

As we begin our third week of virtual instruction at Benavidez, I want to provide you with some important information regarding your selection of either virtual or face-to-face instruction. I know this is an important decision for you all, so I wanted to provide some additional information. Please start by watching the videos below. I think these will give you the best idea of what to expect for a return to face to face instruction.

VIDEOS Below are links to 2 Videos:

- Video #1-An overview of school set up for face to face instruction: o English- <https://youtu.be/BtL7zzIIB6M> o Spanish- <https://youtu.be/O8YaQHWdEiw>
- Video#2-A video from Dr. Lathan discussing face to face instruction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O2PMINo6wo&feature=youtu.be>

KEY INFORMATION Face-to-face Instruction

- Face-to-face instruction is scheduled to begin on Monday, Oct. 19.
- Students will follow their daily schedule, including all courses selected and/or assigned.
- Hours for in-person learning will be 7:30 AM-3:00 PM
- Parents will have from Monday, Sept. 21 through Friday, Sept. 25 to make their initial selection.
- The selection can be made through HISD's Connect Parent Portal. Full instructions can be found at <http://www.houstonisd.org/learningOption>

In order to complete selection, please use the ACCESS CODE provided by your child's teacher. If you do not have the access code, please contact the front office at 713-778-3350 OR contact your child's teacher.

- Once a selection is submitted, the selection is final for the current six-week period and cannot be updated until the selection window is opened again.
- Students for which a selection has not been made by the deadline automatically will be selected for in-person learning for planning purposes.
- The number of students participating in face-to-face instruction will determine the type of schedule a campus will follow, such as a hybrid or rotating schedule.

Safety Measures for face-to-face instruction

- Physical distancing will be practiced in the classroom, hallways, common areas and throughout the building inside and out.
- Daily deep cleaning will occur throughout the campus with an emphasis on high touch surfaces.
- Temperature checks will be conducted daily for everyone on campus (faculty, staff, and students).
- If COVID-19 cases are identified, campuses will be closed/sanitized. Notifications will be provided to impacted parents and students if possibly exposed. Instruction will shift to virtual learning if the school closes.
- Students, staff, and anyone on campus, will always be required to wear masks, which will be provided daily. Students are allowed to wear their own masks.

Campus Management

- Classrooms must be reconfigured to ensure social distancing, with student-teacher ratios capped at one teacher for every 9 students.
- Students will have staggered schedules and alternate between in-person and virtual learning to accommodate the limitations. Student assemblies will be held virtually.
- All campus-based employees and students must follow infection and high-touch area protocols. Schools should limit visitors and assign a team to notify their communities of the updated visitation procedures.
- An isolation area will be created for students and adults who are flagged during entry screening.

HISD Bus Transportation

- 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.
- Transportation Services will enhance cleaning protocols and implement physical distancing for all buses and buildings.
- The department also will implement contingency plans for responding to student bus riders and bus drivers who develop a presumed or confirmed case of COVID-19.

Student Meals

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the classroom in elementary schools.
- Department employees will follow public health hygiene recommendations and enhance custodial cleaning and surface disinfection.

Additional Activities

- Students will be able to participate in recess, however students will wear masks. Playground equipment will not be used.
- We will continue to have ancillary class, however the social distancing guidelines will remain in place during recess. This means that the student to teacher ratio will be capped at 9.

Virtual Learning after face-to-face instruction begins

- Certified teachers will continue to provide instruction to students virtually.
- Students can interact with their teachers during short live lessons and ask questions/ receive feedback from teachers during virtual office hours.
- During virtual instruction, students will maintain a similar schedule as they would during face-to-face instruction
- We will work with the West Area Office to review space and numbers needed based on survey results to determine number of virtual teachers needed and where they will teach from.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Will uniforms be required? HISD has suspended the student uniform policy for the upcoming school year.

- Will visitors on school campuses be limited? Yes. Visitors will need to schedule an appointment in advance.
- What will happen if there is not enough space at Benavidez to accommodate in person learning? If 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.
- Will my child be able to keep the same teacher if we select face-to-face instruction? The goal is for students to keep the same teacher they had during virtual learning. However, it will vary based on the number of students who select the face-to-face option.
- Will HISD notify me if my child has been exposed to COVID-19? Affected students and families will be notified by their campuses if they have been exposed to COVID-19. HISD will follow all Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines and has established the information that will be shared with staff, students, and families regarding a positive COVID-19 case on campus.
- What will we do for arrival and dismissal? We are in the process of revising our arrival and dismissal plan. Once we receive the information regarding the numbers of students returning to face-to-face instruction, we will develop a plan that utilizes multiple entry and exit points to ensure that we are able to screen students and allow for social distancing.

ADDITIONAL HELPFUL DOCUMENTS Parent Guide

- English- <https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/52139/ReopeningParent-Guide-ENG.pdf>
- Spanish- <https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/52139/ReopeningParent-Guide-SPAN.pdf>
- English- <https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/52139/CDP-Fact-SheetENG.pdf>
- Spanish- <https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/52139/CDP-Fact-SheetSPAN.pdf>
- Arabic- <https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/52139/CDP-Fact-SheetARAB.pdf>

Lastly and most importantly, I want you to know that we are here to support you and your child. We understand that this is a difficult time and we want to work with you to make our transitions as successful as possible. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns and we will do our best to help you or your child in any way we can. We look forward to continuing to work with you this school year.