact your child's teacher.</p> <p>Will hard copies of assignments be provided?</p>

<p>Will students do any work with pencil/paper in elementary school?</p> <p>Will students do any work with pencil/paper in elementary school? Can you please provided example 'lessons' for elementary school?</p>	<p>Hard copies will be provided by schools if required to meet specialized education plans as identified in IEPs. Families are welcome to download hard copies of instructional materials provided online for their students.</p> <p>Will the remote learning site from March 2020 remain active? Yes, the remote learning site established in March 2020 will remain active for families seeking online additional learning activities and resources for their children.</p>
<p>Grading</p> <p>Can you please discuss the grading processes between the remote learning & the virtual academy for elementary grades?</p>	<p>How will students be graded in Remote Learning 2.0 and the OCS Virtual Academy?</p> <p>Students will be graded the same in both Remote Learning 2.0 and in the OCS Virtual Academy. The same grading process that was used prior to COVID-19 will be used. All students will be graded.</p> <p>For students in high school, grades will be weighted according to course type--honors, AP, etc., recorded on their transcript and used to calculate their GPA as in previous years. For more information about grading, please contact your child's teacher.</p>
<p>Communication</p> <p>How can we have actual conversations with school board members and the superintendent to discuss opening up schools for children who need to go to in-person school?</p> <p>How often will I get to meet with my teacher if the instruction isn't working/ is too challenging for my student?</p> <p>When will the OCS website be updated with current information?</p>	<p>How will schools communicate with families in Plan C and Plan B?</p> <p>There's plenty of evidence that shows positive communication between parents and teachers helps improve academic performance. Ongoing communication is essential to ensure students' success in all learning models. As such, schools are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● continue weekly ConnectEd messages to families ● provide parents a copy of their student's schedule ● provide parents with information/an overview about what their student will be learning for the week/marking period/semester

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate students' accomplishments/successes/ noteworthy work /participation/engagement/positive behavior, etc. as well as any concerns as to parents and appropriate staff as needed • respond to all communications from families/students within 24-72 hours (Plan C); 24-48 hours (Plan B) • keep websites up to date • Call, text, email, use US mail, etc. as needed to ensure effective communication
<p>Class assignments/Lists</p> <p>When & how will parents receive information about the teacher(s) assigned to their child/children? When will we receive information about who their teacher will be?</p>	<p>When will class lists and student schedules be shared?</p> <p>Schools will share information about class lists and students' schedules no later than at their Open House, which will occur before the first day of school.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Will upcoming kindergartners be assessed before school begins? When? How? What benchmarks or methods will be used to show student growth/progress?</p>	<p>Will incoming kindergartners be assessed and if so, when and how?</p> <p>The elementary school principals have adjusted the Kindergarten screener so students can take it online the first week of school. Schools will be sharing more information about the assessment and how it will be administered online shortly.</p> <p>What assessments will be used to determine student progress?</p> <p>The district will administer the benchmarks and assessments required by NCDPI. In addition, schools will use assessments connected to the units of study to determine mastery of NC state standards.</p>
<p>EC & 504</p> <p>How will 504 plans be met? Will work count as grades since they aren't being taught face to face? What happens if my child struggles and can't do the remote.... can paper copies be an option? Will clocking in take place for students?</p>	<p>How will students with an EL, IEP or 504 plan be supported?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services will be provided to the extent possible as stated in specific plan-IEP, DEP, EL plan, 504 plan or intervention plan • Accommodations will be provided to provide access to the curriculum • Needed materials will be provided, as applicable • Related services will be provided

<p>Both of my children receive speech therapy as part of their IEPs. Will this continue with virtual learning?</p> <p>How will you help kids that have difficulty learning and participated in different programs. Will the teacher prepare a different lesson plan?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialists will participate in core instruction Professional Learning Communities to ensure instruction delivery and content will meet the needs of all students • Specialists will collaborate with general education teachers, supporting SEL with instructional materials provided as part of the regular classroom instruction or activities geared toward social emotional learning.
<p>Support with Remote Learning for Parents</p> <p>What extra help will be provided to parents & students who have difficulty with the remote learning setting?</p> <p>Can you please provide training sessions or resources (not information sessions) to help parents prepare for teaching at home, especially for multiple student families.</p>	<p>How will parents/families be supported this school year with remote learning?</p> <p>The week before the start of school, the district will provide parents tutorials on how to navigate Canvas-- the district's learning management system-- and the new online curriculum resources. During the first week of school orientation, schools will also provide additional information on how parents can support their children.</p> <p>The district is arranging virtual monthly drop in sessions for parents for continued support with the online curricular resources and tools. More information will be shared with families and schools in the coming weeks.</p> <p>What are Family Outreach Liaisons, will they be bi-lingual, and will one be at every school?</p> <p>On June 18, the Board of Education approved 7 new part-time positions to assist schools with improving communication at the schools. All of the Family Outreach Liaisons must be bilingual. One-fourth of our student population is Latinx, therefore it is important that our schools are able to communicate with our families whose primary language is not English. However, the Family Outreach Liaisons will not only support Latinx families, they will support all families, particularly those who are traditionally underserved due to race, socio-economic status, or first-generation students. We are currently interviewing for these positions and plan to have them in place by August 10. Once they are hired, their names and school assignments will be added here.</p>

Our Family Outreach Liaisons will be bilingual. They will facilitate parent academies throughout the year virtually and in person when safe to do so. Parent academy sessions will include programs to educate parents about resources that are available to them to support their children’s school success throughout K-12.

Family Outreach Liaisons will have office hours at **all** OCS schools to provide onsite support to schools and families as needed. The Bilingual Family Outreach Liaisons report to Sandra Blefko, OCS Family Outreach Coordinator, Communications Department.

What is the Orange County Schools Parent Academy?

The OCS Parent Academy will be held throughout the school district. The OCS Parent Academy will offer sessions focused on current topics that are of importance to our families, with the intention of keeping parents “in the know”. Held in the evenings and on weekends virtually and at designated schools, when it is safe to do so. These meetings will occur throughout the school year. More information will be shared soon.

Who is leading the Parent Academy?

The Communications Department will be creating a calendar of events, contacting parents, and stakeholders promoting and doing the logistics of each event.

How can I participate in a Parent Academy session?

If you wish to participate via volunteering or if you have an idea for an OCS Parent Academy session topics, please contact Sandra Blefko, Coordinator, Family Outreach, at sandra.blefko@orange.k12.nc.us or Richard Lewis, Director, School Community Resource, at richard.lewis@orange.k12.nc.us.

	<p>What are some potential topics that will be offered by the Parent Academy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to navigate kindergarten enrollment? ● What is the OCS Virtual Academy? ● How do I create an email account? ● How do I create a learning environment for my child while he/she is at home? ● How can I support my child’s social and emotional needs during virtual learning? ● How do I advocate for my child in an IEP meeting? ● When do I need to register my student (high school) to take the SAT?
<p>Supplies Will there be a supply list for at home classes? Will there be a supply list still for in-person learning later? What would be some good supplies to have at home if remote learning?</p>	<p>What school supplies will be needed for remote and in-person learning? As in previous school years, schools will provide parents/families with a list of school supplies students will need to be successful when learning remotely and in-person this school year. Schools may also “recommend” supplies such as headphones and jump drives.</p>
<p>SEL How will my child make friends? Is that a priority for virtual education or is it just to teach content? Will children be assigned to cohorts of peers to have more interaction? How can we encourage young kids to continue growing socially and emotionally during this time at home?</p>	<p>How will my child’s social-emotional learning be supported this school year? Orange County Schools recognizes that a student’s social-emotional well-being is paramount to their academic success. Orange County Schools also recognizes that the Coronavirus pandemic may have affected students' coping skills and the ability to process all that is happening in our world today. As such, OCS will continue to support students through various methods including community support.</p>

	<p>Orange County Schools Student Support Services Department will be providing social emotional learning support through Restorative Practices, journaling, social-emotional learning lessons, as well as individual and small group sessions. Teachers will be provided with strategies and continued PD to support SEL in their classrooms/schools.</p> <p>It is the expectation that schools will utilize and build upon social and emotional learning, as well as mental and physical health supports currently in place.</p> <p>Through Plan B's synchronous class meeting and learning opportunities, students will be able to reconnect as well as engage and form new relationships with their peers and teacher/s.</p>
<p>Will there be opportunities for offline activities and things outside of electronics?</p>	<p>Will there be opportunities for offline activities?</p> <p>Teachers are very aware of the need for a variety of learning opportunities. Students will have opportunities to engage in learning beyond the laptop.</p>
<p>How will you ensure that the children do not fall behind?</p>	
<p>Instructional programs</p> <p>How will science labs be conducted?</p> <p>Will any math manipulatives be sent home for younger kids?</p> <p>How will the classes that require hands on experiences like animal science, fire fighting, other CTE courses be able to conduct classes?</p> <p>Can young children do synchronous day autonomously? And from anywhere?</p> <p>Are teachers considering small gatherings in person, in an outdoor setting, where kids could meet and do some collaborative learning?</p>	<p>How will you ensure that the children do not fall behind?</p> <p>Teachers will be monitoring student learning daily and participating in the school's data analysis of student progress regularly and adjusting instruction accordingly. If you have any questions about your student's progress, please contact your child's teacher.</p> <p>How will science labs be conducted?</p> <p>Teachers will lead science demonstrations for students to observe and learn and assign labs that students can conduct on their own using readily available household materials.</p> <p>Will the school provide materials such as math manipulatives for the younger students?</p>

<p>This is my question since there was no other input space provided.....Since parents will have to teach their children math concepts and most of us did not have the pleasure of growing up with common core, can the children be taught any format to solve a math equation?</p> <p>How will handwriting be taught in the early grades?</p>	<p>Schools will provide any materials that teachers may require students to have in order to meet the learning objectives. Families will be notified in advance of when and where materials can be picked up.</p> <p>How will classes that require hands on experiences such as CTE courses be able to conduct classes?</p> <p>The district will follow the guidelines provided by NCDPI. When it is deemed safe, schools will create opportunities for students to complete the application portion of the CTE courses. This will require in-person student learning and appropriate arrangements will be made to ensure students safely meet all course requirements.</p>
<p>Immunizations</p> <p>My child needs to have immunizations in order to return to school. Since we are starting with remote learning, do I have more time to get the immunizations?</p>	<p>Since we are starting school all remotely, do we have more time to get my child's immunizations?</p> <p>As of right now, immunizations are still due within the first 30 days of school. The NCDHHS is reviewing this requirement taking into consideration that schools are starting remotely. We will notify families of any changes to the due date.</p>
<p>Metrics</p> <p>When making a decision about reopening OCS, shouldn't we just focus on the metrics for the areas that feed into OCS and not factor in CHCCS? I'm not understanding why we are working in conjunction with CHCCS.; how will attendance be taken if a child can not log in right at 8:00 due to parent job conflicts?; How will beginning of year assessments be handled, especially for elementary students?; Will every student report on day 1 or will it be 20% each day like in Plan B?</p> <p>Will we be told well in advance the next steps before the end of the 9 weeks what's the next steps? Will we have the option to continue remote if schools are reopening?</p>	<p>What metrics will be used to determine when OCS will shift from Plan C to Plan B?</p> <p>The impact of COVID-19 on public education is unprecedented and Orange County Schools is no exception. July 15th COVID-19 data indicated that the virus is widespread and surging in Orange County. On July 16th, as a result of the data provided by and in consultation with OCHD, the OCS Board of Education voted unanimously to reopen schools under Plan C: Remote Learning for all students and recommended that metrics be identified and monitored to help determine when it is safe for the district to shift from Plan C to Plan B: Hybrid (in-person and remote learning). At the July 20th Board of Education meeting, Quintana Stewart, Director, OCHD, recommended four metrics for the district to monitor when considering shifting from Plan C to Plan B. OCHD committed to sharing COVID-19 metrics with the district on a weekly</p>

<p>What will the criteria be for OCS to get to Plan B? Please provide specifics</p>	<p>basis; the district began posting the data on a dashboard on the district's website on Wednesday, July 29th.</p> <p>On July 21st the district began forming a broad stakeholder taskforce (composed of school-based and central office staff, classified and certified staff, parents and representatives from the BOE and community) to monitor and make recommendations to the Board of Education based on how the metrics are trending. The taskforce will monitor the four metrics listed below. They will compare and track changes in how the pandemic is affecting Northern Orange County and NC as a whole. When studied over time, the metrics are intended to assist the district with determining when it is safe for students and staff to return to their classrooms under Plan B. The taskforce will have its first meeting on Monday, August 3rd.</p> <p>Four Metrics OCS is Monitoring in Collaboration with the Orange County Health Department</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Daily Case Count</i>: the number of lab-confirmed cases in Orange County. (The OCHD is also able to track where these cases are located.)2. <i>Cumulative Case Count</i>: trend over a three-week period3. <i>Trends in Types of COVID-like Illnesses</i>: COVID-19, Influenza, etc. during this time period in Orange County4. <i>Percent of Positive Tests</i> <p><Link to OCS COVID Dashboard></p> <p>Checking trends will occur bi-weekly. It is important to note that the taskforce will watch consecutive trends for 4 weeks prior to making a recommendation to the Board of Education. If the trends are constantly decreasing, it may be safe to shift to Plan B. (There will be a 10-day notification to staff, students and families before shifting from Plan C to Plan B.)</p> <p>With regard to accessing COVID-19 data by ZIP Codes, the OCHD confirmed that they have the data by ZIP Code. However, they have concerns about using</p>
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ZIP Code data to make recommendations about shifting to Plan B for the following reasons:

- Some ZIP Codes cross over Orange County lines into Durham, Person, and Alamance Counties.
 - As a result, the OCHD is making a formal request to the state to overlay county borders on their ZIP Code level map from the state so the district can easily see the positive case concentrations in Orange County zip codes.
- If the number of cases are small in a ZIP Code and the data are reported it could lead to the identification of the person or persons who are potentially COVID-19 positive, which is a HIPPA violation.

Other Factors to Consider

The taskforce will take other factors into consideration when making recommendations to the Board of Education. Other factors that will be considered include, but are not limited to:

- *Holidays* - spikes in cases are known to occur at every holiday
- *Seasons* - other viral illnesses such as Influenza will begin to spike as the seasons change
- *Demographics & Travel* - people travel throughout the county, state, and beyond. As college students return to school, community demographics will change
- *Clusters* - where clusters of cases occur in the county changes often. School nurses will be working closely with OCHD to communicate what is known about possible joint cases as well as appropriate follow-up once a case is determined.
- *Household Contacts* - a larger number of members in a household can impact

The district is also participating in a reopening schools advisory board with UNC, Duke, Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools and Durham Public Schools. The purpose of this collaboration includes: a) helping to monitor infection rates

	<p>within each school system; b) serve as advisors to school boards, meeting weekly August-September; and, c) reassess frequency for subsequent months initial efforts to start in NC and expand nationally. Orange County Schools appreciates being part of this advisory board and will use the information shared to help make decisions for Orange County Schools.</p> <p>For more information about the Orange County Metrics Monitoring Taskforce, please contact Jason Johnson, Executive Director of Students Services and School Improvement, at jason.johnson@orange.k12.nc.us.</p>
<p>Orientation & Open House</p> <p>Will there be an orientation day for students to meet their teacher and how to access the online resources?</p> <p>Will there be a meet and greet time to meet the teacher before the first day?</p>	<p>Will schools still have an Open House and an orientation for students and families in Plan C and Plan B?</p> <p>While they will look a little different this year, all schools will facilitate an Open House and orientation. The purpose of these events is to allow students/parents/guardians/families an opportunity to virtually “visit” their school and kick off the new year on the right foot. Open Houses provide opportunities for parents/guardians/families to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet teachers and staff ● Learn about the curriculum (i.e., lessons, instructional materials, assignments, assessments, etc.) ● Meet other students and families/parents/guardians ● Learn ways they can support their students’ academic and social-emotional development

	<p>Beginning the school year with remote learning makes orientations especially important for both parents/families and students. Embedding orientation activities into the first week of school--and every class--will lead to greater success for students as they adjust to Remote Learning 2.0. For example, students will need to know how to navigate Canvas, raise their hand remotely, submit assignments, what to do if they are unable to connect online, etc. Expect more information on Open Houses and orientations to be provided by each school.</p> <p>For grades K-3, schools are scheduling focused small group orientations giving extra attention to the new kindergarteners. Principals will be sharing details before the first week of school.</p>
<p>Drivers ED Our daughter completed half of the Driver's Ed class just before school closed in March. How can she finish the class and move on to the next part of the process, behind the wheel?</p>	<p>What's the status of Driver's Education (Driver's Ed) in the district?</p> <p>The Orange County Schools Driver Education program was temporarily closed in the Spring of 2020 due to COVID-19. The district is currently implementing a system to address the backlog of students that were currently in class and/or scheduled for Behind The Wheel (BTW) training at the time of closure.</p> <p>Orange County Schools will be participating in the rollout of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Canvas-based online Driver Education curriculum. Details will be forthcoming once that program is readily available to our families.</p> <p>In regards to the timing of the aforementioned areas of concern, we understand the importance of having students reach this very important milestone. Orange County Schools is relying heavily on the NC Department of Public Instruction and our Orange County Health Department to safely and proactively ready the district to open and reinstate this program. More information will be shared as it becomes available to the district.</p> <p>In the meantime, should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact: Mr. Buddy Hartley, OCS Driver's Ed Coordinator, at buddy.hartley@orange.k12.nc.us.</p>

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