



2020 - 2021

PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

GUIDELINES

F O R S T U D E N T S & F A M I L I E S

Plans & guidelines are subject to change.

OVERVIEW

The 2020-2021 school year is quickly approaching. Piedmont Public Schools understands that students are excited to be back in the classroom, learning and experiencing the full adventure of school with their peers. We also know parents are anxious to understand the unknowns regarding the upcoming school year.

According to the PPS Back-to-School Survey, families across our district have many different needs and concerns. The survey revealed student academic progress, new and changing wellness requirements, and the mental and emotional well-being of students were primary concerns for our community. We hear your concerns, and want to do our best to provide options to meet the needs of all of our learners and their families. We want all of our students to remain Piedmont Wildcats taught by Piedmont teachers.

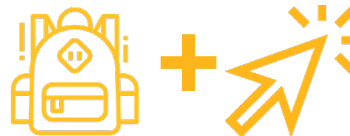
Piedmont Public Schools leadership team, with assistance from our PPS Educator Leadership Council, PPS parent volunteers, district nurses, health professionals, and the State Department of Health, has established a multi-faceted plan for the 2020-21 school year. This plan includes:



**TRADITIONAL
IN-PERSON
LEARNING**



**HYBRID LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT**



**BLENDED LEARNING
OPTION
(GRADES 9-12 ONLY)**



**FULLY-ONLINE
LEARNING
PLATFORM**

The well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. We are highly aware regulations and situations concerning COVID-19 are changing daily. The plans we have in place now can rapidly change as community spread increases. If we are required to change our plans, we will communicate those changes with you by email, our website, phone call, and social media platforms. As we navigate and make choices that impact our school community, we are appreciative of your flexibility, patience, and support.



LEARNING MODELS

THE DEFAULT MODEL FOR ALL PPS STUDENTS



TRADITIONAL IN-PERSON LEARNING

Traditional in-person learning will be available when little to no cases of COVID-19 exist in our school community.

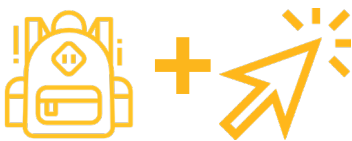
- In-person instruction at school
- Traditional academic school day
- Google Classroom learning management tool
- Seamless transition to hybrid learning when needed



HYBRID LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Hybrid learning will provide in-person and virtual learning during periods of student absence or campus closures due to moderate to high COVID-19 community spread.

- Available for individual students during absence from the classroom
- Counts as a school day when student actively engages and completes assignments
- Available to all students during periods of campus closure
- Virtual coursework via Google Classroom
- Lessons, tutorials, & virtual supports included
- Opportunities for support and collaboration with teachers & peers



BLENDED LEARNING OPTION (GRADES 9-12 ONLY)

Blended learning is available for all students grades 9-12. This option combines traditional on-campus classes with virtual coursework.

- Enrollment in specific, fully-online courses
- Requires yearlong commitment
- Learning plans are directed and monitored by Piedmont High School teachers.
- Transportation only available during regular a.m. & p.m. routes
- Application process required

Email Mr. Johnson at
trinity.johnson@piedmontschools.org
for more information



FULLY-ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM

The PPS Fully-Online Learning Platform is available for **ALL** Piedmont students grades K-12.

This is a great option for students who are immunocompromised or live with a family member who is immunocompromised.

- 100% Virtual
- Requires semester-long commitment with substantial commitment by both the student & parent/guardian
- Daily virtual check-in sessions (Grades K-5), weekly progress monitoring per subject (Grades 6-12)
- Quality digital resources, step-by-step plans, & progress tracking -- all with the support of a certified Piedmont teacher

Visit
www.piedmontschools.org/school_community/learning_options
for more information



PPS PRACTICES



STUDENT PHYSICAL HEALTH

- **Every student MUST have their temperature taken at home each morning**
- No student with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher may enter ANY Piedmont School facility
- Students will utilize the hybrid learning environment on days where they have a fever or other symptoms of illness
- If a student actively engages in the hybrid learning environment and completes their daily assignments, they will not receive an absence
- Regular hand washing and other recommended hygiene practices will be enforced and taught
- Seating charts and increased distance between student seating (as possible) will be enforced in classrooms across the district
- Students exhibiting fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and parents will be required to pick their student up.
- Families are **STRONGLY** encouraged to begin establishing their secondary childcare plans in the event of extended student absence or during periods of campus closure



OUR MASK POLICY

- **Masks or facial coverings are required for ALL staff**
- **Masks or facial coverings are required for ALL students**
- Exceptions may be granted for medical and developmental reasons on a case-by-case basis
- Masks are required for all students while riding the bus
- Our 2020-21 school supplies list has been updated to reflect the need for a mask
- For guidance on the appropriateness of a message, logo, etc. on a mask, please review our dress code in the Piedmont Schools Student Handbook



STUDENT EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION

- In the event a student has a positive diagnosis of COVID-19, Canadian County Health Department will be notified by the testing center and will begin the contact tracing process
- Per Oklahoma State Department of Health protocol, only students who are identified as being within 6 feet of the diagnosed person for fifteen minutes or more will be notified of possible exposure
- Due to confidentiality regulations, Piedmont Schools will not release specific student or staff names or information in the event of a positive case
- Parents are encouraged to sign a release with the Department of Health to assist in contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis



TRANSPORTATION

- Traditional transportation will resume
- Windows will be down for air circulation
- If there is a shortage of bus drivers due to COVID-19, the district may reduce the number of bus routes
- To reduce time on buses, door-to-door service will no longer be available to ECC students



CLEANING & SANITATION PROTOCOLS

- Increased cleaning and sanitation protocols have been implemented across the district
- Electrostatic systems will be used to disinfect classrooms daily (kills 99.9% of bacteria)
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and common areas
- Disinfectant will be used daily in classrooms, on doorknobs, and other frequently used surfaces
- Buses will be disinfected a minimum of twice daily using electrostatic systems



PPS PRACTICES



STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

- Our survey revealed increased guardian concern regarding mental health of students and the importance of social interaction at school
- Our site counselors are prepared and available to help our students and families
- In the event of school closures, counselors will provide opportunities for small group Zoom meetings
- Whether we are in a physical or virtual learning environment, we are committed to helping students feel safe, connected and encouraged
- We will connect students and families to outside resources when applicable
- Our STOP IT app is available to students to anonymously report high risk or questionable behavior of peers or to seek help for themselves
- PPS continues to monitor student accounts for concerning searches



SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

- All Special Services meetings will be conducted virtually
- Students using the hybrid learning model during times of absence will receive accommodations and modifications virtually by their assigned case manager
- Students using the 100% online learning model will have access to online accommodations. A special education case manager will be assigned to track progress and provide support. Related services will be available by appointment virtually or on campus depending on student need.
- Parents or guardians will be contacted individually prior to the start of the school year to discuss your concerns, education plans, and your student's individual needs



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Students who are in the blended or fully-online learning model can participate in extracurricular activities. They will be required to be in attendance for that class period. It is important to note that transportation is only available to students during regular a.m. & p.m. routes.
- Athletics and other extracurricular activities governed by OSSAA will follow OSSAA guidelines.
- Shared supplies and equipment will be limited and disinfected between student use



LUNCH, RECESS & MORE

- **Wildcat Clubhouse will remain available for PPS families**
- Self-serve options at lunch will no longer be available to reduce the number of touch points in the cafeteria. This includes salad bars, condiments, etc.
- Recess scheduling will change to include more recess periods to ensure large groups of students are not on the playground at one time
- Students should bring their own water bottle and not use water fountains. Refillable water stations will be available for bottle refills.
- Students will not share supplies in the classroom and should keep their personal supplies in individually labeled containers or cubbies. Any manipulatives needed for instruction will be sanitized prior to use by another student.
- Lunch guests will not be permitted



SCHOOL VISITORS

- To reduce exposure, visitors will not be allowed inside our school buildings. PTO meetings, student recognition, and other gatherings will be conducted virtually



COVID-19 PROCEDURES

EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, & RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19

In regard to exposures, diagnoses, and positive tests, Piedmont Public Schools will adhere to the following CDC recommendations:

- Anyone who has had close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure, based on the time it takes to develop the illness.
- Any child who tests positive or has COVID-19 symptoms may return to school after three days with no fever and diminished respiratory symptoms and ten days since symptoms first appeared. Two consecutive negative tests given 24 hours apart would also indicate that a child may return to school. The negative test results should be provided to the school if the child is home for fewer than 10 days.
- Any child who tests positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms can return to school after 10 days have passed since the test. Two consecutive negative COVID-19 tests given 24 hours apart would also indicate that a child may return to school. The negative results should be provided to the school upon return.
- As always, please call the school to report your student's absence.
- For more information, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)



FAQs

LEARNING MODELS

Do I have to declare which learning model I want for my student(s)?

Your student will be automatically enrolled in the default model for learning for all PPS students, which is a traditional in-person learning environment with hybrid learning integrated into the framework. Hybrid learning will provide in-person learning as the primary function, and a seamless virtual learning transition during periods of student absence or campus closures due to moderate to high COVID-19 community spread.

If you would prefer a fully online experience or a blended option for your student in grade 9-12, please see the information and links provided on page 2 of this document to begin the on-boarding process.

What is the process for selecting the blended or fully-online learning options for my student?

If you are interested in the blended or fully-online learning environment for your student, you must complete the application process and join us for an intake meeting. Some students may not meet the requirements for the program. The appropriateness of these options for individuals will be determined through the application and intake meeting.

What are the time requirements for my student if they participate in fully-online coursework?

It is important to note that the PPS Online Learning Platform requires a substantial commitment on behalf of both the student and the parent. On average, elementary students will spend 3-4 hours each day engaged in learning activities. Secondary students can expect to spend 6-7 hours each day engaged in learning activities. The parent or adult in the home becomes the learning guide, helping their student navigate the learning experience. A certified teacher is able to interact and support the student through a virtual platform throughout the week. In addition, participants are expected to remain in this program for the duration of the semester.

What is the cut-off date to opt in to the fully-online framework?

We ask that any current student who wishes to enroll in fully-online coursework apply by August 1, 2020.

Do I have to live in the district to enroll as a student at Piedmont Schools, even if it is virtual?

Yes.

CALENDAR, SCHEDULES & CAMPUS CLOSURES

When will we switch from traditional to hybrid learning?

Hybrid learning will be used when school is closed due to COVID-19, inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. Remote learning days may be added to the regular school calendar in an effort to prepare students and staff for longer school closures.

Will the school district calendar change for the 2020-21 school year?

The school district calendar has been pushed back by one week to allow for additional training for staff and administrators. Students will return to classrooms & virtual learning on August 20, 2020. We will no longer have early release days, with the exception of the last day of school, May 21, 2021.

How will I know if school campuses are closed due to COVID-19?

If we move to online learning (hybrid) due to a COVID-19 campus closure we will communicate that over phone call, email, social media, and our website. Please make certain that you have an up-to-date email on file with the district to ensure that you are receiving emails from both your student's school site and the district.

Will we still be invited to Meet The Teacher and Schedule Pick-Up?

This year, we will invite our students and families to Meet The Teacher and Schedule Pick-Up virtually. Watch for additional information from your school site administrator prior to the start of school.



FAQs

COVID-19 PROCEDURES, EXPOSURE, & COMMUNITY SPREAD

How will I know if my student has come into contact with someone at school who has COVID-19?

In the event a student has a positive diagnosis of COVID-19, Canadian County Health Department will be notified and will begin their contact tracing process. Per Oklahoma State Department of Health protocol, only students who are identified as being within 6 feet of the diagnosed person for more than fifteen minutes will be notified of possible exposure. Due to confidentiality regulations, Piedmont Schools is not at liberty to release specific student or staff names in the event of a positive case.

What is the school's policy on when my student must stay home and when they can return in regards to COVID-19 exposure or diagnoses?

Please see the CDC COVID-19 procedures outlined on Page 5.

What does the school district use to determine community spread?

Piedmont Schools District Administrators will monitor the number of cases in our community through the Oklahoma State Health Department. We will work directly with health department officials, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and state epidemiologists to determine the levels for LOW, MEDIUM, and HIGH community spread. We will follow any mandates set forth from the city, county or state.

Why won't you take temperatures upon students entering school facilities?

Entering the school building is often not the first point of contact for many students at Piedmont Schools. A student's first contact may be on a school bus, early morning activities, carpools, before school daycare, parking lots, etc. Piedmont Schools has always asked that students remain at home if they have a fever without medicine. Parents MUST partner with us to keep all of our students and staff safe by self-regulating symptoms and consistently doing temperature checks. Make a temperature check part of your student's morning routine.

MASK POLICY

Will my student be required to wear a mask at school?

Please see our mask policy outlined on Page 3.

TRANSPORTATION

What transportation will be offered for students who choose blended or fully-online learning?

Transportation is only available during regular a.m. & p.m. routes

HYGIENE & SANITATION

What will be used for hand sanitizing?

Touchless hand sanitizing machines have been ordered and will be installed in all classrooms across the district. We will take every measure to ensure that hand sanitizer is readily available for teachers and students throughout common areas and on buses.

TECHNOLOGY

I do not want my student to share a device while at school. Can I purchase one for him/her to use?

Students at the high school and middle school level are 1:1 on devices and do not share. PPS has always allowed students and families to provide their own device for school use by their own choice.

My student does not have a device they can use at home for learning. How can I get help?

Please let your student's teacher or your site administrator know if you need assistance with internet access or devices.



FAQs

OTHER

Will Wildcat Clubhouse before and after school care still be available for families and students?

Yes.

How can I help the school as a parent or guardian?

Thank you so much for your concern with helping us make this school year great for all of our learners. Here are ways you can help us:

- Follow the guidelines & procedures set forth by the district. This includes consistently taking your student's temperature before letting them leave your home.
- Continue to be flexible. We are doing everything we can to adjust to new guidelines and policies set forth by the Oklahoma State Board of Education and state health officials.
- Donate hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, no touch thermometers, and additional school supplies to any school site.
- Families are **STRONGLY** encouraged to begin encouraging their secondary childcare plans in the event of extended student absence or during periods of campus closure.
- Keep your student at home if they exhibit any signs or symptoms of any illness.
- Prepare your home and student with appropriate supplies and devices for hybrid, remote learning if possible and feasible.
- Let your student's teacher or your site administrator know if you need assistance with internet access or devices.
- Ensure that your student has a mask available at all times.
- Encourage your student to wear a mask enthusiastically. Making your student comfortable wearing a mask helps us protect staff and other students who may be part of a vulnerable population.
- Openly communicate your concerns with your student's teacher and/or school site administrator. We are here to help, but we have a difficult time policing concerns voiced only on social media. Let's communicate!
- Respect changes in visitor protocols and the check in/check out processes as needed.
- Make certain that you have an up-to-date email on file with the district to ensure that you are receiving emails from both your student's school site and the district.
- Assist with COVID-19 contact tracing through the State Health Department.

