

PASCO SCHOOLS NOW

Navigating School During Semester 2



A Guide for Parents and Students



Welcome Back!

A message from Superintendent Kurt S. Browning

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to begin the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year! Although we have been faced with many unprecedented challenges, we remain committed to providing a world class education for all students. Whether you are attending school in-person or through a virtual platform, below are some reminders for your student as we get started on January 6, 2021.

- All students begin January 6, 2021.
- Check your parent and student portal. If you have not created your parent portal, follow this [link](#) for instructions.
- Is the contact information in the portal correct? Do we have the correct phone number, email, and mailing address on file for you? If not, this is an opportunity to update your information through your parent portal account. Click on Forms Summary and find the emergency card link to make any necessary changes.
- Attendance is key to student success. Follow this [link](#), for information related to student success and achievement. Whether your student is attending virtual or in-person, attendance is taken and is a priority for Pasco County schools.
- Read the [Spring 20-21 Education Plan](#) for additional information related to the health and safety of your student.
- For your reference, the [Student Self Screener](#) is attached to you review prior to your return on January 6.
- If you need help with login, devices, meals, health and mental health, or anything else, please reach out by texting (813) 320-3004 or through email at [Let's Talk](#). Someone will connect with you as quickly as possible.

Finally, our goal is to connect with all Pasco County children to ensure everyone receives access to a quality education. If you know of a student and/or family that needs support, please provide to them the above information.

Welcome back to the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year!

pasco.k12.fl.us/pasco_schools_now



Traditional

This model represents a return to the school campus and the classroom where students will interact directly with their teacher(s) and classmates. The school day will follow the standard bell times and standard schedule that includes all the core classes and other subject areas. In short, it represents a return to the traditional school environment – with several significant changes involving enhanced health and safety precautions, many of which are detailed below.



mySchool Online

*This model is designed for families who would like to maintain their connection to their enrolled school, but don't yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to the school campus. **Students will attend school remotely, following the standard school schedule and bell times.***

****Students must meet established criteria in order to participate in this instructional model.***



Virtual School

Our nationally-recognized Pasco eSchool has successfully served thousands of full time students learning online since 2009. This full time virtual school experience is ideal for students who wish to have more control over their learning path and pace, and for whom a flexible daily schedule is important. In this learning model, students often work on assignments during non-traditional hours, and maintain contact with their teacher and classmates using web-based class sessions, email, text messages, and phone calls.

For students attending TRADITIONAL school, our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Public Health Actions on Every Campus

- Practice safe social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Post signage and provide lessons to strongly encourage frequent hand washing and hygiene practices.
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available throughout the campus.
- Increase cleaning protocols throughout each campus, including replacing air filters more frequently.
- Limit group gatherings.
- Face coverings required for students and staff on campus.
- Expect symptom screening for all staff and students.
- Ensure any staff or students who exhibit symptoms are not at school or in the workplace.

School Bus Safety

- Students are required to wear face coverings on the bus.
- Clean high touch areas between runs.
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available on each bus.
- Disinfect each bus thoroughly at the end of each day.

At the elementary school level, we are creating a cohort isolation model, where students will spend time on campus with the group of students in their class, including in the classroom, the cafeteria, media center, and the playground. Interaction with students from other classes will be limited to the greatest extent possible. If a student displays symptoms of illness, it will likely impact their cohort classmates, and not the entire school, in terms of quarantine or other interventions.

At the secondary level, each school will have a customized plan to discourage large gatherings of students in hallways and common areas, using clear communication and signage to reinforce the message. The number of students allowed in the cafeteria, media center and gymnasiums will be significantly reduced. Extracurricular activities will resume, and will adhere to recommendations from CDC and the state.

Student Safety Procedures

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

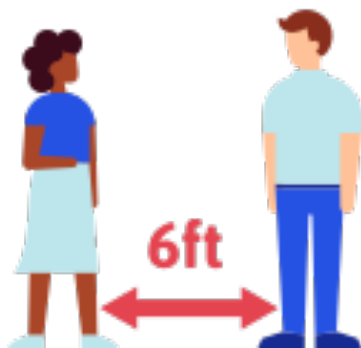


Before I come to school, I will check my temperature and assess my symptoms; if I have a fever of 100.4 or higher, or a cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell, or if I have been in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19, I will stay home and contact my medical provider.

If I ride in a car to school, my parent or guardian will drop me off in the car rider area; parents will not be able to walk me to my classroom or to the cafeteria.

If I ride my bike or walk to school, I will enter the school at the designated entry point with my face covering on.

When waiting for the bus, I will practice social distancing and wear my face covering.



I will use hand sanitizer as I board the bus, and on the bus, I will wear my face covering and sit no more than two to a seat. My bus will be cleaned between runs.



When I arrive at school, I may have my temperature checked by staff. I will wear my face covering, pick up my grab-and-go breakfast, and report to my classroom.

SAFETY AT SCHOOL

I will bring a water bottle to school, as water fountains will be closed for regular use; water fountains may only be used to refill water bottles throughout the day.

When I am moving about the classroom, I will wear my face covering and practice social distancing as space allows.

When I am in the classroom, I will wear my mask. I will use my own headphones for computer stations, and I will use hand sanitizer before and after I complete my computer tasks.



I will wash my hands frequently or use hand sanitizer throughout the day.

When I am changing classes or going to a special area class, I will wear my mask and practice social distancing. I will follow one-directional signs in hallways and on stairways.

When I am in music, band, and chorus classes, I will practice social distancing and wear my face covering when singing or chanting.

In the cafeteria, I will wear my face covering when waiting in line for food, and I will practice social distancing. Before picking up my food, I will use hand sanitizer. Tables will face in one direction. At outside tables, no more than four students may sit at any one table. I may remove my mask while eating but will put my mask back on before leaving the table.



Safety Procedures for Everyone

All buildings and work spaces will be cleaned nightly.

No more than 50 students will be allowed in the locker room and weight room at one time. Students will wear their face coverings when not actively exercising and will practice social distancing.

Field trips will be limited to virtual learning opportunities aligned to the Florida standards.

Pep rallies, assemblies, and other special events will also be virtual.

Spectators attending extracurricular events (athletic competitions, concerts, plays, Science Night, etc.) will be expected to wear facial coverings and practice social distancing. Random temperature scans may be required. Events may have limited audience participation.

No outside furniture will be permitted in the classrooms to accommodate added space between desks, tables, and chairs.

Students in grades VPK-5 will remain with their classmates all day; special area teachers will travel to them, when possible.

The school nurse will have a designated isolation area in the event that a child or a staff member comes to school and presents COVID-19 symptoms. Parents will be contacted to pick ill students up immediately.

Contact tracing will be used to identify students or staff members who may need to self-quarantine for a specified period of days. Students will transition to digital learning during the self-quarantine period using the myLearning platform.



Parents who will be picking up a child for early dismissal due to illness or a medical appointment will be expected to call the front office when they arrive at the school and remain in their vehicle in front of the main office. A staff member will bring the child to the vehicle, check your identification, and assist you in signing out the student. There is no dismissal within 15 minutes of the regular end of the school day, and only parents, guardians, or other individuals identified on the student's contact list, with appropriate identification, will be allowed to leave with the student.

Important Requirement!

Pasco County School District requires face coverings on all campuses across the district for students and staff.

This includes, but is not limited to, disposable masks, reusable cloth masks, face coverings, and face shields.



mySchool Online Parent Guidance

Students must meet established criteria to participate in mySchool Online. Students who have been, or begin to struggle academically, are highly encouraged to engage in the traditional model at their zoned school.

Please continue to:

- Visit **Parent University** to learn about the tools and resources your student will be using and accessing.
- Help your child get organized and set up for the day.
- Support your child if they ask for help with technology.
- Communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis outside of instruction and live lessons.
- Check-in on your child throughout the day.
- Trust that your child's teacher is making instructional decisions necessary to meet the needs of your child and the class.

Recommendations during instruction:

- Create a comfortable, distraction-free place for your child to work and attend online classes.
- Allow the teacher to provide the required instruction without interruption.
- Allow your child to request assistance from the teacher.
- Allow your child to have a productive struggle before intervening with answers.
- Resist the urge to complete work for your child, rather, be supportive of their learning.
- Avoid noise in the background, including listening to music, having conversations, watching television, etc.

Important Requirement!

Parents/guardians are **not** to join their child's online classes or be visible on their child's screens during classes. This helps to ensure the privacy of our students, and we appreciate your cooperation in this. Parents are encouraged to schedule private conversations with teachers as needed in order to respect the online learning environment.

Digital Learning Expectations for Success!

BE READY FOR CLASS

Follow the Pasco County Schools' Student Code of Conduct.

Use equipment as outlined in our Acceptable Use Policy.

Dress for success! Collared shirts, school spirit shirts or sweatshirts are acceptable.

Be prepared for class: Complete and submit all assignments in a timely manner.

DURING CLASS

Log in, turn on your camera, and remain engaged in all lessons for the full class time.

Actively participate to learn! Engage and collaborate with your teachers and classmates respectfully.

Be on time and return from established breaks on time.
Pro tip: set a timer!

Be patient with yourself and others. We are all learning together!

AFTER CLASS

Complete your own work independently. Plagiarism isn't an option, and your teacher wants to know what YOU have learned.

Communicate with your teacher. Check your grades, read feedback and master the lesson content.

Seek help when you are stuck or overwhelmed. Your teacher, school counselor, assistant principal and principal are all here to help!

Creating Protocols and Daily COVID-19 Reports

As part of our partnership with the Pasco County Health Department and in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the district has created protocols to help school officials consistently respond to reports of exposure and confirmed positive cases by quickly isolating and quarantining students and staff when necessary. Contact tracing is completed in conjunction with the Department of Health team, so that we can provide quick notification to families and employees regarding possible close contact with a confirmed positive case.

The Pasco County Schools **COVID-19 Daily Report** is updated every day at 4:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., which includes the total number of positive cases for students and school personnel, for the day. You can also access this data for each school on the [Covid-19 Archive Page](#).



Pasco County Schools

Providing a world-class education for all students

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools