

Face-to-Face Instruction Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What day does face-to-face instruction begin?

A: Starting October 19, 2020, all students who selected in-person instruction for the 2nd 6 weeks will report to campus.

Q: What are school hours for face-to-face instruction?

A: School hours for students learning physically and virtually will be the same, and the school day will run from 8:30 am to 4:10 pm.

Q: What time will the building open for students each day?

A: The school doors will open at 8:20 am. Students should not arrive at school much earlier than that, no earlier than 8:15 am.

Q: Will my student ride the bus to school?

A: At this time, HISD is providing bus transportation for special education students and homeless students. If that changes and your student qualifies for bus transportation, you will be notified.

Q: Can my student walk to school?

A: Yes. It is important to remember to maintain social distance if coming to school with peers outside of your family, though. Also, students should keep arrival time in mind and aim to arrive at campus no earlier than 8:15 am.

Q: What happens when students enter the building?

A: Each student *must* enter the building through the main entrance and will have his/her temperature taken. Any student demonstrating a fever will be isolated, and a parent/guardian will be called to pick the student up from school.

Q: Will students change classes during the day?

A: Yes, students will change class periods throughout the day and have the opportunity to attend instruction offered from each of their teachers.

Q: How many students will be in each classroom?

A: At this moment, each classroom is set up with 10-11 student desks depending on size, allowing for 6 feet of distance between each student.

Q: What happens if there are more students in a class than there are desks for?

A: In the event that more students opted for physical instruction than a classroom can accommodate, students will attend that class period in a designated overflow space. They will still be able to access the instruction delivered by their teacher through Microsoft Teams.

Q: My student chose to remain virtual. Will they still have the same teachers?

A: Yes. It was very important to us to make sure that all SIS students remain with their SIS teachers. Teachers will be working with their physical and virtual students concurrently. To help facilitate this, teachers will still be incorporating lots of virtual interaction and instruction with their face-to-face students.

Q: We chose to attend face-to-face for the 2nd 6 Weeks. What happens if we want to change that decision?

A: Before the start of the 3rd 6 Weeks, parents will once again be asked for their commitment, and can choose to either go back virtual or stay face-to-face. However, students are able to move from one format to the other only at the start of a new grading period.

Q: How will meals work during the school day?

A: Students will receive breakfast in the classroom during first period. Students will be able to eat lunch in the cafeteria, but there will be no hot food option offered in the serving line. All students will be served individually wrapped meals. Students are welcome to bring their food from home but must realize they will not have access to microwaves. During lunch, students can eat in the cafeteria, the atrium, or the cafeteria courtyard, but will be seated at socially distanced tables facing in the same direction.

Q: Can I deliver food to my student at lunch?

A: No. Visitors to the campus will be extremely limited. For this reason, we cannot accept food deliveries either from parents or from food delivery services such as Door Dash, Grub Hub, Postmates, etc. If your student does not wish to eat the food from the cafeteria, they need to bring a lunch with them at the beginning of the day. All food deliveries will be turned away and the school will not reimburse families for money spent.

Q: What will the bell schedule look like?

A: All students, including students who remain virtual, will attend all 7 classes every day. An updated bell schedule is included on the SIS website. This bell schedule goes into effect on October 19. This is very similar to the traditional bell schedule students are used to from previous years.

Q: Will there be afterschool activities?

A: At the discretion of the sponsor, afterschool activities can resume on October 19, but participating students must continue to follow all safety protocols during practices, rehearsals, clubs, and tutorials.

Q: At the end of the day, how will students exit the building?

A: There will be staggered dismissal times to allow for distancing as students exit the building. Any student not participating in an afterschool activity must be cleared from the building at 4:10.

Q: Is my student required to wear a uniform if they are attending face-to-face classes?

A: No. The superintendent has waived all uniform requirements across the district for the 2020-2021 school year. However, student clothing must still adhere to free dress guidelines. These are posted and available on the SIS website.

Q: Is my student required to wear a mask?

A: Yes. All students and staff will wear a mask while they are at school. Masks can be reusable cloth masks, scarves, or gaiters. Bandanas cannot be used as a face covering. If a student does not have a mask, the school will be able to provide them with a disposable mask upon entering the building.

Q: How is the campus being kept clean while students are in the building?

A: The entire building, including all classrooms, is cleaned daily after students leave for the day. High touch areas, such as bathrooms, are cleaned hourly. High-traffic common areas, such as the cafeteria, are cleaned in between uses. Additionally, each classroom is supplied with disinfecting wipes to clean surfaces and desks between class periods. Each classroom also has a wall-mounted hand sanitizing station, and several mobile hand sanitizing stations are located throughout campus.

Q: What happens if a student or staff member starts feeling sick during the school day?

A: Any student or staff member experiencing symptoms typically associated with COVID-19 will immediately be isolated from the rest of the school population in a specially designated space. The school nurse will begin an investigation in conjunction with the HISD Health and Medical Services department. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the student may be advised to quarantine at home, as well as any others with which they might have been in extended contact. In some cases, the district may require the closure of the school building for a thorough cleaning and disinfecting.

Q: What happens if the school building must be closed?

A: The goal is to thoroughly clean the building as quickly as possible and return students to face-to-face instruction. As long as the building is closed, instruction will remain 100% online. School building closure does not mean instruction will be stopped. For this reason, all students should bring their device to and from school with them every day.

Q: If my student is required to quarantine at home will they be marked absent?

A: If your student continues to interact with classes virtually, your student will be marked present. This includes absences from school for run-of-the-mill reasons. As long as a student is able to engage with the class during the synchronous portion of the lesson or turn in an assignment by the end of the day, they will be counted present.