



Educating During a Pandemic

School Committee Meeting

March 8, 2021



Superintendent recommends the shift from hybrid to full in person learning. All families will have the option to choose between full in person learning or full remote learning for the remainder of the academic year. Additionally, the superintendent recommends students in grade K-5 to return to 5 days/week of in person learning on March 29, 2021, that students in grades 6-12 return to 5 days/week of in person learning on April 5, 2021 and that the school committee enters into impact bargaining with the DPS unions.

Learning During a Pandemic



Getting students and educators back to school in-person, safely, relies on a combination of strategies, including key health and safety measures.



Masks/ face coverings

Primary route of transmission for COVID-19 is respiratory. **Masks/ face coverings protect against COVID-19 infection** (study estimates 80% effectiveness in reducing transmission¹)



Physical distancing

Physical distancing helps mitigate virus transmission. Aim for six feet between individuals when feasible; **a minimum physical distance of three feet is appropriate as informed by evidence when combined with the other measures outlined in the list of safety requirements**



Handwashing / hand sanitizing

Handwashing removes pathogens from the hands. While **handwashing with soap and water is the best option**, alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropanol) may be utilized when handwashing is not available



Staying home when sick

Students and educators should stay home if they are sick or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19

Mitigation and Implications



- Continue to maximize spacing in classrooms and school environment to extent possible
 - 6ft remains the goal in classroom, decreasing increments, no less than 3ft between student desks
 - 6ft spacing for lunch and mask breaks or use of plexiglass dividers per DESE
 - Goal of maintaining reduced bussing capacity to ensure spacing
- Continue our core mitigation strategies and utilize new protection strategies
 - CDC Updated 5 Mitigation Strategies: Masks, distancing, handwashing, cleaning and contact tracing
 - Cleaning schedule
 - Physical spacing mitigation strategy will be less effective with reduced spacing
 - PreK - 12 staff eligible for vaccination as of March 11th through MA (mass vaccination sites) and currently through Federal Pharmacy Program (CVS)
- Increased contact tracing and close contacts based on reduced spacing

Schedule Changes for Students and Teachers



- **Elementary:** Grades 4 and 5 Return Full In Person
 - Continued evaluation of class sizes in both remote and in person settings for all grades
 - Additional classroom and schedule changes based on family learning model preference for all grades
- **Middle School:** Merging of cohorts A and B create schedule imbalances and inequities
 - *Multiple* student schedules will need to be reworked / changed
 - Additional classes / schedule change for MS teachers
 - Limited zooming in of teachers to classrooms to meet medical needs
- **High School:** Merging of cohorts A and B create teaching overloads
 - Student schedules will need to be reworked / changed
 - Evaluation of remote teaching assignments and teachers zooming in



Changes to Schedules and Family Survey

- Student schedules will follow traditional times of 7:30-1:55 (secondary) and 8:20-2:30 (elementary) including early release days on the first Wednesday of the month
- If a student is **changing learning model**, at any level, their teacher and classes will change.
- Survey (commitment form) will be sent to families on Tuesday, March 9th to select learning model for the remainder of the year (effective 3/29 and 4/5). Surveys (commitment forms) are due back by Thursday, March 11th at 4pm
- Schedule changes that take place on 3/29 (K-5) and 4/5 (6-12) will be the last change for the school year

This will be the last opportunity for families to change learning models for the remainder of the school year

DHS Class of 2021 Internship/Capstone Experience



Who?: Seniors in the Class of 2021

What?: Each student will choose from an internship or capstone project aligned to their own definition of success and college and career goals.

Where?:

- Capstones** - Regular virtual meetings and support will be provided to students in their capstone project starting 5/17
- Internships*** - Virtual or in-person/on-site. Any in-person placement will attest to following all health and safety guidelines. May start prior to 5/17
- AP classes** will continue to run as scheduled until the AP exam date. (exams scheduled by College Board - not Danvers)

When?: May 17th - June 3rd*; Virtual Celebration of Learning on June 4th.

Why?: To provide an equitable and rigorous experience for our students and provide them with a culminating opportunity to learn more about a career/course of study they are interested in pursuing.

**A robust senior internship could begin prior to May 17th with approval from DHS administration.*



Next Steps - work to be completed

- Additional furniture needs
- Classroom setups
- Class transitions
- Lunch room setups and schedules
- Student and staff schedules
- Remote work assignments evaluation
- Student arrival and dismissal
- Second trimester (HRMS) and third quarter (DHS) end dates will be aligned with the April 5th transition to full in-person learning.



Recommendation

- Shift from hybrid to full in person learning
- All families will have the option to choose between full in-person learning or full remote learning for the remainder of the academic year
- Grades K-5 to return to 5 days/week of in-person learning on March 29, 2021
- Grades 6-12 return to 5 days/week of in-person learning on April 5, 2021
- Grade 12 students begin capstone / internship to begin May 17th (3 weeks)
- School Committee enters into impact bargaining with the DPS unions