



T.H. ROGERS SCHOOL

Where Academics & Character Matter!

Home of the Mighty Rams!



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T. H. Rogers Virtual vs In-Person Learning Q&A

- How prepared is HISD for the in-person classroom and what informed the decision for the October 19th start of the in-person classroom learning? How does HISD/THR know it's safe to open schools? - what measures are being taken for safety in school for teachers and students and staff? - is HISD/ THR able to monitor conditions of students, staff on a daily basis? - what is the protocol in place when a case is reported on campus? - what is the protocol to monitor family members who may have tested positive? - what are the teachers feeling about a restart of in- person learning? They are at the highest risk here, along with staff and PTO volunteers? - how can PTO help with the situation? - what creative solutions have we considered? Why are we even planning to open f2f when the reason that started home School still exists (Covid 19) and is same or worse than before? It just means we are not taking it as seriously as before so why did we go virtual in the first place? Why do we even have a choice for f2f and disrupt the routine kids just got used to.
 - **The district will remain in close contact with federal, state, and local health and education officials and make necessary adjustments to the target dates for in-person instruction if COVID-19 conditions change.**
 - **The PTO has been incredibly supportive with materials for virtual learning.**
 - **We are working with the PTO in consideration of creating outdoor learning spaces.**
- Are teachers teaching in the classroom if we choose in person learning? What is the learning format for in person?
 - **Yes. A certified teacher will provide in-person instruction for students.**
- Elementary school and middle school has different schedule. Does it impact in person learning? Why can middle school has the same schedule with elementary?
 - **Middle school and elementary students currently have the same number of hours in the day. Middle School students have more asynchronous time.**
- Is there a capacity limit for in person learning? Will you be able to accommodate all kids in THR campus? If not what would the alternate campus? Any probable locations?
 - **Yes, there is a capacity limit for in-person learning.**
 - **For campuses where the number of face-to-face selections is more than can be accommodated to ensure physical distancing guidelines, there may be a phase-in process. See HISD 2020-2021 Reopening Parent Guide**
- Could you please share the teacher list for both online and virtual learning?

- **The list of teachers for virtual and in-person learning is currently unavailable. Teachers are applying to teacher virtual only through the district's application process. We will finalize the lists of teachers who are working virtual or in-person and assign students based on the final numbers of students who will attend via each of the two modes, virtual or in-person, for instruction.**
- Do we have the data of the percentage of in person learning and the positive COVID case number? How the school coped with those positive testing?
 - **The district will remain in close contact with federal, state, and local health and education officials and follow CDC guidelines to make informed decisions regarding health and safety guidelines for in-person learning.**
- If we use the virtual option for the rest of this semester and in spring, decide F2F is the right option for our family, how difficult or easy would that switch be? If I choose virtual learning today for my two children, can I change later if the COVID-19 situation improve?
 - **The district will remain in close contact with federal, state, and local health and education officials and make necessary adjustments to the target dates for in-person instruction if COVID-19 conditions change.**
 - **Yes, the choice to extend virtual learning is currently scheduled to occur each grading cycle or 6-weeks period.**
- How many additional teachers will be added or trained to accommodate both virtual and F2F since the other districts' lessons learned of teachers' challenges dealing with both?
 - **Teaching assignments for virtual or in-person learning will be based on the number of students taking part in each program and the building capacity for in-person learning.**
- For the students opting for virtual learning, how would it the class time, schedule and activities work? Would like to understand and get a comprehensive plan which aligns them to their peers who are attending school.
 - **Students will follow their daily schedule, including all courses selected and/or assigned, as well as extracurricular activities.**
- For face-to-face option, will kids be given adequate or premium resources (laptop & tech support) to complete their assignments online or via the hub or watch teams recordings etc.?
 - **A certified teacher will provide in-person instruction for students.**
 - **Students with district/school issued Chromebooks will be required to transport the device to and from school daily, so the device will be available at home in the event of an unforeseen school closure. Students who do not currently have district/school issued Chromebooks will have access to necessary resources on campus. Students who are using personal devices can bring their own devices.**
- Is there any option for phased or shift work learning to have smaller groups of kids? Are you going to have a Hybrid schedule?
 - **At this point, we are considering a variety of options that are contingent upon the numbers of students that will participate in each of the learning settings.**
- Will my child miss out on valuable instructions since he won't be present at school?

- **Students will follow their daily schedule, including all courses selected and/or assigned, as well as extracurricular activities.**
- **A certified teacher will provide instruction for students who are working remotely.**
- Will the students stay with the same teacher if they continue Virtual education? If we chose virtual how the teachers can teach both group? We do not want new teacher too is it possible! Will students who choose virtual be taught by only by a virtual teacher, or will they be taught in a hybrid situation. My district, as well as others, appear to be struggling with this experience. All students are not allowed to receive the quality education that they deserve.
 - **The list of teachers for virtual and in-person learning is currently unavailable. Teachers are applying to teacher virtual only through the district's application process. We will finalize lists of teachers who are working virtual or in-person and assign students based on the final numbers of students who will attend via each of the two modes, virtual or in-person, for instruction.**
- For face to face learning, will elementary students continue to be on devices, Teams, and the HUB all day? Will elementary students be required to come to school every day with a device?
 - **A certified teacher will provide in-person instruction for students. Yes. Students are asked to bring district/campus issued devices daily.**
- Will elementary kids who go back in person have one teacher teach all core classes, or will they still rotate among teachers? If they switch teachers, can the kids remain in the same class while the teachers are the ones actually moving between classes? What is the protocol for the lunch staff as it pertains to COVID19?
 - **The goal is for students to keep the same schedule and teachers they had during virtual learning. However, it may vary based on the number of students who select the face-to-face option and the number of teachers who work in-person or virtual.**
 - **Students will remain in the same classroom all day.**
 - **They will eat lunch in the classroom, as well, with adult supervision.**
- Are we even considering the STRESS kids would have to handle changing their methods of their instruction every 6 weeks as announced by the district? They are already facing a lot of changes this year.
 - **Yes, our Rams' well-being is our number one priority. We must follow the district's reopening schedule. The ongoing six-week windows for opting to extend virtual learning are being offered to meet the needs of families and to provide options for students to engage in-person or virtually during the 2020-2021 school year.**
 - **We have hired a Social Emotional Learning Teacher Specialist/Coordinator to address the SEL needs of our students and staff. Teachers are receiving training and tips to embed SEL best practices into academics.**
- Will students need to provide a COVID negative test result to enter school?
 - **No, not as of now.**
- What measures are being considered/taken to ensure that our teachers and support staff are safe. Will they be tested on a regular basis?
 - **Regular testing of staff is not currently planned.**

- Will there be additional nurses, staff and a separate room to serve those with possible Covid -19 symptoms by the time their families pick them up?
 - **We currently have 3 full-time nurses and a nursing assistant on campus.**
 - **We will have designated isolation area for students/staff displaying Covid -19 symptoms.**
- Is the school going to provide COVID-19 Test for the students on daily basis?
 - **No, the school will not be providing COVID-19 tests for the students.**
- Who is the “point person” or person in charge of the COVID-19 response team/plan and how will they communicate changes in school policy to parents/students?
 - **The head nurse, Nurse Bates, Assistant Principal, Mr. Platt, and Principal, Mrs. Chenier, share the lead role for the campus-based COVID-19 response team. Information will be shared routinely via the Weekly Callout and email. Emergent information, if needed, will be shared immediately via direct phone call or callout.**
- How is it handled when you need to quarantine for two weeks but opt for in person? Do you just switch back for those two weeks? What is the plan for teachers to return to work if they contract Covid? Will they be quarantined for 14 days and then be required a negative test and be asymptomatic? Also, what is the plan for multiple teachers being out at the same time within a grade level? Will the parents be left to find out on our own that there has been a COVID19 case OR will the school and district DEFINITELY notify us IMMEDIATELY? Are parents required to notify the school if they get sick or travel or are required to quarantine? How a covid 19 case will be handled if it happens and what would be the sanitization plan. Will the entire class need to be quarantined for couple of weeks or more? If a teacher or student has to stay home, what strategies are in place to support remote work or learning and make sure students don't fall behind in their schoolwork? How will parents, students, and staff be educated about symptoms and will temperature or other health checks be done on students, staff and teachers every day? What is the plan in place if a child is exposed to COVID. Will parents be notified. Will the entire class including teachers quarantine?
 - **If Covid-19 cases are identified, campuses will be closed/sanitized. Notifications will be provided to impacted parents and students of possible exposure. Instruction will shift to virtual learning if the school closes.**
 - **If an individual student needs to quarantine due to off-site exposure, the campus will work with the student to provide instruction.**
 - **Parents will be required to notify the school if they get sick or travel or are required to quarantine.**
- Will contact tracing be in place? How? Will de-densification strategies, like staggered arrival and dismissal times, be implemented? Can we please have reopening plan or protocol in paper? Is it possible to get the protocols for keeping everyone safe on campus?
 - **Yes, contract tracing will be in place.**
 - **Elementary - Students will remain in the same classroom throughout the day for all classes and lunch. Teachers will rotate to limit student travel and to minimize the number of students/staff in various rooms and areas of the building. The limited access to the building, limited number of adults interacting with each class, and limiting students to one classroom will facilitate contact tracing.**

- **Middle School – Student travel during passing times and to and from classes and the restroom will be monitored. Students will be taken to the restroom by the classroom teacher during class time. Students will carry backpacks. Lockers will not be used. Classrooms will be sanitized between class periods, and students will wash their hands or use sanitizer upon entry to class.**
- **Elementary/MS - Classroom furniture will be arranged to facilitate social distancing. Students will sit in assigned seats daily. Arrival and dismissal points will be expanded and include designated areas with adult supervision. Elementary and middle school dismissal times will be staggered.**
- **Students, staff, and anyone on campus will always be required to wear masks which will be provided daily.**
- **Parents will receive our campus reopening plan prior to October 19th.**
- Will there be separate instruction for virtual instruction kids or will there be teachers teaching in class and virtual kids will just listen in or will they get separate time with teacher like they do now?
 - **The district is in the process of working to hire teachers to teach virtually for students who are learning remotely. The class/teaching assignments will be based on the number of students who opt for virtual learning, building capacity, and the number of virtual and in-person teaching staff available.**
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- If we go in-person will children get a recess of sorts to stretch their legs etc. Will it be possible to allow kids 10-15 minutes daily to chat with their peers?
 - **Yes. Students will get recess, though the structure of recess will be different to maintain guidelines for social distancing and sanitization.**
- What is the difference between office hour and the intervention?
 - **Students/Parents can contact the teacher directly during office hours.**
 - **The teachers schedule students for intervention.**
- How will VL students get the same attention as F2F students? And vice versa? Will VL and F2F grading policy Be the same? How will teachers ensure that the online and in-person learning is equivalent? It will be easy to focus on students F2F and the online students be more disconnected. If the same teacher taught both virtual and F2F, will the students F2F have more preference since the teacher interact with F2F students directly, and likely will be more biased towards F2F students.
 - **A certified teacher will provide in-person instruction for students.**
 - **A certified teacher will provide virtual instruction for students.**
- What is the penalization policy for missed classes / class assignments due to not being let in to join TEAMS live class sessions?
 - **Students will not be penalized for difficulty accessing MS Teams. Please email the teacher directly to communicate issues and allow your child to review the recorded lesson and complete missing assignments in the HUB.**
- How TH Rogers makes sure young Elementary students wash their hands especially after using the restroom or before eating? Will there be supervisions to make sure they do properly? Will hand washing stations or hand sanitizer be available throughout the school and when will children be required to wash their hands? How will the school limit the amount of shared surfaces and what is the plan for regularly disinfecting surfaces throughout the entire school? What is the protocol for the lunch staff as it pertains to COVID19?

- Hand sanitizer dispensers are scheduled to be installed in each classroom and the cafeteria. We will also have at least two sanitization stations on campus.
 - All restrooms will be sanitized throughout the day. RDSPD and K-1 Vanguard students will use inner classroom restrooms.
 - Teachers and staff will limit the number of students who enter the restrooms and support with hand hygiene.
 - Students will wash/sanitize their hands upon arrival to class, after each restroom use, before and after lunch, after recess, and any other time considered necessary throughout the day. They will have access to soap and water and hand sanitizer, as appropriate.
 - Water fountains will not be used by students, except for filling water bottles, with adult supervision.
 - Parents are asked to inform the child's teacher if there is an allergy to hand sanitizer.
- If we opt for face to face next week can we back off any time before Oct 19. Likewise, can we opt for in person if we choose virtual now then change mind to in person? If we opt for face to face and find the school is not as safe as it's being presented, can we opt to go back to VL?
 - **The option to extend virtual learning for the 2nd six weeks ends Friday, September 25, 2020. Changes can only be made during the next window of time, which will allow you to choose your selection for the 3rd six weeks period.**
 - When and how will masks be required and how will the school support mask use? Will my child be allowed to wear their own mask? How many masks should a child bring each day?
 - **Yes. All students, staff, and visitors must wear masks or facial coverings at an HISD campus or facility. The district will supply 1 mask per student and staff member daily. Students can wear their own masks. If you choose to send an extra mask, you can do so. We do not encourage a student having more than 2 masks per day, 1 for before lunch and 1 for after lunch.**
 - Will there be a "Safety Supply list" distributed ahead of time (before in-person learning) begins so parents can make sure they purchase the correct types of hand cleaning items?
 - **No. The district/campus will supply items for building sanitization and personal hygiene. Parents are asked to send the disinfecting products that were included in the pre-ordered school supply kits.**
 - Will transportation be provided like a normal school Year? How the school is going to distribute kids at bus, if they said is going to be limited this year?
 - **Transportation will be provided to special education, homeless, and priority students. Once preliminary numbers for face-to-face instruction are known, transportation will be determined for other student groups.**
 - Will Afterschool care be offered this year for those who choose in-person learning? What precautions will there be during physical education, indoor choir, band, or theater to make these activities more safe? Can virtual learning students participate in afterschool sports when it begins?
 - **Extracurricular activities will follow the same safety practices employed on school campuses during the school day. School-based extracurricular activities will resume when in-person instruction begins. Face coverings must be made available to and worn by students and teachers during all extracurricular activities. Student sporting events are tentatively scheduled for the fall, but HISD Athletics will adjust plans as needed if COVID-19 conditions change. Fine Arts will reduce class sizes and maintain guidelines for**

- physical distancing. Students will not be allowed to share personal belongings, equipment or other items, including computers and uniforms.
- Yes, students enrolled in virtual learning can participate in after school sports/enrichment.
- Will outdoor air supply rates (ventilation) be increased in school buildings, including classrooms, and how will the school verify that ventilation is adequate?
 - **We are following the guidelines of American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for all HVAC guidelines and requirements. Where building automation exists, the rate of exchange has been configured to allow fresh air from outside the building to reduce recirculation. The facilities maintenance HVAC team as well as the facilities energy and sustainability (and DDC) team will continue to work together and will continue to monitor the HVAC systems to ensure the proper air flow and circulation are both achieved.**
 - Does the ventilation system use a filter with a rating of MERV 13 or higher for the air going into classrooms and has it been inspected or replaced recently?
 - **The filters used will vary based on the type of system/unit installed. High-efficiency filters may be appropriate for a campus; however, they may also be counterproductive. A high-efficiency filter may actually have a higher initial pressure drop and/or load with dust and particles very quickly, which may cause even greater issues with the system and how it runs as well as the air it is returning. A higher-pressure drop filter can also cause more air to bypass the filter. Depending on the system(s), a higher-pressure filter can lessen or reduce the amount of air supplied into the environment, making the filter less effective as well as causing other problems with other parts of the HVAC system. The facilities maintenance HVAC will perform more frequent filter changes.**
 - Will portable air cleaners with HEPA filters be used in classrooms and other relevant spaces in the school? Will the classrooms have humidifiers?
 - **No. We will use the existing HVAC systems.**
 - **Similar to the building filtration, there hasn't been a direct or clear evidence of the benefit of portable air cleaners for reducing the risk of infectious disease; however, there is some advantage that can be reasonably inferred for appropriately sized, well maintained, and properly operated portable HEPA filters. Some challenges to think about as it relates to HEPA filtration systems are: (1) the teacher would be responsible for cleaning (as this is not considered to be included in the custodial team's duties); (2) the cleaning would have to be done properly and frequently; (3) the system would need to have a maintenance plan; (4) the system would need to be checked for mold and mildew frequently; and (5) the system would need to be properly placed.**
 - Will any physical barriers (e.g., plexiglass) be installed in the school?
 - **Yes. Plexiglass will be installed in public spaces, office/reception areas, the clinic, and in one area of the classroom to allow for teachers to meet with small groups.**
 - Will the school consider using alternative classroom and lunchroom spaces?

- **An alternative classroom (outdoor learning space) is being considered but will likely not be operational by October 19, 2020.**
- **Elementary students will not use the cafeteria. We are developing a plan for middle school travel/passing time and lunch.**

- What would be the school timing? will it be 7.40- 3:15?
 - **We are still awaiting a response to this question.**

- Teachers often emailed to kids' HISD mail account. Is there any way to receive them to Mail App, other than outlook in office365.houstonisd.org?
 - **No, teachers can only email students using the HISD account.**

- Will choosing online learning put a student's enrollment in T.H. Roger in jeopardy?
 - **No, enrolling in online learning will not jeopardize a student's enrollment in T.H. Rogers.**