General George S. Patton  
District 133  
Return to School Transition  
Academic FAQs

Over the past two months, the Patton Transition Planning Team which includes the district administration, parents, staff, teachers, and board members, has been working diligently to create a tentative plan to transition back to school. Thank you for your feedback from our surveys that provided the team with your input regarding instruction. In March, we were all thrust into a new style of learning and had to make adjustments for our students. The goal is to ensure that students are continuously learning, closing any gaps, and engaged in meaningful learning experiences. We know that students learn best in school, however, as the committee has continually noted the updates from the CDC, ISBE, and IDPH, we have devised a plan that keeps safety first for our students and staff, yet still delivers a first rate education. As updates are received we are continuously revising the plan to follow policies and regulations that will keep everyone safe. Below are some FAQs regarding academics, that are tentatively in place as we continue to prepare for the 2020-21 school year.

**Academic/Instructional FAQs**

**What will the school day and schedule look like as staff and students return?** In an effort to reduce the number of hours of in-person contact due to COVID-19, the following schedule has been developed.

**Daily plan for Grade levels PreK-8**

| Pre-K - 8                                      | Group A - in person Monday-Tuesday  
|                                               | Group B - in person Wednesday-Thurs  
|                                               | Friday - Group A & B Remote  
| Special Education                             | In-person daily  
| Tier 3 students in both Reading & Math        | In-person daily  

On days students are not present groups will continue learning remotely, logging in at set times to receive instruction

In person:
- Start Dates: Staff - August 18, Students - August 24
- Daily hours for students 9:00-2:30
- 8:50-9:00 - entry and screenings (some in vehicle)
- 9:00-2:30 - instruction w/breakfast and lunch
- 30 minute lunch in class with lunchroom staff supervising
- 2:30-student dismissal - staggered, ending by 2:45

Remote:
- Scheduled check-in time
• Remote learning time with live instruction - TBD
• Complete assignments throughout the day

**What will instruction include for students?** Students will receive 5 hours of instruction in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies, as well as Social and Emotional activities. Based on the shortened school day, students will not participate in specials classes in-person during the first quarter, however, time will be allotted for all classes to spend some time outdoors for a modified recess. Teachers will have the opportunity to integrate Art, S.T.E.M., and Library activities into instruction. Students will receive virtual P.E. activities to complete at home, safely.

**How will students who change classes be affected?** For junior high students (7th and 8th grade), teachers will move between classes to teach the various subjects. Students who receive intervention/special education services will be escorted to classes/areas for instruction that allows for social distancing.

**How will technology be involved in instruction?** In light of the pandemic, remote learning has become more of a norm in schools. Teachers will be instructing students on how to use the platforms for remote learning, i.e. Google Classroom, IXL, Khan Academy, etc. in school and students will have opportunities to practice in school. The district is planning to use federal Cares Act Grant Funding to purchase new computers that the students can keep at home and the older computers can be used in school. Homework, remote learning, and other activities will be done through technology.

**What materials will my child need for the new year?** Students will continue to need basic school supplies - notebooks, crayons, pencils, pens, etc. for this upcoming school year. However, in an effort to eliminate bringing items back and forth from home to school, students will NOT need a bookbag. The district has purchased bins for each student that can be disinfected, sanitized, and stored in school. Prior to the first day of school, parents will be notified as to how to send supplies. The supplies sent will stay at school for the entire year. Therefore, parents may want to purchase supplies to keep at home for students to complete work as well.

**What if my child receives services such as speech or social work?** The district will continue to provide services based on IEPs and previous documentation. Precautions are being put in place to ensure safety for all service providers and students.

**How will remote learning look?** Currently the School Leadership Team is meeting to finalize details regarding remote learning. Based on survey data from parents, some of the issues that are being considered are access to technology, live instruction, multiple methods of instruction, having hands-on activities, and providing training and guidance to parents. Once the team has finalized details, parents will be notified.

**Will students be receiving grades?** For the 2020-21 school year, all students will receive grades as in previous years based on work completed in-person and remotely. Progress reports and report cards will still be provided with letter grades.

**How important is attendance for my child?** Whether in person or remote learning, attendance will be collected daily. It is so IMPORTANT that all students are in attendance through each method consistently to help close achievement gaps and continue their learning and success. Overall, during the spring and
4th quarter, attendance declined from an average of 90-95% to 70%. The district will continue to provide support and assistance to families in the area of attendance to ensure all students are present daily.

**Will students be taking assessments this year?** Currently, we are planning to assess students using local standardized tests to gauge where students are in the learning process and determine what standards and skills need to be taught. ISBE will give further direction regarding statewide exams.

**Will students have an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities?** The Transition Team and the School Leadership Team are considering creative ways to host extracurricular activities in a safe manner. We know that students love these opportunities and will notify parents when those activities are available.