

# Holston Middle School

## 2020-2021 Reopening FAQs

Please note that this document has been updated. All new information is highlighted.

### Health & Safety

#### **How will temperature checks work?**

Staff and administration will be located in the bus drop-off and the car-drop off areas to check temperatures. In the bus drop-off area (back circle), staff members will check students' temperatures as soon as they exit the bus. Each school has been given a walk-thru thermometer machine that reads each student's temperature instantly, so there will be little time lost for students who need to eat breakfast. In the car-rider area, an administrator or officer will check the students' temperatures while they are inside the car. We ask to do this in the instance that if a student does have a fever, he/she will already be in the car to go back home.

#### **If a child has a temperature of at least 100.4 (indicating fever), what will happen?**

Our full-time nurse will oversee the student(s) with fevers in a room separate from the nurse's station in the office. Our nurse's station will be an area for daily medical procedures (feedings, administering medication, cuts/scrapes, and general first aid), while our Hospitality Room will serve as the area for students who produce a temperature of 100.4 or higher. The nurse or other school employee will contact the parent, guardian, or emergency contact to request to pick up the student, who must be then fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school. *Please note that if a student has a fever, he/she must be picked up by someone on the student's contact list. We are not authorized to place students on the bus to return home at the end of the day, and we cannot permit them to walk home unattended.*

#### **How will you keep multiple students with fevers safely distanced from each other?**

The converted Hospitality Room will have designated spaces (marked clearly) where students will be distanced from one another at least 12 feet apart. Students with fevers are still required to wear masks at all times until a parent or guardian can pick them up.

#### **Will the staff and students be required to wear masks?**

Yes, both staff and students will be required to wear masks in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and buses. Because of the number of students in bus and car rider areas (especially after school), students and staff will be required to wear masks in these areas, too.

# Holston Middle School

## 2020-2021 Reopening FAQs

### **When would students be allowed to remove their masks?**

Students would not be required to wear masks while they eat; however, they must wear masks while they enter the cafeteria and move through the lunch line. If a PE class is conducting an outdoor lesson, students may be exempt from wearing masks as long as they are distanced at least 6 feet apart.

### **Where will students eat lunch?**

We would like for the students to have the opportunity to eat lunch in the cafeteria; however, this depends on the number of students we will have in the building. We would reduce the number of students at each table and stagger times for students' lunches.

### **I've heard that drinking fountains will not be operational. Will my child have access to water?**

Yes. Though the spouts will not be operational, we have installed two Elkay water bottle filling stations this summer. One is located in our lobby bathrooms, near the main office. The other is located upstairs, across from the library. Students will need to bring their own water bottle with a lid that seals (no tops with openings for straws). These stations will be thoroughly cleaned each day. Lastly, for health and safety reasons, no open drinks should be brought to school (i.e., Starbucks, McDonald's, etc.).

### **How will class changes work? Doesn't that require most kids to be in the hallways at the same time?**

We have been thinking through options, and we are considering one-way hallways, lining kids up in the hallway to then shift to their next class quickly, and walking students to related arts classes.

### **What will the staff do to promote cleanliness throughout the day?**

Each classroom will be equipped with a hand sanitizer station. In addition, time will be devoted during each period to spot-clean surfaces with disinfectant.

### **How will bathroom breaks work?**

Though students will have access to the restrooms as needed, we will also utilize scheduled bathroom breaks. At most, only four students can be in the restroom at once.

# Holston Middle School

## 2020-2021 Reopening FAQs

### Social-Emotional Needs

#### **Will my student have access to his/her counselor?**

Yes. No matter if your child is in the virtual setting or the in-school setting, our counselors have a ratio of 1:190 students, which gives them more time to develop plans for each child.

#### **When will there be opportunities for my child to socialize with other students?**

In-school setting: Brain break, lunch, breakfast, group work, hallway transitions, clubs, athletics, Homeroom, bus

Virtual setting: Group work during synchronous lessons, counselor/admin groups, clubs, athletics

*Please note: Both virtual and in-school students are eligible for clubs, sports, and arts programs. Masks will still be required at any after-school program.*

#### **How will athletics work this year?**

For now, we are hosting cheerleading tryouts and cross-country. Because of concerns with the no-mask requirement for Emerald's Fall Volleyball program, Holston will not participate in volleyball in the Fall. According to Emerald, there may be opportunities to play community volleyball in the Spring. At this point, we do not have any direction on girls/boys basketball. We will provide updates as we receive more information.

#### **Will clubs and Show Choir still meet?**

Yes! Our after-school clubs—Beta Club, Project U, and Student Council—will meet during designated times, starting in late August. The clubs' sponsors will send information out to interested students/current members during the first few days of school. For Show Choir, tryouts will be conducted in the first few weeks of school; Ms. Elkins will provide information to all interested students.

### Academic Considerations

#### **What will virtual learning look like?**

Students will attend school during the 8:30-3:30 time period just as in-school students would; however, their class sessions may look different. For example: An 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student logs on to her 2/3 class at 9:00; her teacher may deliver a 25-minute lesson through Microsoft Teams (our synchronous platform, much like Zoom); the student is given independent work to do for the remainder of the period, though the teacher may provide one-on-one support through Microsoft Teams or Canvas. Another example: A 6<sup>th</sup>-grade student logs on to her 4/5 class at 10:12; his teacher takes attendance and instructs students to log onto Canvas for an asynchronous lesson to be done during the class period while the teacher provides feedback on prior work. *Just to clarify: Virtual*

# Holston Middle School

## 2020-2021 Reopening FAQs

*learning does not mean that students can log on whenever they want; students must log on at the beginning of each class period for attendance purposes and to get instruction/work from their teachers. By state law, they must “attend” school for 6.5 hours.*

### **What is the difference between School-Based Virtual Learning and the QuEST Program?**

Ideally, we would like to keep our students with their teachers through the School-Based Virtual option. To give an example: If we have 25 7<sup>th</sup>-grade students opting for virtual learning, this would be enough for us to schedule a “virtual period” for our core classes (ELA, math, social studies, science). If we did not have enough students to create a virtual class within Holston, those students would be referred to the QuEST Program. This virtual program will have core classes at both the standard and honors levels, and students may not have a Holston teacher. All grades earned through QuEST can be transferred back to Holston if your child returns in January.

### **What does the virtual vs. in-person breakdown look like, and how will this impact instruction, class sizes, and virtual options?**

To date, we have 230 enrolled in virtual learning and 325 enrolled for in-person learning. This is advantageous for two reasons: one, we have enough students to enroll most of them with Holston teachers; and two, with fewer students in the hallways, we are minimizing the number of students who are coming into contact with other students. Last week, we have recreated our master schedule to accommodate these requests, and we have successfully scheduled over 98% of students’ requests. Our timeline is to have student schedules completed by August 7<sup>th</sup> (one week before the deadline).

### **In the virtual option, how will Related Arts classes work?**

This may depend on how many students are opting for the virtual option; however, here are some ideas we have for each Related Art area:

- **Band & Chorus:** To accommodate a virtual period, we will collapse both sections of in-person band and chorus to one section, with chorus conducting class in the auditorium to allow for social distancing. The band room is a very large space and can accommodate at least 75 students while adhering to social distancing guidelines. The virtual period can resemble small-group lessons, submitting recordings for feedback, or an online program like SmartMusic.
- **PE:** Our two PE teachers may alternate providing the virtual instruction, which would likely be lessons through Canvas. The instructors are considering conditioning exercises where students can record themselves and submit for individual feedback. Virtual lessons will also include topics in our health and wellness curriculum.

# Holston Middle School

## 2020-2021 Reopening FAQs

- **Art:** There will be a year-long virtual and in-person art option. The rotation classes will be in-person.
- **Intervention:** Both math and ELA intervention have online platforms, so students will continue to work in their online program. Teachers will likely create conference times with each student to discuss the progress in their program.
- **9-Week Rotation Courses (Computer Literacy, PE, Art, General Music, STEM):** We have managed to schedule students in virtual and in-person rotation courses. Some courses (Computer Literacy and Wellness) will be offered as virtual-only options, while the Art rotation will be an in-person option. STEM and General Music will have both in-person and virtual options.

### **Will there be honors courses in the virtual option?**

Yes, honors courses will be offered in the virtual setting, and as of this update, we have successfully placed all honors students with Holston teachers. 😊

### **What will Special Education services look like?**

Because students who receive special education services have individual plans, their schedules and accommodations will also be individualized. For the in-school setting, students with services—and with goals requiring it—will have special class sections with a special education teacher. For some students, this also includes a core teacher. In the virtual setting, special education teachers will also provide services in smaller settings, preferably in a synchronous setting (i.e., live sessions). Special education teachers will review students' individual plans at the beginning of the semester and possibly convene IEP Team meetings to review goals with parents.

### **What will English Language Learner (ELL) services look like?**

Our ELL teacher will review students' individual learning plans and provide either in-school or virtual services. Our teacher has two instructional blocks at Holston, where one will be a virtual section, and one will be an in-school section.

### **What will 504 services look like?**

Students with 504s will be provided their accommodations both in the virtual and in-school settings. Administrators will contact parents to reauthorize students' 504s at the beginning of the year.

### **Since students did not attend the last nine weeks of the last school year, how will teachers determine students' levels?**

Our district has worked hard to provide updated pacing guides for our teachers so that students can learn missed content while continuing with grade-level material. Teachers will use diagnostic questions at the beginning of this year to assess students' levels.

# Holston Middle School

## 2020-2021 Reopening FAQs

### **My child has a grade of “Incomplete” in a course from last year. What is the procedure to make up the assignments?**

First, your child will need to see Ms. Ownby, our front office secretary. She will have a list of assignments for the student to complete by the October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 deadline. Once completed, your student will submit these assignments to Ms. Lutton, who will then authorize the grade change.

### **Will there be a 6<sup>th</sup>-Grade Orientation this year? Will parents be able to attend?**

Yes, the district has chosen Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> as the 6<sup>th</sup>-Grade Orientation. It will be held at Holston from 8:30-12:00, with buses running their routes. Unfortunately, due to social distancing requirements, 6<sup>th</sup>-grade Orientation is restricted to just students this year. Both in-person and virtual students have the option of attending 6<sup>th</sup>-Grade Orientation.

### **Will Holston have after-school tutoring again this year?**

Yes! We hope to start our after-school tutoring in September. Tutoring sessions are 3:45-5:00, and transportation is provided for families who are interested. More information will be provided in mid-August.

## Operations

### **Will my child be issued a locker this year?**

Because of sanitation concerns and time in the hallways, we will not be issuing lockers for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are urged to use backpacks that fit the 11.6-inch Chromebook dimensions.

### **Because of virtual learning, what will this year’s supply list look like?**

Our grade-level leaders communicated earlier this week, and they decided to reduce the number of supplies on this year’s list to reduce the risk of sharing materials. On the updated list, students must carry their materials with them from class to class, which will make a backpack necessary. These items will only be used by your child, and the communal items (Kleexex, band-aids) will be housed in students’ Homerooms. The updated list will be posted on our website, just in time for tax-free weekend July 31<sup>st</sup>-Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **What will Device Deployment look like?**

The Superintendent’s office sent an email indicating the procedure to sign the Technology Device Agreement, which is the first step before getting your child’s device. Families can either sign this electronically or get a paper copy at Holston. Families also have the option of purchasing Device Protection/Insurance for \$30, which will cover the

# Holston Middle School

## 2020-2021 Reopening FAQs

student's device for the 2020-2021 school year. Fees can be paid online or by check made out to Holston Middle School. Our device deployment dates/times are as follows:

- August 7<sup>th</sup>: Virtual Students-Only Deployment from 1:00-3:00
- August 10<sup>th</sup>: In-Person & Virtual Deployment from 3:00-5:00
- August 11<sup>th</sup>: In-Person & Virtual Deployment from 5:00-7:00

This year, Device Deployment will be conducted in a drive-thru fashion, with families either being directed to our front or back circles. For 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students and those new to Holston, they will receive a charger with their computers. For returning students who need a charger, we will have several on hand for sale; they are \$25.

*Please note: No student will receive his/her device without a parent/guardian signing the Technology Device Agreement. Additionally, if students have not turned in their device from last year, they must do that prior to being issued one for this year.*

### **When will the Virtual Learning Orientation be, and how will I be in attendance?**

The tentative date for our Virtual Learning Orientation is August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 via Microsoft Teams. We will send a link through parents' email addresses, and both student and parent attendance is a requirement as indicated in the Virtual Learning Registration Form: "I will register for and attend the mandatory K-8 parent orientation at my child's base school." We suggest that families of in-person students attend as well, since students will also be using the online tools virtual students will be using. We will finalized this date and time this week.

### **Will drop-off/pick-up procedures change?**

We will stick to our already-established drop-off and pick-up procedures. In the morning, students are dropped off in the front circle; buses drop off students in the back circle. In the afternoon, students are picked up in the back circle, while buses pick up students in the front circle. Students should not be dropped off before 7:30, as we do not have available staff to supervise students before this time. In the afternoons, our buses leave Holston by 3:40, and unless we have issues with a bus, most students are off-campus by 4:00.

### **Will students still be allowed to walk?**

Yes! If students live close enough to walk to and from school, they are certainly allowed to walk. The exception to this would be if a student had a fever and he/she needed to go home; in this case, a parent or guardian must retrieve the student.