

Back-to-School 2020 FAQs

When is the **first day** of school?

School begins VIRTUALLY on Tuesday, September 8th.

When school opens for face-to-face instruction, will the community be informed of parameters and criteria used to decide if schools are open or closed?

The District will follow the TEA Guidelines. Pending an update on local conditions, students may have the option to return to face-to-face instruction on Oct. 19.

Once in-person instruction resumes, how will the school avoid the passing period stampede?

We are completely virtual right now, but once we know what in-person mandates are in place, we will proceed accordingly.

What do we do if we missed the phone call to select our **option of online or face to face**?

We will communicate with parents again before this needs to be decided.

Will the School Day **SAT** be administered this year?

Here is the current plan assuming in-person instruction is allowed:

Test	Grade(s)	Date
PSAT 8/9	8-9	(Window) Oct. 26-30, 2020
PSAT/NMSQT	10-11	Oct 29, 2020
SAT School Day	12 only	Oct 27, 2020

Will there be **Final Exams** this year?

Yes, there will be mid-terms and finals.

My student missed orientation. How can we find out what we missed?

View the video recordings here:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=13644&ModuleInstanceID=76201&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=296164&PageID=51578>

How do students connect with their **dean** (Called "Counselor" on PowerSchool)?

Send an email to your dean. Click [HERE](#) for the Staff Directory on our website.

How do students handle **recommendation letter requests** for college applications? Reach out to your dean and check in with the College Center by contacting

aturner1@houstonisd.org .

How do parents and students access student information on the new Student Information System/**HISD Connect** and create an account on the **Parent Portal**?

Access codes were sent to students' HISD email accounts and students must share the information with parents. Parents may set up their accounts right away. Student access will launch sometime this weekend before September 8th.

How does my child check their **student HISD email**?

Each Westside student has an HISD Office 365 account. Included in this account is the student's HISD Outlook email account. Students must check their HISD email account regularly to stay up-to-date on important district, campus, and course information. Click [HERE](#) or go to www.office365.houstonisd.org.

What do we do if my student did not receive an **email with an access code** in her HISD account?

Contact the student's dean for this information. Click [HERE](#) for the Staff Directory on our website.

PowerSchool **App requires a District Code**. Where can we find the District Code for the Power School HISDConnect App?

District Code for the PowerSchool App is NWJJ

Do **students have their own access** to HISD Connect?

Students will get their own access over the weekend before September 8th.

Where can we get more **detailed information about HISDConnect/PowerSchool**?

Go to the "Grades" icon on www.westsidewolves.org or click [HERE](#) to find details on the HISD site.

Is **GradeSpeed** still available?

No. The new Student Information System is HISD Connect/ Power School.

Can we **use our personal computer** for school?

Yes, but only while Virtual, and please check to make sure that you are able to access the HUB from your device. Once we return to face-to-face instruction, you will have to get a PowerUp laptop issued by the school.

Are students required to wear **uniforms** this year?

No. We will not require uniforms this year.

What is the **dress code for virtual school**?

For virtual learning students should be presentable. They should be dressed respectfully and ready to learn during class live sessions with cameras on.

How about **uniforms when we return face-to-face**?

We are currently not planning to return to full uniform this year. We will announce a standard of dress in more detail when the time comes.

Are students required to turn on their cameras?

Yes, it is highly encouraged to have cameras on to experience an authentic and interactive learning environment.

What do we do if we do not have our **student schedule**?

Go [HERE](#) for details on using your HISD Connect access codes to set up the Parent Portal. If you need assistance, you may contact your dean. Click [HERE](#) for the Staff Directory on our website. Additionally, schedules will be emailed to students' HISD email before school starts.

What do we do if my student needs a **schedule change**?

Submit a Schedule Change Form: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/202425291477052>

Will the **daily schedule** change when we resume face-to-face learning at school?

Find the daily schedule [HERE](#). Change is dependent upon District COVID mandates. Once it is determined, we will proceed accordingly. Most likely, our schedule will continue as it is, but parents can opt in or out of in-person learning.

Where in the schedule would **8th period** fit?

8th period will be following 6th on B days. The daily schedule is updated.

How will "**flex**" look like in the in-person setting?

It depends upon how and when we return to in-person learning. We will follow District and county COVID mandates. For now, we will utilize HUB assignments/activities.

When will teachers **add students** to their classes?

Classes are already loaded in Power School. Your parent can access this using the Parent Portal and students will get access over the weekend. You should also see your courses in the HUB. Teachers will not add you to teams by day one, you will have to log into your course and join the class through the HUB Calendar.

What do we do if we have a **computer or internet problem and cannot access classes**?
Students should communicate with their teacher to explain their absence via email or Teams from any device, including their cell phone. Also, please submit one of the following Tech Support Requests:

For one-on-one assistance for parents and students on accessing digital tools and how to navigate them, including the HUB, Microsoft Teams and Outlook.

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/WestsideHighSchoolInstructionalTech@houstonisd.onmicrosoft.com/boookings/>

For issues related to laptops, chargers, internet access, go to this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qi84fwjV11hITfWY6EmaGJ5xzSly1fPiV3eGzZZj-Xg/edit>

How do students **access the Hub**?

Go to www.westsidewolves.org and scroll down the left hand column and find The Hub under General Information.

Is there one place to access all the **digital tools** students need? Yes, you can access The Hub, Student email, Microsoft Teams and Google apps from this link:

<https://sites.google.com/houstonisd.org/whs-virtual-learning-plan/digital-tools?authuser=0>

How do students **get to virtual "Class"** and check in with their teacher?

You will access your course through the HUB Calendar. Go to www.westsidewolves.org and scroll down the left hand column and find The Hub under General Information.

Is **Band** practice starting along with sports?

No, at this time, only these 4 UIL programs are starting up: Football, Volleyball, Team Tennis and Cross Country

Who should we contact regarding **sports that are available now**?

Football: jmason@houstonisd.org

Volleyball: aking1@houstonisd.org

Tennis: Dgutier3@houstonisd.org

Cross Country: dguy@houstonisd.org

If **sports are meeting at 6am what happens if students do not arrive to their live Hub class on time**?

They should be given enough time to do so. However, all class sessions will be recorded and saved in the HUB by all teachers so that students can watch at a different time.

Are students going to be able to join **clubs** virtually?

Yes! We will be encouraging this.

When will the **school supply list** come out?

We do not publish a general school supply list. Individual teachers will request students obtain necessary items.

When students return, how will **lunch** be handled?

We will follow all COVID mandates.

Will **non-freshmen receive new school IDs**?

We will address this once we return face-to-face.

Who can we contact regarding **WEGA** (Westside Engineering & Geosciences Academy)?

Dean Toni Tinker is the WEGA contact. You can reach out directly to her at ttinker@houstonisd.org for any specific questions and she can direct you to the teachers as well.

Will **seniors still be exempt** from spring finals and participate in senior year events?

As of now, seniors who qualify will be exempt from spring finals. We are not sure if certain in-person events will be happening, but, we will have events for seniors to participate in!

Will the teachers be **teaching from their classrooms**?

During this virtual time, teachers will be able to have access to their classrooms as needed.

Can students ask for a **teacher change**?

Students may ask for a schedule change using the form on our website.