

GHAPS Middle 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>

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?

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.

Remote Learning Questions

For remote learning, what will a typical day look like? What can we expect in a day?

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.

a) There will be specific expectations for both staff and students.

b) There is a blend -

- 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.

c) This Learning Platform is more teacher driven -

- 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.

Will it be as many hours as a typical day at school?

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><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>

Will there continue to be assessments done to ensure my child isn't falling behind? Who will administer those assessments?

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.

- 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.

Will specials be available virtually?

Yes. We are not offering our normal specials - there are elective courses in the virtual option but not band, choir, or orchestra as we know it in person.

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.

Building Transition/Orientation

What kind of orientation will there be for our 5th students who are moving up to White Pines and 7th grade students moving to Lakeshore

White Pines and Lakeshore staff and administration are currently working on orientation and transition plans to ensure the success of your student.

- Be sure to register for the White Pines and Lakeshore parent email blasts. You can complete this task by going to the GHAPS website and scrolling to the bottom of the main page. You will need to list your email and select the corresponding building and grade level. 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

<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>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.
<i>Will there be choir or band?</i>	<p>Yes. Our music department has been working closely to ensure a safe environment for our students. At this time, there will be no live performances.</p>
<i>What happens to students who present symptoms during the school day?</i>	<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>
<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>Masks will be required for the safety of all children. We will have mask breaks and there will be times where classrooms travel outside to take off masks while learning.</p>
<i>With both of the middle level buildings being a bit older, what is being done to address the air quality in the classrooms?</i>	<p>Both of the buildings had all of their classroom air handlers replaced during the remodel within the past 7 years. The filters to these air handlers are replaced each summer. We also have been working closely with our mechanical HVAC company and an environmental company to monitor our systems.</p>
<i>Will school look and feel different for kids?</i>	<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</p>

	<p>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 at White Pines is that each classroom will function as a close-knit family unit. New benefits will emerge under these conditions.○ Lakeshore students will have all six of their classes each day with staggered grade level passing. Students will not stay with the same cohort each hour due to the need to meet many individual educational needs.○ <i>We look forward to a greater partnership with our families as we all work together to make the best of this situation!</i>
<p><i>What alterations have been made to the passing times, lunches and after school to reduce the number of kids in the hallway and common areas?</i></p>	<p>At White Pines we have adjusted all of the regular passing times so that only one team (2 or 3 classrooms) at a time will be in the hallway. This reduces normal passing from 3 teams (9 classrooms). During the WPI lunch period we have divided the group into two parts (One that goes directly to recess, and the other that goes directly to lunch). This reduces the amount of people in each space by half. After school at WPI we will be dismissing in two different waves (The first group will be dismissed at 3:45 'First run busses, walkers and parent pickup' and the second wave will be dismissed at 3:50).</p>