

GHAPS Elementary Schools

Return to School FAQs

Question	Answer
<p><i>What if we choose in-person learning, but we go back to Phase 3 and everyone is required to do 100% remote learning, and then we are allowed to return to school -- but I am not comfortable with my child returning to school yet? Can we continue to do remote learning with their classroom?</i></p>	<p>We are asking for families to commit to one option for the entire fall semester. In December, we will send another survey for continuing the spring semester. The spring semester begins on January 19, 2021. Teachers are either teaching in-person (with the at-home possibility if necessary) or moving to the entirely remote learning option. They can't do both effectively at the same time, with some students in class and some at home. If the In-Person Learning Option is chosen, students are expected to be in person as allowed by our state requirements. If you have concerns for the safety of your child returning in person at any point during the first semester, it would be better to select the 100% remote learning option, then re-evaluate what is best for your family in December. We know this is a hard decision and there are factors out of our control. We are asking for a one semester commitment so the multiple systems we are putting into place have enough stability to be successful. Teachers and students need time to become accustomed to new modes and routines with each other. It would be very difficult for everyone to shift gears in the middle of the semester and maintain the momentum of the curriculum.</p>
<p><i>Is switching to remote learning for any reason allowed at any point during the school year, or can that only be done at the beginning or semester change?</i></p>	<p>Again, for our teachers and students to achieve a sense of stability and the opportunity to gain momentum in learning, we are asking for a one semester commitment to one option.</p>

<p><i>If we are unsure and choose remote learning for one semester, can we then at the semester decide we want to continue remote? Or do you have to select one semester or whole year remote learning ahead of time?</i></p>	<p>Yes, you will have the opportunity to make the decision again in December and may choose to continue the spring semester in-person or 100% remote, regardless of what selection you made for the fall semester.</p>
<p><i>If you decide to send your children back to school at the semester change, will they still have a spot at their home school or is there a possibility they would have to go to a different building after being a remote learning student?</i></p>	<p>Yes, they will have a spot unless they are a school of choice student. If this is the case we will have to look at numbers at each grade level to decide on placement.</p>

Remote Learning Questions

<p><i>What will the remote learning schedule look like for elementary students, as far as start and stop times?</i></p>	<p>Specific details have not been released about the Regional Cooperative remote learning plan. We will have specific start dates soon.</p>
<p><i>For remote learning, what will a typical day look like? What can we expect in a day?</i></p>	<p>At this point, we cannot speak for what the consortium learning plan will look like exactly. What we do know is the Learning Platform for Y5 - 5th grade is based on Roadmaps by the University of Michigan.</p> <p>a) There will be specific expectations for both staff and students.</p> <p>b) There is a blend -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both recorded and live lessons, ○ Opportunities to be virtually face to face with teachers individually, in small groups, and as a class, ○ Designed for students to engage individually and collaborate in learning with others. <p>c) This Learning Platform is more teacher driven -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ parents/students are not trying to figure things out on their own, there is a digital roadmap of learning expectations/schedule to follow, ○ Still the advantage of flexibility of viewing recorded lessons and planning the child's learning around the family's needs. ○ d) This platform is a great tool for teachers to connect with and guide students and families while allowing 100% at home learning.

<p><i>Will it be as many hours as a typical day at school?</i></p>	<p>No, a family will not be expected to have their child on the screen at 8:45 and there until 3:45!! It will be a much more flexible learning mode.</p>
<p><i>Will it be pre recorded lessons, all on Zoom...etc?</i></p>	<p>It will be a combination of prerecorded lessons and live lessons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many individual and small group conferences will take place to help increase engagement and meet the child where they are at instructionally. ○ Structure provided with room for independence to move through lessons. ○ Flexible schedule for family's needs.
<p><i>If choosing remote learning, and if there are school photos, can your child participate in their home schools school photos and year book?</i></p>	<p>That is our hope, to include all faces regardless of the option they choose. How school photos will take place in general is still unclear at this point!</p>
<p><i>For children in the 100% remote option, is the school going to offer a social facetime with friends and teachers for their mental health?</i></p>	<p>Social and emotional health is important to us and we will make sure to establish routines and practices that incorporate and strengthen this wellness remotely, too!</p>
<p><i>If we choose virtual learning will my child be in a virtual classroom with other students from their elementary or grouped together with other elementaries?</i></p>	<p>Your child will be with a mix of Grand Haven students and possibly other students from different schools across the region. Teachers will be primarily Grand Haven teachers for Grand Haven students. Limited exceptions would be for highly specialized classes that might only have small numbers of students from a given district.</p>

<p><i>Will there continue to be assessments done to ensure my child isn't falling behind? Who will administer those assessments?</i></p>	<p>Yes. Assessments will be done in both Remote and Face to Face learning. Teachers have been working on an assessment calendar for remote learning. They will be in charge of both formatively and summatively assessing students in their class. Both methods provide ongoing measure of learning, growth, and mastery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formative assessments - ongoing and flexible assessments, designed to give feedback - what is working and where is help needed, focus on directing growth. ○ Summative assessments - evaluate student learning at the end of a lesson/unit/term, etc. ○ This will happen in both learning options to ensure children are being supported and challenged in their learning.
<p><i>Will specials be available virtually?</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>What specific plans are in place to maintain engagement and interaction for virtual learning?</i></p>	<p>The district is planning to have more live meetings with students. This includes small group and 1-1 interactions. The Roadmaps learning platform is a great tool that improves the online learning experience from what we had this past spring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It provides structure and independence ○ More personalized learning and opportunities for connections with teachers individually and in smaller groups. ○ Provides Flexibility with a daily schedule for lessons and check in times.
<p><i>If virtual learning is the option I choose, will there still be resources/resource teachers available for my child who needs extra assistance in reading, math, etc., through virtual meetings?</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><i>I hesitate to go remote because I worry about my child's social connections. Will remote learning also foster small group peer interaction (vs only large, whole class zoom meetings)</i></p>	<p>100% agree with you! Individual and small group instruction will be the majority of remote instruction. There will be very few whole class zoom meetings</p>
<p><i>My son was going to be getting tested/reviewed for a math learning disability. Will he still be able to receive this if he's remote?</i></p>	<p>We are still working out all the details with our special education director and every student's situation will be evaluated according to his or her needs. For specific questions, email our Special Ed Director Kate Augustyn - augustynk@ghaps.org</p>
<p><i>What about students who have an IEP? Can they choose the remote learning option?</i></p>	<p>Please refer to slide 6 of the GHAPS Return To School Plan Slideshow for more information.</p>

Regarding Teachers/Instruction/Expectations

If expectations/style of remote education will vary depending on the teacher and how they choose to run their classroom, I would like to be able to have that teacher assigned, talk to the teacher & learn those differences *before* I make my choice for remote vs. in person, if possible.

Consistency of expectations will be the same throughout the district to have cohesiveness between buildings and grade levels.

Hybrid Model Option

I haven't heard any mention of a hybrid option. Is this not something the district is considering?

There will be no hybrid option of part time, in person learning.

How Many are Considering the 100% Remote Learning Option

Does the district have any ideas as to how many parents are considering the virtual option? Another district released the percentage of parents who said they were strongly considering that route. Knowing that number might influence my decision because then I'd have a rough idea as to whether my daughter's classroom would be full, half full, etc.

We will find out when information is sent out for parents to choose. We suspect it will be about 10% or less of our total enrollment, but then again, we could be wrong :)

- When we surveyed our families, 3-4% said they would choose the remote option. I believe this number has grown since then.

Building Transition/Orientation

What kind of orientation will there be for our fourth grade students who are moving up to White Pines?

White Pines staff and administration is currently working on orientation and transition plans.

- Be sure to register for the White Pines parent email blasts! [CLICK HERE](#) and you will be prompted to enter your email address. If you already receive any building parent emails, you will be sent an email to update Your Preferences. You can choose whatever buildings and grade levels pertain to your family all in one place!

Attendance Policies

What about attendance monitoring - how is that going to work?

Attendance questions and policies are currently under review and being worked out in conjunction with the OAISD Truancy/Attendance Coordination Department.

Logistic Questions for In-Person Learning

<p><i>What is the district doing to protect the health of our children and teachers? Are decisions being driven by political forces or following science and doctors?</i></p>	<p>Science and doctors know best and that is who we will be following. Safety is our #1 concern and we are doing everything to create the safest learning environment for all to return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are in full cooperation and compliance, and have been and will continue to be in frequent communication, with the Ottawa County Health Department.
<p><i>Will children be going to different classrooms or are the teachers going to rotate?</i></p>	<p>No switching at all throughout the day. Students will remain in their classroom.</p>
<p><i>Will there be choir or band?</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>What happens to students who present symptoms during the school day?</i></p>	<p>We will be following guidelines from the Health Department. They will provide us with guidance on all of these questions. A sick room will be established to place a child until a family member can pick him/her up.</p>
<p><i>Aside from social distancing within the classrooms, what happens at lunch time or recess or other group activities outside the classroom where social distancing may become more difficult?</i></p>	<p>Students will remain with their classroom all day and will not be exposed to other students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lunch will be in classrooms ○ Recess will have boundaries for students to limit exposure to other students.
<p><i>Will transportation and/or open door services be available for those working families if school is held in person?</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><i>Will there be Specials?</i></p>	<p>Yes, Specials teachers will come into the classroom. Gym class will still be held in the gym or outside, weather permitting.</p>
<p><i>Will students still be able to get library books?</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><i>What bus and open door services will be provided, and what safety protocols will be in place for both if they are needed?</i></p>	<p>Both will be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bus- students will have assigned seats to limit exposure to multiple children. ○ Open Door- students will be socially distant and wear masks whenever possible.
<p><i>My child really hates wearing a mask and I can't get him to keep it on when we go places. I really want him to be in school if possible, but what happens if he refuses to wear a mask?</i></p>	<p>Masks will be required for the safety of all children. We will have mask breaks and there will be times in the classroom to take off masks.</p>
<p><i>Will school look and feel different for kids?</i></p>	<p>Yes, but we will make this new normal as routine as possible. Everyone will be utilizing the same protocols. This is not at all how we want to teach our students, either, but we trust these requirements are limited and designed to prioritize health and safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The positive side of the new in-person look is that each classroom will function as a close-knit family unit. new benefits will emerge under these conditions. ○ We look forward to a greater partnership with our families as we all work together to make the best of this situation!