

Waters School

Town Hall Meeting: Remote Learning

**August 31st, 2020
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Our Remote Learning Priorities

- The developmental and social-emotional needs of our children.
- To focus our daily instruction on the most critical learning standards that our students need to continue to excel
- To have realistic expectations, patience and empathy for our students as we navigate through remote learning.
- Relationship and community building together with “you” as our partner. You are our co-teachers and together we can do this!
- Ensuring clear and consistent communication.

Day in the Life of a K.2 student and teacher

Day in the life of a 3rd-5th grade student and teacher

Day in the Life 6-8th Grade Student/Teacher

A Day in the Life of a CPS Elementary Student Remote Learning



1

Real time virtual instruction

An elementary student's day remote learning would mirror a day learning at school. It would include a mix of real-time instruction with their teacher and classmates, small group activities, and independent learning time within each of their classes. All CPS students will receive several hours of live instruction each and every day.



2

Lunch and breaks throughout the day

Elementary school students will have independent time for lunch as well as short breaks during the school day.



3

Academic electives and enrichment

Much like a normal school, students will also have self-directed time for electives, academic enrichment, and special classes such as arts and physical education in addition to real-time instruction.



Student Schedules

Teachers and administration are working together to thoughtfully plan for your children. Student schedules are expected to be completed this week.

Students daily schedules will consist of synchronous (real-time learning instruction) and asynchronous (independent learning instruction). The daily schedule will include live, real-time instruction, check-ins with teachers, small group instruction, independent learning activities, Essential Classes, and lunch/break.

- K-2: 180 min of real-time instruction and 180 minutes of learning activities = 6 hours
- 3-5: 205 min of real-time instruction and 155 min of learning activities = 6 hours
- 6-8: 230 min of real-time instruction and 130 min of learning activities = 6 hours

Classroom assignments and schedules will be shared by Friday, Sept. 4th

Our remote learning school day is 8:15 am - 3:15 pm M-F.

Schoolwide lunch break - 11:30 am - 12:15 pm.

Learning Pods

We understand that many families are trying to support each other at home by joining pods together. Please understand that while we want to support these efforts, we cannot create our homerooms based on pod requests. We have to prioritize the instructional needs of our students, and more importantly, we have to recognize that this does not support equitable access for all of our students.

Please note: Due to the fact that we have to plan as if we may return to in person learning this year, all twins will be placed together in homerooms. Upon return via the hybrid model, siblings will also be prioritized to attend school on the same days.

Attendance During Remote Learning

Attendance during remote learning is not optional and students are expected to participate on a daily basis, this includes participation in Essential classes. Students who do not participate in the synchronous learning portion of a lesson will be counted as absent. Attendance will be taken daily and recorded on the CPS Aspen system.

To be marked present, students must:

- Log into the synchronous learning platform
- Remain engaged and active through the duration of all synchronous learning portions of the daily lessons.

Students will be marked tardy, half day, or present based on the time they log in.

Google Classroom

Teachers will use Google Classroom to

- Share materials and resources
- Distribute assignments
- Give feedback
- Communicate

[Google Classroom Parent Guide](#) (link)

Teacher Meet and Greet

Kindergarten - Thursday, Sept. 3, 11 am - 1pm

- In-person meet and greet adhering to social distancing protocols.

Kdg - 8th Grade Virtual Meet and Greet - Friday, Sept 4

- 1st Grade - 8:30 am - 9:00 am
- 2nd Grade - 9:15 am - 9:45 am
- 3rd Grade - 10:00 am - 10:30 am
- 4th Grade - 10:45 am - 11:15 am
- 5th Grade - 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
- 6th, 7th and 8th Grade - 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm
- Kindergarten - 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Curriculum Night

- TBA

Technology

- A Tech Survey has been shared with all families. If you are in need of borrowing a school device, please complete the following survey. [Tech Survey Link](#)
- Tech distribution will begin Thursday, September 3 during the school day. The office team will be emailing you.
- A bank of teachers will be available to provide Tech/Google support for teachers and staff in-house as we navigate through remote learning
- CPS and Waters school will share helpful technology tutorials and resources to support our students and families throughout remote learning.
- A bank of volunteer parents will be available to provide additional Tech/Google support for our families.

School Communication

- Streamline communication from teachers to family
- Weekly newsletters by grade level or teacher team
- Less emails as Google Classroom will be utilized school wide
- Helpful resources for families will be available on our school website
- Green Notes to highlight weekly remote learning celebrations

Instruction and Assessments

- Teachers will utilize data from student work, formative assessments, curriculum and teacher created assessments to determine student groupings, individual growth targets and to guide instruction and learning
- MTSS & Differentiation - Hadley Bricker
- District & State required assessments
 - Additional guidance from CPS To Be Announced

Revised Criteria for High Schools and Academic Centers

Revised criteria for Academic Centers

NWEA scores

7th grade spring NWEA scores are used in the application and selection processes to determine students' eligibility in the high school selective enrollment process, in addition to the enrollment process of over 100 academic programs, including International Baccalaureate (IB).

For sixth graders applying to academic centers for seventh grade, fifth grade spring NWEA scores are used.

Typically, students must score a minimum percentile of 24 on both their spring reading and math NWEA exams in the year prior to applying (i.e., seventh grade spring scores for high school programs). Students with IEPs and English learners must have a combined percentile of 48, but do not need to achieve the 24th percentile on each exam.

Revised criteria for high school admissions

To determine eligibility for students applying for high school admission for the fall of 2021, CPS will consider students' highest NWEA scores from any of the following prior administrations:

- Winter 2019
- Fall 2019
- Spring 2019

If students do not have any valid NWEA scores from these administration windows, or have not taken the NWEA with CPS, the district will be administering the exam in October, on select weekends, for interested families. More information on signing up for the Fall NWEA is available at go.cps.edu under "NWEA MAP".

Additional Updates

Grades

Many programs consider students' grades and GPA as a component of the selection process. During remote learning last spring, most students received final grades that accurately reflected their learning and work. However, we know some students were not able to participate in virtual remote learning. **For the 2020–21 high school admission process, the district will use the highest scores of either their final grades or the average of their first and second quarter grades.**

Selective Enrollment Exam

The selective enrollment exam is administered during the winter of eighth grade as a component of the selection process for selective enrollment high schools. **CPS plans to administer this exam in person as scheduled during the winter of SY2020–21 with proper health and safety protocols in place. The dates of the selective enrollment exam will be announced in the fall.**

Attendance

Some high schools consider attendance during the application and selection process. **Because attendance was not tracked during remote learning in the spring, attendance will not be used as an admissions criteria for the fall of 2021.**

Key Dates

- **September 14, 2020:** The GoCPS website, with refreshed content for the upcoming admissions cycle, will be available for families to start researching their options.
- **October 12, 2020:** The application opens for families to begin to apply.
- **December 11:** Deadline for families to submit their applications.

For more information, please visit go.cps.edu or contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at gocps@cps.edu or 773-553-2060.

Mrs. Bricker will meet host a virtual meeting with the community to discuss the GoCPS process and other high school information. Mrs. Bricker will also meet with every 8th grader individually to answer any questions and to discuss future plans.

Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Mrs. Ballasch and Mrs. Bricker present SEL 1st quarter plans.
- Choose Love, “A Brave New World”
 - This special re-entry social-emotional wellness unit was created to support educators and students as they navigate the new normal of hybrid learning.
 - Trauma-sensitive, healing-centered language and practices encourage post-traumatic growth and promote physical, mental, and emotional wellness.
- Social Emotional Health
 - If you think your child may be feeling anxious, exhausted, or sad because they cannot be in school or if they are experiencing stress or screen-burn out, please reach out to our School Counselor, Mrs. Hadley Bricker at hbricker@cps.edu

Ecology Program and School Garden

Ecology Program and Garden Use

How will it look this Fall?

Mr. Leki will be working in collaboration with the classroom teachers to provide ecological experiences on line with every class in the school. Mr. Leki has produced some video segments on site: in the school gardens, the Riverbank, the Lake and the Forest Preserve, to bring the field experience to life. These videos will be part of our ecology lessons, along with on-line narrations (by myself and the classroom teachers), participation by the students, and perhaps most importantly, an invitation to parents to bring your child into the field. We will give instructions about how to get there, what to look for, how to use a science field journal, and we will ask students to report back to the group, to share what they have discovered in their explorations. We will try to use best practices, like allowing time for small group conferencing, and sharing.

The ability of parents to accompany their children on field outings also means that these trips can be scheduled at will: when parents are available, when the weather is favorable, without the logistic worries about buses, and weather, and scheduling.

So join us in this adventure. You can read more about the Ecology program at our website:

<https://www.watersecology.org/ecology-program/>

And join the email list to get news about the Ecology program and Waters Garden.

Q&A
