



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find the link to fill out the form for virtual learning?

Use the following link to get more information on the process for signing up for virtual learning: [Virtual Learning Program Enrollment Now Open](#)

Call the main office if you need assistance with your Aspen account.

2. Can students do virtual learning and still participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities after 3:30pm?

Yes, students who enroll in the Virtual Learning Program will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

3. Can virtual students attend activities from 8:30-3:30 at Gresham?

No. Students that choose virtual instruction are opting out of in person activities and coursework during the normal school day.

4. What courses are offered for virtual learning?

Course offerings will be similar to in person learning.

5. What will classes be like for virtual learning?

The expected school day schedule for students in 6th through 12th grade will be 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., depending on the class schedule. Some of the classwork will be scheduled for regular meeting times through Microsoft Teams. These times will be scheduled to prevent students from having conflicts. **Students will not be on the computer for the entire day.** Teachers are planning instruction that blends online and independent practice and inquiry.

6. What will classes be like for in person learning?

Students will be placed on teams with limited class changes. Teachers will incorporate brain breaks and movement in rooms and outdoors. Scheduling considerations exclude ability grouping students except for high school credit bearing courses (e.g., 8th grade Algebra, Physical Science and portions of 7th grade math). However, students will still experience a robust honors course of study through differentiation within cohorts. For example, a possible cohort grouping could be a pairing of math and science classes and English and social studies classes so that teachers change class instead of students. Cohort groupings afford a great opportunity for cross curricular learning that can easily extend into related arts courses of study.

7. If a teacher teaches a virtual class, will they also have in person classes?

All teachers will teach both virtual and in person classes due to the content specific experience and expertise of teachers.

8. If my student starts August 17 virtually then wants to go to in-person school, is that possible?

Students who enroll in the Virtual Learning Program at the beginning of the school year will be expected to continue in the program until the semester break in December. There will be an option in December for students to either continue in the Virtual Learning Program or return to their assigned school in January. There will be exceptions made for students who are required to quarantine or other special circumstances. For quarantine or short-term absences, whenever possible, teachers will work with the students as they do with students who are absent for any other reasons. However, those students would be expected to return to face-to-face instruction once released from the quarantine

9. When will schedules be able to be viewed in Aspen?

All student schedules will be released on August 14, 2020 at the latest.

10. Will there be a 6th grade Orientation day?

August 13th, 8:30-12:00. Students will be required to wear a mask and temperature will be taken before entering the building. Students will enter through main entrances in circle drive. Information will be sent through email by the homeroom teacher. Buses will run as well. Students will go to assigned homeroom classes and will do a run-through of their schedule. We will not have a mass gathering of all 6th graders in the auditorium this year. Parent orientation will be scheduled at a different time and will not occur during this student orientation.

11. How many masks do we have? Will we receive more?

We have received a large shipment of cloth masks. We have received no communication that we will receive any more. We are currently accepting donations of new masks.

12. What discipline will take place if a student does not wear a mask?

We have some students that have medical reasons that have doctor notes for why they are not allowed to wear a mask. We will honor the doctor notes and make necessary staff aware. The expectation is for all to wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking. If a student refuses to wear a mask, staff will ask the student to put a mask on and will provide a mask if available. Students having difficulty wearing a mask will be socially distant from mask wearing students. Parents will be notified for those students who continue to not wear a mask.

13. Who will be quarantined if a teacher or student in class is exposed to COVID-19?

The school will be working directly with the Health Department and our district in these decisions. We will follow their direction. Students will be able to continue instruction virtually if they are quarantined.

14. Will I know if someone at Gresham has a confirmed case of COVID-19?

We will follow Knox County Health Department guidelines and notify families of students that may be impacted.

15. Will there be hand sanitizing stations throughout the school?

There will be stations in every classroom provided by the district. We will also have sanitizers in cafeteria, auditorium, and gym areas as well. Please know that nothing takes the place of hand washing as well. Continue to encourage your students to wash their hands multiple times throughout the day and before they come to school.

16. What kind of air quality does Gresham have with its HVAC units?

We change filters and inspect units 3-4 times a year. KCS staff has worked closely with TRANE and other energy management and/or HVAC contractors in recent years to ensure that our HVAC systems are working properly, and that they are “tuned” in such a manner as to provide the appropriate balance between energy efficiency and HVAC effectiveness. Our systems are balanced, on average, to exchange the indoor air with fresh outside air three times each hour, and they are never turned off. While we have occupied and unoccupied temperature set points, the systems must remain operative to ensure we maintain appropriate humidity levels to prevent the growth of mold, mildew, and other impurities.

The industry standard for HVAC in educational facilities is to replace the inside air with outside air at the rate of 10 cubic feet per minute per person. Our systems generally far exceed this standard.

17. Will my child still get a Chromebook to use if we attend school in-person?

Your child will be assigned a device prior to school that will be used during the school day and at home in the event that there is an extended school closing.

When will Chromebooks be handed out?

We are still working on a Chromebook deployment plan but it will be before school starts on August 17.

18. Where does Gresham communicate information during this time?

School messenger email so information can be reviewed

19. Who is allowed in the school buildings?

Visitors must have an appointment, wear a mask, physically distance and pass a temperature check. Families will not be allowed to escort their child inside the building during school drop off or pick up.

20. What can I do to help as a parent?

Please ask students in the morning (before coming to school) if they have washed their hands and have a mask with them. We would also like you to take student temperatures at home and do not send your student to school if the temperature is 100.4 or higher.

21. How can we financially help Gresham Middle school to prepare for this challenging year?

I am wanting to purchase at least 3 Swivl cameras and Ipads so teachers can teach and the camera records the entire class to help with the virtual learning experience. The cost for this type of setup is \$2400 each and needs to be ordered as soon as possible to ensure delivery before school starts. More information regarding Swivl cameras and instructional benefit can be found at the following link: [7 Things about Swivl](#)

22. How can we support the staff at Gresham Middle School?

Please be patient with us as we all are making decisions and trying to start school in a crazy and difficult time. Please be supportive and positive on social media outlets, communications with staff, and interactions with our community. We work extremely hard to provide the best educational environment for all of our children.

23. A student at another Knox County School has some different expectations. Why?

Every school building and student population is unique. Knox County Schools recognized this and allowed individual schools to determine how best to follow health and safety guidelines with the resources of our school. We are committed to creating safe and healthy learning spaces and slowing down the spreading of germs and the transmission of disease.