



Thoreau Middle School
July 10, 2020
FCPS Return to Learn Model

- **Key Objective: Provide all Thoreau families with the most updated information regarding FCPS' reopening of schools**
- ***We understand the very important decisions all of you are considering in completing the survey, and we will do our best to guide and inform you through this process.***
- ***Our priority is to ensure we are prepared to provide our students with high-quality instruction and rich academic tasks in any and all learning environments.***

I. Introduction to FCPS Return to Learn Options for Fall 2020:

- **Virtual Learning**
- **In-Person Learning**

II. Learning Models: What could our virtual and in-person programs look like?

If you do not know your child's identification number, your child will know. This is the same number children use to log in to their computer and their lunch account.

What We Know

- Face-to-face instruction will be driven by social distance guidelines
- Breakfast and lunch guidelines from Fairfax County Health Department and FCPS.
- Students 6 feet apart: limited movement
- Students 3 feet apart in some instances when absolutely necessary
- All students must wear masks as developmentally appropriate- discipline TBD by FCPS
- Transportation will be adjusted
- Start date is September 8th
- Monday - intervention/teacher planning
- All MS students will receive a laptop in August
- All staff will be required to wear masks
- No sharing of materials
- No visitors allowed in the building (appointment only) wear mask
- Annual IEPs will be held and addendums when needed
- Model chosen is for the year

What We Don't Know Yet

- Daily health screening protocol specifics
- Protocol if teacher or student contracts Covid
- Who will be teaching in person/online
- Bus schedules and logistics
- What the Monday intervention block will look like or how it will be organized
- Class/hallway transitions
- Locker use
- Library access
- Teachers for online students
- Electives for both models

Overview of FCPS Plan for Fall 2020

At their 6/23 meeting, the School Board reached consensus on a plan to offer students a choice in how they return to school in August for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. The plan offers families two choices:

- **Full-time online instruction.** Virtual, interactive instruction will be provided four days a week.
- **At least two full days of instruction** in school each week with students engaged in asynchronous learning on the days they are not in the school building.
- One day each week will be set aside for teacher planning and intervention support for some students in either scenario.
- **New instructional content will be offered to all students and student work will be graded. Attendance will be required.**

***If there is a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus that requires a closure of schools or an individual school, all students would participate in online distance learning.*



Technology and Connectivity:

- MS and HS students will have access to a laptop through FCPSON, laptops for ES students will be deployed as needed (22,000 additional laptops have been ordered)
- Expanded home Internet access for all students with additional MiFis and ISP partnerships (free and low cost internet)



- Division assessments will identify individual student learning needs



Digital Resources:

- Digital intervention platform for literacy and math
- Digital texts for reading instruction



Curriculum:

- Streamlined curriculum guidance and resources



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Wellness:

- Focus on social-emotional learning, relationships, and supporting transitions
- Mental health resources



Health Monitoring Protocols

Daily health screening form requiring parents to report their child is asymptomatic and has not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms



Collaborate with County Health Department in response to outbreaks in order to implement all necessary health and safety protocols



Social Distancing Guidelines

Six (6) foot separation wherever possible; limited mixing among student groups



Daily sanitizing of high touch areas (doorknobs, handles, fixtures, etc.) with medical grade sanitizing solution



Social distancing on buses in accordance with health and safety protocols



Limit building access in accordance with health and safety guidelines; restricted building access for visitors

Our commitment at Thoreau MS



1. Ensure safe learning and working environments for students and staff
At Thoreau, we are currently cleaning our entire building and planning for the required modifications needed in complying with CDC and VDOH.
2. Maximize in-school student learning experiences as allowable by state guidelines
We are planning for two robust and rigorous master schedules in alignment with FCPS' online or in-person options for the fall. School-wide PD around best practices in blended learning environments is under development for staff for our return.
3. Ensure all students receive instruction that meets state/federal standards and have the necessary supports for success, including:
 - a. Access to technology and connectivity - ***Students will receive laptops in August.***
 - b. Social-emotional wellness and health supports - ***Counselors, Social Worker, School Psychologist, Nurse and Clinic Aide and Administration will all support these initiatives in compliance with CDC, VDOH, and FCPS guidelines***

Provide training, time, and support necessary for our staff to prepare for successful reopening

Social distancing policies, as well as other health requirements, will remain a top priority as we prepare our staff and building for reopening in the fall. ALL staff will participate in targeted and specific training in how we will educate and support our students to positively follow social distancing and safety guidelines.

	Full-Time Online Instruction	In-Person Instruction in FCPS School Building with Social Distancing
<i>Schedule</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Grade Levels: Four days of direct/interactive instruction (synchronous) per week and one day of independent learning (asynchronous) per week.• Middle and High School students will follow the school's daily bell schedule.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Grade Levels: At least two full days of instruction in person at school each week. More in-person instruction is possible based on the number of students who choose full-time virtual or if community health conditions and guidance change.• Students will be engaged in independent (asynchronous) learning on the days they are not in the school building.
<i>Transportation</i>	N/A	Transportation will be available

	Full-Time Online Instruction	In-Person Instruction in FCPS School Building with Social Distancing
Courses	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All courses required by Virginia standards of learning are offered.2. There is no guarantee that all programs or elective courses will be available.3. General classroom instruction at all levels will feature whole group, small group, and individual support.4. Specialized instruction will be provided, as appropriate, such as ESOL or special education services required by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities.5. Eligible students will have access to the Advanced Academic Program (AAP) Level IV curriculum.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All courses required by Virginia standards of learning are offered.2. There is no guarantee that all programs or elective courses will be available.3. General classroom instruction at all levels will feature whole group, small group, and individual support.4. Specialized instruction will be provided, as appropriate, such as ESOL or special education services required by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities.5. Eligible students will have access to the Advanced Academic Program (AAP) Level IV curriculum.

Return to Learn - Fall 2020



	Full-Time Online Instruction	In-Person Instruction in FCPS School Building with Social Distancing
Food Services	Meal service options are under development and an announcement will follow.	Meals will be available during the week. Grab and go meals will be available on days that students are not in school.
Health Protocols	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff will guide students on health and safety protocols, following CDC guidelines.• All staff and students must wear face coverings in accordance with CDC guidelines.• Schools will provide masks to students unable to provide their own.• Six feet of social distancing will be maintained whenever possible.

*****To appropriately staff schools and create schedules for students, parents must make this election by Wednesday, July 15th***

Possible Schedule and Programming Options

Online and In-person



Teacher/Class Assignment

- **MS:** Classes of online students with dedicated online FCPS teachers



Curriculum

- **MS:** Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, HPE, electives, & SEL



Instructional Schedules / Instructional Time

Students are full time online learners 5 days per week (*4 days synchronous and 1 day asynchronous and will follow the same bell schedule as the in-person schedule*)

- **MS:** Student receives 4 days of direct/synchronous instruction (whole group, small group, and individual)

**Special education service amount will be determined by IEP teams. Considerations will be given to individualized student needs.*

Full Time, Full Year Online Option

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Intervention Block for Selected Students - AM Teacher Planning - PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are full time online learners with teacher-directed synchronous instruction 4 days a week• Students follow the base school class schedule			

Proposed 50% Option: Students see teachers 2 days per week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Intervention Block for Selected Students - AM Teacher Planning - PM	Group 1 - In School	Group 1 - Online/Async	Group 1 -In School	Group 1 - Online/Async
	Group 2 - Online/Async	Group 2 - In School	Group 2 - Online/Async	Group 2 - In School

- Student schedules will be **assigned alphabetically** to support families with students in multiple grades
- The 50% model represents **2 days per week** of in-school instruction

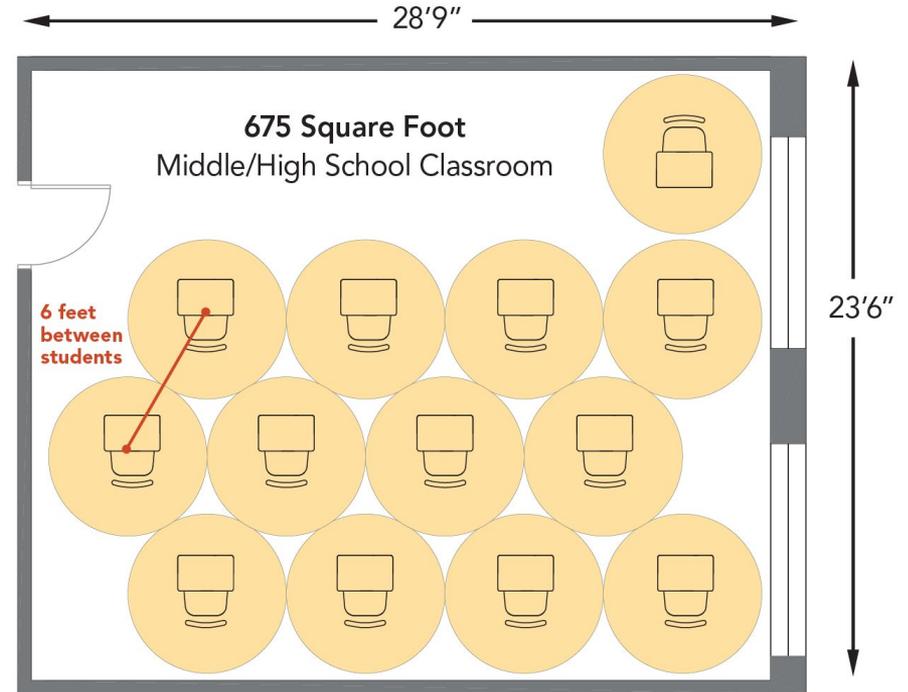
****Proposed start time for MS - 7:15-2:00 (School Board will vote on 7/23)**

MS Daily Schedule (8 Period Day Schedule)

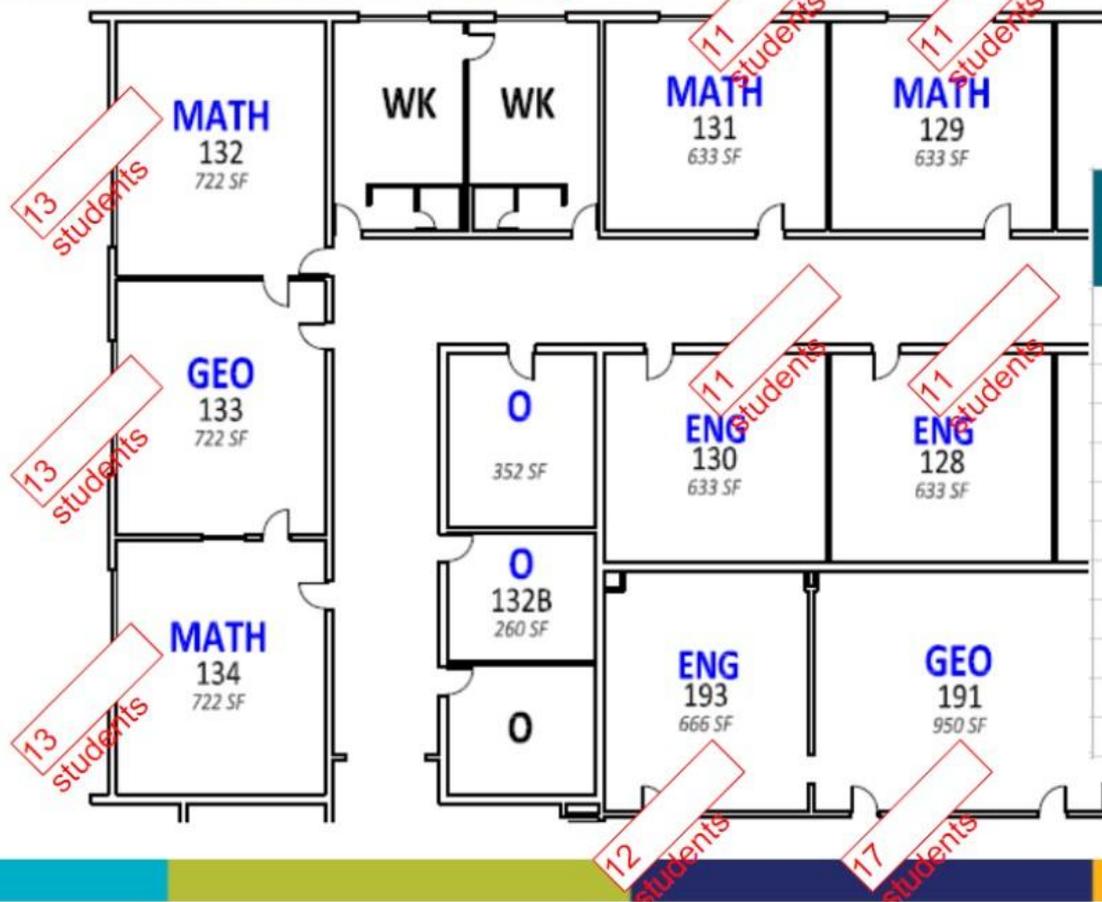
Monday	Tuesday - Friday 7:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Teachers: Dedicated Planning, PD, and office hours Students: Independent or collaborative work	1 7:15-7:57 (42 minutes) 3 8:03-8:45 (42 minutes) 5 8:51-9:33 (42 minutes) 7 9:39-10:21 (42 minutes) 2 10:27-11:09 (42 minutes) 4 11:15-11:57 (42 minutes) 6 12:03-1:12 (69 minutes)* 8 1:18 - 2:00 (42 minutes) <i>*2 lunch shifts, advisory/SEL</i>

*****The online bell schedule will follow the base school bell schedule once a final plan has been approved.***

Possible Classroom Layout
6 feet -- possible 3 feet when
necessary



Example: Reduced Capacity



Room Square Footage (SF)	Maximum Students at Reduced Capacity
424 - 476	8
477 - 529	9
530 - 582	10
583 - 635	11
636 - 688	12
689 - 741	13
742 - 794	14
795 - 847	15
848 - 900	16
901 - 953	17
954 - 1006	18
1007 - 1059	19



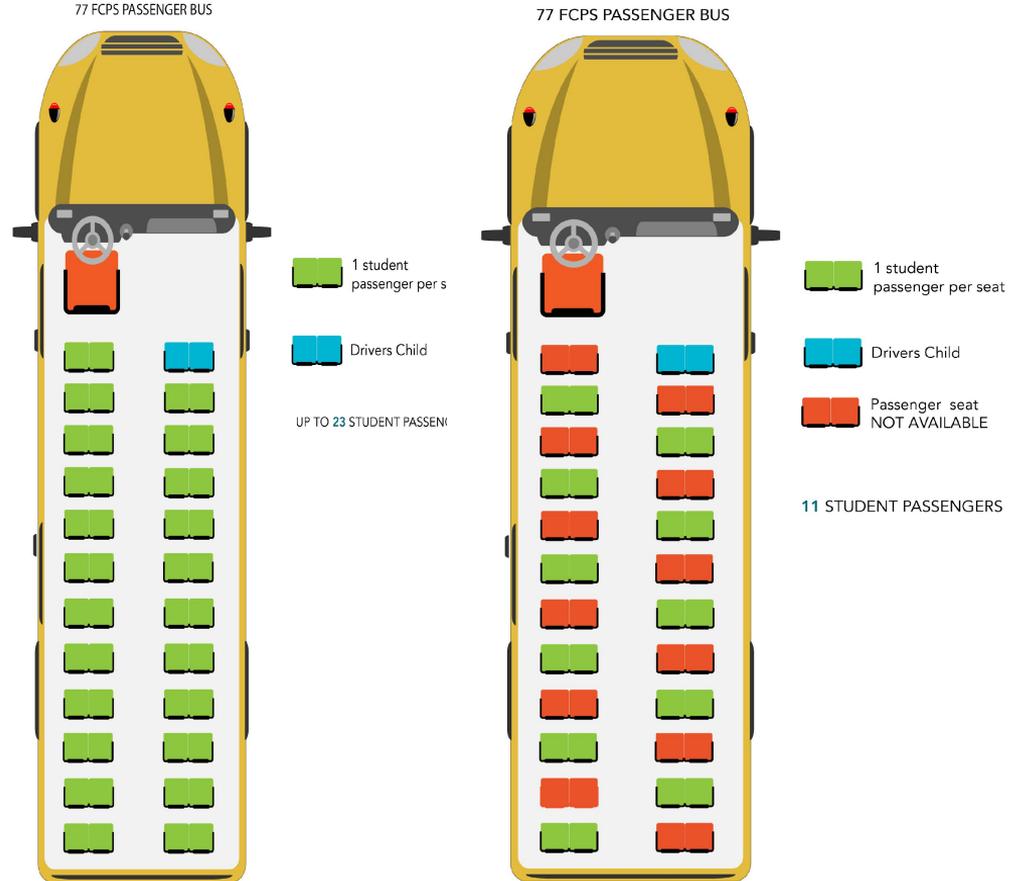
School Bus - Social Distancing

Reduced Seating Capacity

- One student per seat reduces capacity to 23-25 student passengers per bus
- One student every-other seat further reduces the seating capacity requiring additional buses to the fleet

Health & Safety Protocols

- Students will board the bus according to a seat assignment
- Students and staff will be required to wear a face covering
- Drivers and attendants will be offered the use of a face shield
- Daily wiping of all frequently touched surfaces will occur following each school delivery



Unfamiliar Schedules, Blended Learning Possible through Summer 2021

Assumptions

Late Fall Resurgence



- Seasonality depresses transmission over summer
- Fall flu season brings major resurgence



**Return to
virtual/distance learning**

Ongoing Waves



- Loosening of social distancing increases infection rate
- Waves continue until effective vaccine or treatment universally available



**Return to
virtual/distance learning**

Goal: Ensure that all families have the tools, resources, and supports to feel safe and comfortable as their children return to school

- **Food Services**

- Continue to provide meal services to students

- **Language Services**

- Provide written translations of documents and communications in eight most frequently spoken home languages in FCPS
- Provide oral interpretation services

- **Training & Support**

- Provide resources with respect to parental role in supporting students' academic success

- **Technology Support**

- Provide online help desk to support students with computer troubleshooting

Key Decisions

By July 15th:

- Registration deadline for In-Person or Online model

Communication to look for in August:

- Plan for technology distribution (laptops)
- Distribution of middle schedule student schedules for both models

Thoreau Middle School

Thank you for joining us this morning! We will now open the chat feature for you to ask questions.

The unanswered questions copied from the chat are answered on the next slides.

Answers to FAQ from our July 10th Community Meeting

Please note that In addition to the responses below we encourage you to review the Frequently Asked Questions provided by the county as responses are being updated on a daily basis as questions come in from our school communities.

<https://www.fcps.edu/index.php/returntoschool/return-school-frequently-asked-questions-staff>

What types of activities for asynchronous days?

- We have purchased a number of online learning tools and resources that teachers in all subject areas will incorporate in their asynchronous assignments.
- Individual teachers will utilize curriculum resources from the county to create these assignments.

When it comes to the deadline extension, is the class choice form also extended?

- You may turn in your forms next week and Ms. Aguilar will continue to work with families all summer on class placements.

How will the students who are in school 2 days a week get assistance for the other two?

- Office hours are not yet set in terms of additional support.

Will the AAP Classes be guaranteed to be taught by an AAP teacher?

Will the AAP Classes be guaranteed to be taught by an AAP teacher?

- No- there is no guarantee for any teaching assignments as we still do not know who will be in person vs. online.
- Our goal will be to have teachers experienced in teaching the Level IV curriculum continue with these assignments for the 2020-2021 school year.

How will the lap top distribution happen? What about the year books from last school year?

- We will have an organized event in August to distribute laptops to students
- Depending on county guidelines this will either be curbside pick up or in a large space within the school building.
- Yearbooks will be delivered in August and we will also have a pick-up for those at that time. We do not yet know when they will be delivered.

I would like to clarify, I heard some parents are saying for those students are on the AAP program, will the curriculum of the program be changed if students sign up for full-time online virtual? In other words, the students will be dropped out from the AAP program if they sign up for online or virtual? Thank you.

· We are going to try to group the Level IV AAP students online just as we would in person. It will all depend on numbers. If there are only a few students requesting a certain course online we will have to consider other options and/or combine with another school.

Why are we not exploring block scheduling as less movement and thus increased safety?

- A block schedule was presented to the division as a possibility but was ultimately not selected by the school board and leadership team.
- At Thoreau, we have to maintain the same schedule division-wide.

Are class selections still due today if we have not yet made our decision about in-person or full time DL? Is chorus still an option in the DL scenario given the documented issues with singing contributing to spread of COVID-19?

- You may send in your course selections next week.
- Yes, chorus is still an option. We are not aware of any “cancelled” electives at this time.

What types of electives will be offered online? Will the engineering classes be offered?

- We anticipate offering the engineering course, but likely not all levels. Everything will depend on the data coming in next week.

Will the laptops be shipped or picked up? Are they new or refurbished? Thanks

- Laptops will be picked up.
- Laptops are new.

Will students change classrooms, or will the teachers change?

- Students will move as they would with a middle school schedule. Each student has an individualized schedule with different classes each period- quite different than the elementary school model.

Will attendance be recorded for the asynchronous days (2 days in school option)?

- There is county group looking at attendance. We do not have these answers yet.

How will online course such as Engineering and design be taught online (or this course will likely not be an online option)

- Each program is developing new curriculum and resources at the county level to facilitate online learning.

For 2 days option: will the teacher be available in the asynchronous days?

- It will depend on each teacher's schedule and calendar. Remember they will be teaching the other group on the days your child is "off."

Will virtual students still stick to a Blue/Gold days schedule?

- No- the entire division will follow the same 8 period day.

Can you address how classes like advanced band, orchestra, chorus will be handled since those classes are taught with specific groups of students?

- We do not yet have an answer to this question in terms of what we will be able to offer online.

What is considered a mask? Is a bandana ok? Some cannot wear a full face mask?

- The county is developing guidelines around masks as well as regulations around wearing face masks.
- These regulations will be advertised to the school community as soon as we have them

Will all music electives be cancelled?

- No- we hope to offer all of our performing arts electives.

After school programs? Are they not happening this year?

- We do not yet have an answer for this question as it is under consideration by the county.

For virtual students, are there opportunities for outdoor, in-person teacher meet-and-greets prior to school starting for the virtual students to connect with their assigned teachers?

- Yes, we will organize both in person and virtual orientation events for all students. Community building is very important to the success of our schools.

Are students who placed in the 99% for the IAAT test, but did not get to take SOLS going into the advanced math

- 7th Grade students who scored a 91% or higher on the IAAT were already placed in Algebra 1 Honors.

Do you have a sense of which electives may have to be eliminated under either model?

- We do not have this information yet.

if the student chose online learning, is she still be a "Thoreau" student - which means that she will be online with a Thoreau teacher and peers?

- That will be our goal, but we may well have to share some sections with other schools.

Why can't the schools consider an option to change your choice at Winter Break? This is a LOT to ask of a parent to make a decision for an entire year.

- We understand this is a huge decision and yet we need to think long term. The master schedule does not allow for everyone to make different choices at the semester.

How will PE be handled? It was really disappointing in the spring, and my child needs guidance on exercise with peers online.

- The county is developing guidelines for all curriculum areas to include HPE.

How do children get equal access to teachers on Monday?

- Intervention services will be prioritized on Mondays.

Will children be leaving their laptops at school? Or transporting them back & forth?

- Children will need to transport their laptops at this time. If we receive different guidance from the county or health department, we will incorporate it in our overall plan.

When will you get a sense of how many teachers will opt to go back to school? If very few, what would happen?

- We hope to have this information by the end of July, but this will be a long process and there are tiered levels for approving teacher assignments.
- Teacher assignments will be guided by student needs.

4 days a week, minus lunch/breaks?

- Yes- they will visit each of their 8 classes Tuesday through Friday.

Some kind of orientation for rising 7th graders who are doing virtual learning would be beneficial.

- Yes, we will do this for both groups of students.

I understand the need to plan out the entire academic year but considering it's nearly impossible to predict how the pandemic will play out in the months ahead, it seems unduly punitive to lock families into one plan or another. How much flexibility do you anticipate when it comes to allowing families to make other choices as the virus situation changes?

- We can't predict this and we will have to follow the guidance of the division and the health department.

Thank you

Thank you for reading to the end of the questions. We hope this has assisted you in making your decision!