

Frequently Asked Reopening Questions

- Originally it was not mandatory for students to wear masks all day, only in certain situations. With the new state mandate given on August 4th for children to wear masks to school, I was wondering if this changes the protocol for students at FCA. Will my children now be required to wear masks all day at school?

We are waiting for the Governor's press conference to be transferred to an actual written order. So far, that has not been released, although we do expect it soon. We know that masks will be required. We hope there will be exceptions to also allow face shields in certain situations. Also, FCA has set up all classrooms for social distancing. It is possible that the official order will say that students may take a break from masks when social distancing can be achieved. We simply don't know until we see the actual written order. Update: The Governor's written order was released late in the day 8/13/20, so we will have our mask policy updated by the end of the day on 8/18/20.

- Knowing that my children have terrible seasonal allergies, how will a child who suffers from allergies, migraines or other common conditions be addressed without making them feel singled out or afraid to sneeze, cough, or blow their nose? Will my child be sent home because of a runny nose, headache or cough and how will you distinguish between Covid symptoms and these common occurrences?

Our school nurse will be working with students and families to answer these questions on a one to one basis. So, if your child's allergies kick in it would be best to contact the nurse and explain that, and provide her with any doctor's diagnosis. It would never be our intention to single out a student for any reason. The nurse will be making the determinations on who to send home and who not to send home. The list of symptoms is indeed challenging since they are also symptoms of many regular illnesses and allergies.

- If my child becomes sick will they be required to be tested for Covid?
Again, this will be something that the school nurse will be working with each family on. It is possible that the nurse may recommend that a child be

tested or visit their family doctor, but we don't see that being the automatic response. Of course, if a child is very sick it would be likely that they will be visiting their family doctor and the physician would be making a recommendation as to whether or not testing is needed.

- In the event that someone in their class tests positive for Covid, how will this be handled? Will all students in their class and siblings and teacher be required to be quarantined?

If a child tests positive, we will follow whatever instructions we receive from the Fairfield Department of Health. What we know is that instructions will be different for individual situations, depending on the length of exposure, the proximity of the student who tested positive, etc. If students have consistently kept 6 feet away from others, and have consistently worn a mask, they should not need to quarantine.

- What happens if a teacher becomes sick? Will her class be quarantined? Again, we will be following the instructions of the Fairfield Department of Health with any positive cases. If students have consistently kept 6 feet away from others, and have consistently worn a mask, they should not need to quarantine.

- Will the students who choose to do the online learning do the same work as the students who also receive in person instruction? Will online learning also be 5 days a week and will they be required to log in during specific times of the day or will they just have assignments to complete by a certain time? Will any classes be live streamed? How will classes like PE, art, computer and music be instructed or graded online?

Online learning will be available every day and will be as similar as possible to in-class assignments and instruction. It will include a blend of some recorded lessons and some independent lessons. At present, online learning will not include a requirement for a specific log in time; however, direct one on one teacher/student instruction will need to be scheduled in advance, so those times will be specific. It is likely that students will need to log their efforts with Fine Arts classes if they are doing them in the online format.

- Because most students will not be eating in the cafeteria will they still be able use the microwaves to heat their lunch?
Only those students eating in the cafeteria will be allowed to use the microwaves. At present that is students in grades 9-12. Hot lunch is still available for all students in grades K-12. Younger students will have their meals delivered to their classrooms if they purchase a lunch, and middle school students will go through the cafeteria line and immediately return to their classrooms.
- Will teachers be available to help students who choose online learning in the event that a student is struggling to understand a topic?
Yes, teachers will be available to help students with their work.
- Will incoming 7th graders still have lockers this school year? If so will they have time to learn to open them? This can be a new struggle and frustrating thing for them to deal with for the first time.
Yes, students in grades 7-12 will have lockers. Almost all of the first few days of school will be spent on procedures and getting to know one another again, and things like learning how to get into lockers 😊 Teachers have been instructed not to jump right into full content mode, to allow time for review activities and to see where kids are academically. We also want to provide ample time for adjusting. We know that they have missed their friends and we also recognize that getting back into the swing of things will take some time. All 6-12 students will be going directly to their homerooms when they enter the building. They will then be dismissed to go to their lockers in small groups.
- When will schedules be available?
6-12 Schedules will be released in InfoNow on August 20th and time will be given to students to learn their schedules in the first few days of school. We know how challenging this is and we want to make it as seamless as possible for the students. Elementary students will receive a welcome letter email from their teachers on August 20th.

- If students will be accessing their lockers less frequently throughout the day, how will they manage their school supplies?

Students will be allowed to carry backpacks and water bottles* with them throughout the day this year. This will allow for less congestion near the locker areas.

*any water bottle with water only