

## So...You're Thinking of Learning Online?

**Hanover County Public Schools is offering two options for students to receive their education this fall. Parents are encouraged to carefully read this document in order to determine which option, face-to-face or fully online, will be the best for their child(ren).**

Parents have until July 31st to choose between the following options:

**Face-to-Face with Modifications** - Students will physically report to their assigned school and be given in-person instruction. This option will implement several mitigation strategies for reducing the spread of disease, including the mandatory wearing of face coverings by students and staff. From a technology standpoint, students in grades 6-12 will be issued a Chromebook for use both at home and at school (distribution TBD). Students in grades 3-5 will be issued a Chromebook for use at school. This plan aligns with the decision made by the School Board on July 14th, 2020. **This is the default option for all students unless registered for online school. If Face-to-Face with Modifications is the option you prefer, you do not need to take further action.**

**Online School** - The administrative structure of the online school will be led by a principal, with assistant principals, counselors and other support staff assigned much like the comprehensive face-to-face schools. Students will have a set schedule and will log into their HCPS issued Chromebook every day, Monday - Friday for instruction, and to complete assignments. They will have an assigned teacher for every subject. **Attendance at scheduled online classes is required.** The online school calendar and pacing will parallel the schedule of the students in the face-to-face setting. Students attending online school will remain associated with their home school, but will be officially enrolled in the online school (i.e., an Atlee senior will graduate from Atlee). In addition, students attending the online school will be allowed to participate in sports and extracurricular activities that are offered at their home school. If you are interested in registering in the online school, ***you must complete the form found at the end of this document.***



## Face to Face vs. Online School Comparison Chart

Face-to-Face with Modifications	Online School
Student work will be graded using HCPS guidelines.	
Students will follow the HCPS Student Code of Conduct.	
Students are expected to adhere to HCPS Attendance Policy.	
Students will follow a regular schedule as well as the school division calendar.	
Students will have access to Social Emotional Learning supports.	
Students will have access to Special Education, 504, English Language Learner, and Gifted/Talented services, as they apply.	
Content pacing for courses offered face-to-face and online will be the same; however, course options (i.e., electives) will be modified.	
Students and teachers are supported by a leadership team, school counselors, and other support staff.	
Chromebooks issued to each student in grades 3-12. Increased access to devices for students in grades K-2.	Chromebooks issued to all students K-12.
Students will have limited class changes and modified schedules to limit remixing of student groups.	Students will follow a set schedule for online interaction with their class and teacher(s).
All courses taught by HCPS teachers.	The majority of courses taught by HCPS teachers. On-line instruction is supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grades PreK - 5: At-home, adult learning coach required.</li> <li>● Grades 6 - 12: Home monitoring required by an adult</li> </ul>
Students will be required to wear a face covering in all buildings and on school buses..	Face-covering use decided by the family

## **Things to consider before choosing the online school option:**

### **What do we need to do at home for our child to be successful with a fully online education?**

- Online families will need to schedule their days. In doing so, realize that there will be required scheduled times for your child to be in Zoom meeting with their assigned teachers every day for the week. PreK-5 students will require an at-home, adult learning coach who will support their participation in all scheduled on-line lessons as well as making sure that all necessary materials and manipulatives are available. Middle and high school students will need monitoring and support to insure that they are actively engaged in their scheduled classes.

### **Do you have reliable access to the internet?**

- Students participating in online school will be prioritized for device distribution. Based upon delivery timing, family devices may be allowed for a temporary period of time. Once all HCPS devices are issued, students will be under our academic filtering (security) with this device even while at home. If you do not have high speed and/or reliable internet service at home, we will work to address connectivity issues to support individual students.

### **Does your internet subscription provide the necessary bandwidth to support streaming videos and multimedia content?**

- The recommendation is that you have at least 25Mbps download/ 3 Mbps upload
- You can test this by using these links:
  - [Speedtest.googlefiber.net](https://www.speedtest.net/googlefiber)
  - [Speedtest.net](https://www.speedtest.net)

### **What will my child's daily schedule look like?**

- Specific schedules are in development - please check back soon [at this link](#) for more information. The developmental needs of students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels will be guiding forces in the development of schedules as well as in the day-to-day instructional planning process of teachers. Please know that we understand the challenges of working online for prolonged periods of time, and this will be taken into consideration as schedules are developed. All faculty and staff of the online school will work diligently to develop their skills in best practices in online instruction which are based upon The National Standards for Quality for Online Learning. In general, parents and students should be prepared for students to be engaged in learning throughout the school day at designated times. Attendance in designated class sessions is required.

### **If Elementary, do you have a designated learning coach?**

- A Learning Coach is an adult, designated by the family, to support the learning plan designed by the teacher in the PK-5 environment. Each family must carefully consider the availability of this person at designated times throughout the day.
- PK-5 students will be required to have a Learning Coach. This is an adult who will be tasked with supporting the student in their instruction. The coach should expect to attend the Zoom meetings with their student each day and help organize and implement the print materials and manipulatives. The coach may also be asked to support students with logging in and using their Chromebook.

### **Is there an option for students to switch between Online and Face-to-Face?**

- Online school students are committing to learning online for one semester. Our current plan will ask families to make a decision for the entire fall semester. In December, we will solicit requests to change learning models (from either model to the other).

### **How can you monitor, encourage, and support a healthy schedule for your learner?**

- Limit screen time when not in class
- Create a learning space in your home
- Provide opportunities for outside/creative time
- Develop a set schedule for your child's day

**Please visit our [website](#) for additional information.**

To choose the online school option, please complete the [Online School Request for Registration form](#) to make your commitment. **Families will need to request registration by July 31st if they would like their child to attend the online school.** Families choosing face-to-face learning do not need to take any action at this time.

Counselors will be reviewing registration requests, and families will receive an email when the transfer to the online school is complete and/or may be contacted by phone if questions arise about course requests.