

Adrian Public Schools Return to School Plan Frequently Asked Questions

What offerings will APS provide this school year for school?

Currently, APS is planning for both face-to-face and virtual options for students this fall.

Where can I learn more about the APS plan for school in the fall?

Back to School Plans and information are on the District website under the Return to School Section at <https://www.adrianmaples.org/back-to-school/>

Where do I sign my student up for face-to-face or virtual learning?

<https://forms.gle/T3u9SHh3z1uvx9ue9> or you can fill out a paper form at your student's school.

What are the start time and end times for Secondary and Elementary.

Elementary: 8:35 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Middle School: 7:35 A.M. to 12:44 P.M.

High School: 7:45 A.M. to 12:56 P.M.

When is the first day of school?

September 8, 2020. The plan is to push back the start of school to allow for more teacher training and professional development on safety standards, distance learning, and instructional strategies should we need remote learning.

When will I learn more about what the face-to-face or virtual options look like?

District Administration will present the Return to School Plan to the APS Board of Education for approval on August 10th. Once the plan is approved it will be communicated to parents.

I am considering selecting the Virtual Learning option (School-from-Home), can students participate in after-school activities and athletics if enrolled in Virtual Learning?

Yes, as long as you are enrolled in the APS virtual program students may participate in after-school activities and athletics when we are in Phases 4 through 6.

Can I switch from one mode of instruction to another after the school year starts?

We are asking that you sign up one semester at a time. While switching from one mode of instruction is disruptive to the learning process, if you feel that there is a need to switch from face-to-face to virtual instruction you should contact the building principal. Decisions will be based on the best interest for the learning, safety, and success of the student. Parents should expect to be in their learning mode by trimester.

What happens if a student or staff member is exposed to COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19 and how will that impact the classroom, school, or district.

APS works very closely with the Lenawee County Health Department and its Contact Tracing Unit. [The Lenawee County Health Department Return to School Toolkit](#) will guide APS in the decision making process on what steps to take if there is a suspected or actual case of COVID-19 in a classroom or building. If a student or teacher test positive for COVID-19 the whole classroom and the teacher will be required to quarantine for 14 days. At that time learning for that classroom will then take place remotely via google classroom.

Will athletics be taking place this year?

The Athletic Department has been working closely with the Michigan High School Athletic Association and will follow their guidelines along with agreements within the Athletic Conference related to athletics. More information can be found at <https://www.mhsaa.com/>

Will I be able to visit the school or volunteer in my child's classroom as a parent ?

In Phases 4 and 5, family members or other guests are not allowed in the school building except under extenuating circumstances determined by district and school officials. Having said that, family members may drop-off and pick-up items from the main office. In Phase 6, family members and other guests may return to the school as they have in the past. APS will use volunteers to assist in the operation of the school for volunteers that perform specific tasks within the school building (not as a classroom guest). Building principals will determine what volunteer jobs will be acceptable for each building. Volunteers will follow the same screening procedures as APS staff.

Why does the Virtual Learning option utilize Google Classroom?

When utilizing Google Classroom, APS classroom teachers deliver APS K-12 curriculum, while Odysseyware provides online courses that deliver a non-APS K-12 curriculum. Both are aligned to state and national standards. By utilizing Odysseyware for Virtual School students, our classroom teachers can give their full support and attention to their face-to-face students. To support virtual students, we will assign APS staff (who are not assigned to a classroom) to work with and guide virtual students utilizing software called Lincoln and Odysseyware. This way, they can give their full support and attention to their virtual students.

Are Masks Required in the classroom?

Yes.

Why is the district requiring facial coverings for K-12 students in Phases 4 and 5?

Our goal is to keep students and staff in school now that in-person school is allowable. Facial coverings are one of the strategies that we are employing to keep students and staff safe, contain the virus, and minimize disruption to in-person learning. We are hopeful that our collective efforts will reduce the number of staff and students that are sent home for two weeks should there be exposure to COVID-19. Having said that, facial coverings are not required in Phase 4 during meals, snacks, outside when distancing six feet or more between individuals can be maintained, and for medical reasons. Furthermore, facial coverings are not required in

Phase 5 during meals, snacks, recess, physical education class, when outside, during select activities at the K-5 level, in GSRP & ECSE classrooms, and for medical reasons.

What is the definition of a facial covering?

A facial covering is cloth material that covers the nose and mouth. Facial coverings may be secured to the head or simply wrapped around the lower face. They can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton or linen, and may be factory-made or made by hand.

Are face shields acceptable alternatives to mask?

No. The CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings. However, a face shield that covers the eyes, nose, and mouth can be worn in addition to a cloth mask if desired. Moreover, a face shield may be worn by younger children who are not required to wear a cloth face mask.

Who determines whether or not a student/staff member can medically tolerate a facial covering?

A medical professional will make this determination. APS will require documentation from a medical professional as we do for other types of accommodations.

Can parents “opt-out” their child from the facial covering requirement, but still send them to face-to-face instruction?

No. The child may opt-out of the requirement only if they choose to enroll in the virtual learning program.

What if students/families openly refuse to wear masks and they have no documentation of being unable to medically tolerate a facial covering?

APS will enforce compliance through district policies and procedures. If continued instances arise, a discussion between the building principal, teacher, and family may take place to change the placement of the student to the virtual learning program.

What happens if my child forgets to bring their mask to school? Will they be sent home?

Students are asked to provide their own mask if they forget their mask or their mask gets dirty and cannot be used during the day APS has an ample supply of masks that come in multiple sizes that can be given to students.

Will my child still have recess at the elementary level?

Yes, recess will still take place. That will look different than previous years so social distancing can be maximized.

Will my child still receive free breakfast and lunch at school?

Breakfast and lunch will still be provided to all students. Students who attend virtually will be provided breakfast and lunch for the week to be picked up at Drager.

Will my child be allowed to have a backpack at school?

Yes backpacks will be allowed for students K-12

Will students use lockers during the school day?

Elementary students will use lockers at the start and end of the school day. Students in grades 6-12 will not use hallway lockers in an effort to promote social distancing. Students should bring a backpack for their materials. Band and orchestra lockers will still be available.

Are there still going to be recreation opportunities for my child after school?

Yes, the Recreation Department will continue to offer programming during the year as long as we are in Phase 4 or 5.

Will Pathways or the YMCA still be providing after school care for my child at school?

Yes, after school childcare options will be provided from local providers at APS buildings they serve.

Will my child be allowed to bring treats for the class on their birthday?

Outside treats, drinks, and guests are not allowed according to health department guidelines during Phase 4.

When will registration packets be available?

Starting on August 11th.

Where will my child wait before school to maximize social distancing?

Each building will develop and communicate morning drop off and pick-up plans to parents.

What Safety Precautions will be used on busses?

Students will use hand sanitizer as they board the bus and will be required to wear a mask. Students in the same family will sit together and students will also sit on the bus from oldest to youngest to help with cohort groups. Windows will be down when possible to increase airflow.

How will passing time be handled to adhere to social distancing?

Buildings will develop passing time guidelines and work with students to build compliance of social distancing. Hallways will be marked to control traffic flow.

How many students per classroom to promote social distancing?

Generally class sizes will be 20 students. This could adjust up or down if a room is bigger or smaller than average.

Will there be a protocol every morning for temperature taking or asking COVID-19 related questions?

Yes. Teachers will take the temperature of students at the start of the school day. Students arriving to school after the start of the school day should have their temperature taken at the main office.

If I choose the online option, will my child's teacher be the same as if they come to school live?

Virtual Program teachers are APS teachers, but will not be the same as face-to-face teachers in most cases.

If I choose online learning how will accommodations be made for a Special Education student?

Accommodations will be made by the IEP Team and vary based on the disability of the child.

If my child goes to Vo Tech and I choose online classes, how will my child get to VO-TECH?

If you choose virtual for AHS, but want to attend Vo-TECH, the student can either get a ride to Vo-TECH, or get to AHS, and an AHS bus can take them to and from Vo-Tech. A bus will not transport a child from home to Vo-Tech and back.

If we choose the virtual option, will APS be providing chrome books or other technology for us to use at home?

Yes, Chromebooks will be provided to those students that are taking virtual classes. All students in grades 6-12 will be issued a Chromebook for this school year. Students in grades K-5 will be issued a Chromebook if they attend virtually. All students in grades 4-5 will get a Chromebook, once the backordered supplies arrive.