

## HES Frequently Asked Questions as of August 2, 2020

Question	Response
<p>What will in-school classes look like? Will students work on paper that will be shared/passed in or will students be working mostly on individual devices?</p>	<p>Students will be sitting 6 ft. apart. They will have a mixture of papers and devices to work with. Care will be taken to distribute and collect papers safely. Devices will be cleaned between student uses. We will be asking families to send in materials so that we eliminate sharing.</p>
<p>If remote parents decide to send kids back to school at one of the decision points, will there be room for them in the classes?</p>	<p>We will ensure that we have enough room for them to enter as our classes will be created with room for the addition of more students as the year progresses.</p>
<p>When measuring space between students - is it desk edge to desk edge or shoulder to shoulder?</p>	<p>Chair edge to chair edge, per state guidelines</p>
<p>One of the main benefits of sending our children back to school would be to have social interactions with their peers. Given that students will need to be 6 feet away from each other at all of the time. How does HES envision promoting positive social engagement amongst the students</p>	<p>Teachers are learning new ways to build connections with their students and between students. Some of our training before school will be used for this topic as well as other social-emotional issues.</p>
<p>Concerns on masks (1) they will get stepped on, and (2) allergies</p>	<p>We will be asking parents to send in more than one in case there are issues with cleanliness. We will also have extras at the school. Students will be taught how to take them off, where to put them, and how to put them back on as safely as possible.</p>
<p>What is the policy for when parents send in an inappropriate mask? For example, Perkins Child Development Center posted a picture on Facebook today of a small child wearing an ADULT VALVE mask - both of these things are wrong. valve masks do not protect others.</p>	<p>Nursing staff will be developing mask guidelines and best practices to share with families</p>
<p>How will students/families be trained on how to fit, use, store, and when to change masks?</p>	<p>We are sending out videos on this topic and reviewing the information with students.</p>
<p>Will masks be required for all grades?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Will students be told how to wear a mask correctly? like over noses etc?</p>	<p>Yes, we are working with nursing staff on videos to share with families before school resumes and lessons for all students when school resumes</p>

<b>What is the plan for children with mask exemptions due to medical issues? Will they be segregated?</b>	<b>We are likely to require some other protective equipment such as a face shield or other solutions so that segregation is never necessary. We will work with individual families on this plan.</b>
<b>Are neck gaiters/buffs acceptable face coverings?</b>	<b>Yes, as long as they cover the nose and mouth and are kept in place.</b>
<b>Will mask breaks only occur outside?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>How many students will be in the tents during the mask breaks?</b>	<b>One class, with minimum 6 foot spacing</b>
<b>Is a mask a must for pre-k students? Can you explain how this will be enforced for 3-4 yr olds?</b> <b>What's the approach to kids who have trouble keeping their masks on inside the classroom?</b>	<b>We recognize that this is a particular challenge for this age group. We ask that you begin practicing with them now, and we are also developing lessons and activities to help students adapt to this need. We are working with our BCBA to support students who may particularly struggle with this behaviorally</b>
<b>What is the policy for re-entry of students or staff who are symptomatic or have symptomatic contact or other exposure? (e.g.. two negative tests? 14 days?)</b> <b>What would be the steps taken in the case of a positive covid-19 case among students or teachers or immediate family?</b>	<b>Please see the DESE guidelines posted on the District website regarding re-entry from isolation/quarantine</b>
<b>What's the remote plan for kids awaiting testing results or who have symptoms, will they temporarily join a remote class or something else?</b>	<b>Short term they would remain with the teacher and peers that they already are assigned to. Longer term, they would be transitioned to a remote cohort.</b>
<b>If a student tests positive will the entire school be notified?</b>	<b>We will share this information in general and then contact families individually if their child was in close contact with the staff or student who tests positive.</b>
<b>The DESE recommends 10 days of quarantine when a student/teacher tests positive. What will teaching look like during this quarantine time? Will the classroom teacher continue teaching or will they switch to the remote teacher?</b>	<b>If a whole class needs to quarantine, their teacher (assuming they are not ill) will transition to teaching them remotely.</b>
<b>If a student goes into quarantine can they return at any point or do they have to wait for one of the</b>	<b>No, if you need to quarantine, you can return to your assigned hybrid spot when that quarantine is</b>

two dates for switching options?	concluded
How will the use of bathrooms work?	Students will be required to keep on their masks. There will be cleaning material in the bathroom that they may use. We will have a custodian cleaning the bathrooms throughout the day.
How do we handle picking up middle school kids with elementary school kids and not miss the afternoon classes for the middle school kids? If middle school PM classes start at 1:30 it leaves no time to get back home.	We are increasing the internet access outside of the Bromfield school so that a student may use one of the tent spaces to complete their final two classes while their sibling and parent waits to drive home.
Will elementary kids have at-home remote classes M/T/Th./F the same way Bromfield students will? Or will the HES kids only have remote obligations on Wednesdays?	Yes, HES students will have remote access to specials and other activities in the afternoons. These will be flexible, understanding that it may take some students several weeks to transition back to a school schedule.
How are working families with 2 working parents going to be able to manage this plan? Will there be before and after school care?	We realize this limited opening will be a challenge for many families, and that some families may look for older students to provide child care or create small group arrangements.  Bridges care will not begin in September and will be re-evaluated as we are able to track the impacts of reopening. We are eager to resume this service as soon as we feel we can do it safely
Can you clarify that all students would be in school 4 days a week and only remote on Wednesdays?	Students will be remote on Wednesdays, as well as having remote work to work on for the afternoons on other school days.
Will there be shuffling to students' seats? As some may be in the back row want to sit in the front row.	Yes, we will change seating arrangements occasionally, keeping in mind the need for contact tracing and limiting exposure
If we thought originally that we would want to keep the kids home but now want to send them in for hybrid learning can we? Does this throw off the ratio of 25% not at school	Yes, parents can change their mind now, mid-October, and Mid-January. We can accommodate up to 18 students in our classrooms with 6-foot spacing.
You mentioned that there have been 0 cases recently in Harvard. There are 7 cases in Ayer in the last 14 days, as well as several in other surrounding communities. It's not just the students and parents, but teachers, janitors and other staff we have to be concerned about. Do	Yes, we are tracking both the local and surrounding cases to monitor for the impacts not just in Harvard but in the surrounding communities that we are connected to as well.

you know the communities where all these people are coming from?	
For the HES remote option, will there be a balance between videos and actual/live teacher-delivered content?	Yes.
Can/will remote students be included in regular activities? e.g. picture day/yearbook, assemblies (live stream?), ceremonies, PAWS programs, etc.	Some of these activities can be streamed or replicated for remote students. Remote students who want to come in for another activity should contact the school administration to see if this can be done while limiting parent visitors and providing distancing.
Will teachers/administrators be flexible with the remote learning option if, for instance, families want to hire a private tutor to teach the curriculum prepared by Harvard and help the student to submit work (keeping students off screens for lessons)?	There is an attendance requirement by the Department of Education so the students will need to participate in the lessons given by the district teachers. There may be some flexibility to this between families and the remote teacher, but the responsibility for the teaching is still with the district. Otherwise, this may be a homeschooling situation.
Thank you for your tremendous effort. We appreciate all your hard work. The in school option has school from 9-1.15, is there any way to mirror this for the online option? Thank you!	The hybrid option is in-school until 1:15 with afternoon activities for the remainder of the school day. In both hybrid and remote options, both are considered full days of school.
Will kids have scheduled zooms in the afternoon when kids are home?	Students will have a combination of scheduled zoom options with specials teachers as well as asynchronous activities assigned by their teachers
Can you tell us the location of the children who will be waiting for parent pick up? In the past it was in the back hallway. How will this be different going forward?	We are waiting for transportation survey results to finalize these plans and will then share them with families so that you know where to pick up your child.
My biggest concern beyond the physical health of the students and staff is the mental health of the kid's and the potential trauma of the return to such a different school setting. What emotional help will be provided? Can we do videos of what the school will look like and what the teachers will look like in masks? Something to get them used to what it will look like before they start. Thank you! You all are doing great!	We are creating those videos now with the Harvard Cable Company and teachers are the "stars". They are prepared to help students with the new guidelines in ways that will make it part of everyday operations through fun and normalcy.
Where will drop off be? mass ave or fairbank st?	We are working on these details and will communicate them out as they are finalized.

<p><b>What is HES's ultimate goal with the precautions being taken? Is it zero cases of COVID? If so, what is the school's reaction/plan when a student or administrator (or family member) tests positive? If some number of cases are tolerable, how is that allowable number established?</b></p>	<p><b>We will evaluate the situation with each case or suspected case. The Dept of Education put out some guidelines. We will be ready to switch to remote at either school for a period of time, if needed. We are still working on the threshold number for this decision and we will communicate it to families.</b></p>
<p><b>Thinking about the Community Commitment, have you considered having parents/guardians (and students?) sign a pledge to follow the rules, etc.?</b></p>	<p><b>We will be considering this.</b></p>
<p><b>how many days/weeks before the start of school do you envision making the go no-go decision on the hybrid model</b></p>	<p><b>The decision to switch to remote learning may be made at any time before school starts or afterward based on data of COVID cases or other safety concerns.</b></p>
<p><b>Is the teachers' union on board with the re-entry plan?</b></p>	<p><b>We will know their decision by the time we take the vote on August 3rd.</b></p>
<p><b>Can you confirm you will arrange things to accommodate for 6 feet distance for classrooms?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>How likely is it that the school committee will not approve the proposed plan?</b></p>	<p><b>We have worked collaboratively together, but until the vote is taken on August 3rd, we cannot say.</b></p>
<p><b>What will be the impact of the current spike in COVID cases and the calls for another shutdown?</b></p>	<p><b>We do not have a spike in cases in Harvard, but we are tracking the cases in surrounding areas with the help of the local Board of Health.</b></p>
<p><b>Can you talk about how the school will support families with devices/technology for the remote option?</b></p>	<p><b>We will make devices available and we will do parent workshops. We will also have a technology help ticket system for families to access.</b></p>
<p><b>Now that the Commissioner of Education approved delaying school openings by up to 10 days to September 16 and has reduced the in-school requirement to 170 days, will Harvard take that extra time and delay the start of school to the 16th and will we take back the days that had been added to the school calendar to cover the usual 180 days requirement?</b></p>	<p><b>The teachers are doing the 10 days during August so that we can still start school on Sept. 8th.</b></p>
<p><b>Is there going to be a Kindergarten orientation this year? A day that parents can come with their children?</b></p>	<p><b>The plans for this event are still under discussion. We will communicate them later this summer. We are looking into whether a tent might be used for this as we are limiting visitors to the school.</b></p>

Do you envision that remote learning in this fashion will be feasible for families with multiple children with one parent at home during the school day?	Depending on the age and independence level of the children, each situation will be different. The remote teacher will work with families to help and there will be a structured day of synchronous lessons with the teacher. The lessons will be presented by the
How soon will our children know who their teacher will be?	Classes will be created after parents indicate their decision for their family (by August 14th) as we want to be sure to create balanced classes.
With the state changing the school year to 170 days what will the new calendar look like regarding April vacation etc.	The updated calendar will be posted to the website by Monday, August 3rd. With the 170 day change, we put the April vacation back in and we are still planning to start school on September 8th.
What is the plan for after Oct 9th?	We will evaluate all of the data by October 9th and either remain in the mid-day transition phase or change to full days. We are also keeping a switch to remote learning as a continued possibility.
Is the first day of school still planned for Sept 8?	Yes
Do HES kids have afternoon classes after going back home?	Yes, currently the plan is for them to have their specialist classes in the afternoon.
Recess - the plan says each homeroom will have their own space for recess. Will that be big enough for kids to run around, play soccer, etc.?	We are starting the year without recess as it is a shortened day. When we go full-day we will identify spaces big enough for kids to run and play.
Is there a recommendation on what type of device will work best for remote learning? (e.g. Ipad, Lap top)	Most children find an iPad easier to navigate, but that may be different for each child.
Do you have information on how many teachers, if any, are not coming back for in person learning? Will all in person students have an HES in person teacher?	We anticipate that most teachers will return and some will become the remote teachers. Every teacher was given the option to become a remote learning teacher in consideration of their interests, health concerns, or family circumstances.
To enable developmentally appropriate play-based learning for Pre-K and K children, will there be any thought towards pods (smaller groups) of children split up in the class for this type of learning.	We are still in the planning stages, but we must follow the Dept. of Education and CDC guidelines for schools.
Will the class lists be provided for remote groupings? Will remote sessions be recorded with the sign off on the parents? Will remote students be able to have a socially distanced visit	The remote teacher will ask parents if they are willing to have their contact information shared with others in the class, similarly to how this has been done in the past at HES. We have not yet determined if remote

with their remote teacher in the Fall? How will the remote students be assessed in the Fall and given feedback as they go? Can curriculum goals be shared with parents of remote students if we wanted to supplement with additional activities? (Thank you!)	sessions will be recorded. The remote teacher along with parents will administer similar testing as what is done in classes typically. The remote teacher will provide feedback to students and families on work completed and otherwise through remote conferences with families. Yes, curriculum goals will be shared with families.
Is there any consideration to having 50% of the students in school for 2 days a week at the start to get the students/teachers used to all of this and then after 1-2 weeks progressing to 4 days a week?	We have worked with the teachers to design the plan that we feel is best for students and staff. We do not anticipate changing the plan at this point, but a deliberation of the plan will be on-going until Aug. 10th.
How will younger children know how to stay apart in the hallways, cafe and other places? Are there/will there be any physical cues around the school to help them?	There will be physical cues and adult guidance.
Will Wednesdays will be remote for the entire year?	The plan has a full return description that does not have Wednesdays off. We will return to that part of the plan whenever it is safe enough to do so.
I may have missed this, but could you review the total number of people in the school, on average, during each school day? ( staff and students)	There will be approximately 310 students in the building, 30 teachers and 20 support staff.
If we choose not to bring our child in for Spec. Ed services, will they still be getting those services remotely?	yes
Cold weather - given that mask breaks, lunch and snacks are planned to be outside, do you think it's likely we'll be going fully remote when the weather gets too cold to go outside?	We will wait to see the data on COVID cases in the community and surrounding areas.
How do we request for remote learning devices? with google classroom proposed for the next year, would this be a Chromebook type of device	You would contact the elementary principal to borrow an iPad.
Will there be snacks for purchase if kids forget at home?	We are working on this plan.
Will the content of the remote and hybrid options be the same and move at the same pace?	Yes, they will move at a similar pace.
Will you suspend in-person school more frequently (not a snow day, but a nasty rain day, for example) and hold remote school instead as	We don't plan to have more frequent days off due to weather than prior years.

needed? I am imagining a Thursday with thunderstorms in which kids couldn't have snack/mask breaks outside.	
Will the school have the capability to test should there be suspected case or a student/faculty member shows signs of COVID?	We are not a testing facility. Students and faculty would contact their primary care physicians.
How will teachers go about assessing students to see if they qualify/need to be getting additional support?	Each new year includes some assessment of students' current level. This year will be similar in this regard.
Will there be a chance to go into the school to view the changes that are being made? Or through a video tour?	We are currently working with the Harvard Cable Company on these types of videos.
If in person teaching stops at 1, why are the remote students going until 3?	Students will continue with afternoon on-line specialist classes in both hybrid and remote plans.
What is the timing for any students transferring from in-person to remote learning?	Students may switch to full remote at any time, they have two dates to consider the opposite change because we have to physically include them into the class space. Those dates are by Oct. 9th or Jan. 4th.
With the new building construction and limitation of buses, drop-off and pickup will be tough before school and after school, what is the plan for that?	We are planning some satellite drop off sites and giving families the option to use those. We will also work with the local fire/police Chiefs to help us with planning. Once plans are defined we will communicate them with families.
I have a question about toilet flushing and the transmission through that action..	We are consulting with the nurses and the local Board of Health on best bathroom protocols. Mask wearing will be critical in all spaces including bathrooms.
Where will drop off be? mass ave or fairbank st?	We are still working on this plan.
Are we making the assumption that we will go fully remote at some point? Whether weather or increase in local cases?	Yes, we will be fully prepared.
where will they be putting all this extra and bulky gear will there be a new place other than hooks close together?	Currently they will use their chairs and backpacks to store their materials/coats, etc.
Can you please detail the online learning plan in the likely event we need to pivot from hybrid to remote learning?	Teachers will follow a schedule similar to the school day and they will meet remotely with students during the hours of 8:50 AM - 3:00 PM. Students will be guided to complete assignments based on the instruction.

<p>For the online version, how will feedback be handled for the kids? Will there be any one on one time?</p>	<p>Yes, there will be one on one feedback with the remote teacher. These meetings will be scheduled by the teachers.</p>
<p>Please will you be sending out these slides?</p>	<p>They are on the website at <a href="http://psharvard.org">psharvard.org</a>.</p>
<p>Would there be a remote synchronous or asynchronous option for a student who would have to stay home unexpectedly due to cold or similar symptoms on a regular day? (Not Wednesday)</p>	<p>Teachers will have materials up on-line to keep students on pace with their peers in-class.</p>
<p>We'll need family support to continue the afternoon learning (after a lunch break).</p>	<p>There will be parent workshops to help with the afternoon sessions and any remote learning tools and organization.</p>
<p>What is happening at home Wednesday's ?</p>	<p>Students will have a morning schedule that has them on-line with their teachers. The afternoon will be for them to complete assignments that are previewed by the teachers earlier in the day.</p>
<p>Does that mean you wouldn't have access to the afternoon/online aspects if you don't opt for full day Kindergarten?</p>	<p>We are still working on this, but a half day student does not typically have access to the afternoon experiences. We realize this year is unique, so more information will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>When you say remote, that is the state run plan correct?</p>	<p>There is a state run remote option and an in-district option. A meeting on August 11th will go into more details on the remote options.</p>
<p>Would you please let us know the specifics around the school's filtration system at HES? - Thanks. Judi Burgess</p>	<p>Currently, outside air is filtered before it is brought into the classroom. This is how the univent systems work.</p>
<p>Since you have a full remote option for those that have high risk or are not comfortable ( and I assume those teachers with concern will be remote) I am wondering when the full time option will be considered? Especially if the numbers continue to be low in town and with the school.</p>	<p>By October 9th we will consider moving to full-days 4 days a week. After some time in that phase we might change to 5 full days, but that is less likely in the first half of the school year. We may also continue the mid-day transition longer.</p>
<p>how can parent volunteers be engaged to help create community virtually and remotely? Virtual room parents with smaller cohorts that are able to be manageable online?</p>	<p>Once school starts and teachers have the chance to ask parents if they would like to share their contact information with others in their class, there may be unique ways for parents to hold group meetings and support each other.</p>

<p>it seems like it would also be helpful to offer additional resources for parents, as some seem to be more anxious than others, so we could provide resources to help them acclimate to this and help their children acclimate in turn.</p>	<p>We have posted many documents on our website at <a href="http://psharvard.org">psharvard.org</a>. We are also making videos with the help of the Harvard Cable Company.</p>
<p>Should we engage with the PTO or the school on opportunities for virtual community building volunteering?</p>	<p>Yes - we will include this in our planning.</p>
<p>What if there is an increase in the number of students that will attend school in person?</p>	<p>We will adjust our staffing to meet the needs of the students in-person as that occurs.</p>
<p>What happens when teachers are on quarantine (perhaps from an exposure not at school) who then takes over the classroom?</p>	<p>We have many trained support staff members who will help us in these situations. We will also have guest teachers who know our district and will be trained on the protocols. Teachers who are home and not sick, will also connect remotely with their classes.</p>
<p>how will remote students be evaluated? (not *tested* but evaluated - as all students will be coming in after a very weird 6 months, to say the least.</p>	<p>They will have experienced teachers working with them and they will use a variety of ways to evaluate their students. These methods will include small group instruction, observation, and one on one conferences.</p>
<p>Missed the early part of the meeting. Where can I see the recording? thanks!</p>	<p>All of the presentations are posted to <a href="http://psharvard.org">psharvard.org</a>.</p>
<p>As a medical professional (sue - pediatrician) parents need to be mindful that if their kids get together outside of school without social distancing it undermines the work that the school is working so hard to keep kids safe.</p>	<p>We believe that opening school will require a community commitment and we will continue to communicate this important message.</p>