



L.R. Johnson K-8 School of International Studies

Reopening Plan - School Year 20-21

Frequently Asked Questions

On July 14, the School Board approved three learning options that will be offered to students upon returning to Johnson K-8 on August 17th. These options include a five-day, on-campus instructional plan for parents who want their students to return to school full-time; a hybrid schedule where students mix on-campus learning with eLearning Manatee; and an option for parents who want their students to continue full-time eLearning.

Last month, all Johnson families were asked to complete a survey indicating whether your child would be returning to campus five-days a week or participate in 100% online learning. If you have changed your decision since completing the survey and have not yet informed the front office, we are asking that you call us as soon as possible. Parents can also now opt for the newly adopted hybrid option. The deadline for any changes is Wednesday, July 23 by 4:00 p.m. Our phone number is 941-741-3344. If you have NOT changed your decision, no action is needed.

Please see below for answers to frequently asked questions that may assist in your decision.

Q. On what day will the new school year begin?

A: The 2020-2021 school year will begin on Monday, August 17, 2020. That is one week later than originally scheduled. The School Board approved the change to allow school teachers and staff more of an opportunity to train and prepare for new protocols and procedures put in place specifically for this school year.

Q. What are the three school reopening options available to students?

A: The three Reopening plans approved by the School Board include a five-day, on-campus instructional plan for parents who want their students to return to school fulltime; a hybrid schedule where students mix on-campus learning with eLearning Manatee; and an option for parents who want their students to continue full-time eLearning.

Q: So students can return to full-time, on-campus learning when the 2020-2021 school year begins?

A: Yes. Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran's Executive Order 2020-EO-06 states that all school boards and charter school governing boards must open brick and mortar schools at least five days per week for all students subject to advice and orders of the Florida Department of Health. That means that all parents who want their children to return to full-time, on-campus learning will have that option available to them.

Q: Are all students required to return to 5-day, full-time, on-campus learning?

A: No. While Commissioner Corcoran's Executive Order requires all students to have access to full-time, on-campus learning five days a week, it does not require all students to return to full-time, five-day a week on-campus learning. Under the District's plans, parents have the option to have their children attend school five days a week; select a hybrid schedule where students mix on-campus learning with eLearning Manatee; or continue full-time eLearning through eLearning Manatee. All options are available to students in all grade levels.

Q: What do you mean by a hybrid plan?

A: Across the district, this model will include 2 days of instruction on campus (face-to-face) and 3 days virtual learning online. Students come to school on an AB schedule with Wednesday scheduled as an online day. On the e-learning days, students will check in to Schoology. Teachers will be provided with district-developed curriculum content. This would allow a seamless transition into distance learning. Standards-based grading expectations will be posted on Schoology by the teacher for each course. Grading will be based on grade level and course standards and specials offered during the regular school year will be offered. Students must complete virtual learning assignments in order to be prepared for the next day in school. The School District of Manatee County may issue computers; however, home internet will be necessary for online learning. For transportation needs, families will need to complete the application for Register to Ride if your child needs transportation for the on-campus days. **Final decisions to keep hybrid students scheduled separately from the 5-day On Campus students will be based on enrollment and capacity.**

Q. How does full-time eLearning work?

A: Full-time eLearning will be available through eLearning Manatee, which is designed for families who want to maintain their connection to their enrolled Manatee County school, yet don't feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to campus in-person learning this August. eLearning Manatee will include LIVE teacher instruction for daily lessons, as well as the same current assignments that brick & mortar students receive. In addition, eLearning Manatee students will be assigned a teacher from their enrolled Manatee County school and be able to participate in all school activities and events. All IEP/ESOL services will be provided. Teachers will post standards-based grading expectations on Schoology and grading will be based on grade level and course standards. Specials offered during the regular school year will be provided. The School District of Manatee County may issue computers; however, home internet will be necessary for online learning. Students will be able to participate in all school activities and events. eLearning Manatee is not an option for VPK.

Q. What happens if I don't inform my school or schools of my choice of a reopening plan for my child or children by July 23, 2020?

A. If parents don't notify their schools of their plan choices for their children by July 23, 2020, their students will be automatically placed into one of the reopening plan options. At Johnson K-8, students are not registered by July 23rd, will be automatically placed into the five-day, full-time return to on-campus learning.

Q: Can I change my child's instructional plan after the school year begins? For example: my student begins the school year on the hybrid schedule – but wishes to change to eLearning Manatee full-time. Is that possible?

Yes. All instructional plans will follow the same curriculum guides, standards and pairings. Parents can move their student from one plan to another at the quarter. To make such a change, parents must contact their school.

Q. Will all students and district employees be required to wear face masks or face shield coverings?

A. Yes. Face masks or shields are required when students and employees are in school district buildings or on school buses. Face masks and shields will also be worn

when outside on school grounds or property unless students are participating in recess, physical education or some other organized outdoors activity where social distancing is practiced. Cloth masks will be provided to all faculty, staff and students. Students should follow dress code rules for face mask coverings in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and Board Policies.

Q. Will students with special needs or medical conditions be required to wear a mask?

A. Medical conditions and IEPs will be addressed individually when it comes to face masks or shield coverings. Please contact your child's school for more information.

Q. Will students be required to wear face masks or face shields on school buses?

A. Yes. In addition to face masks, school buses will be cleaned daily between school routes.

Q. How will I receive confirmation that my child's Register to Ride registration was received?

A. Parents are encouraged to download the "Where's the Bus" application or check the Transportation tab on MySDMC Focus app in August. Bus assignments will also be available to families who call the School District of Manatee County Transportation Department at 941- 782-1287 (1BUS).

Q. What happens if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at a school?

A. If a school has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County will be contacted. Parents and employees of the school will also be informed, although specific information pertaining to the confirmed case cannot be released due to HIPPA, FERPA and ADA laws. Any students or staff members exposed to a confirmed case will be notified and will be subject to 14-day isolation from date of the last known exposure. Exposure occurs when a positive case was in direct contact with a staff member or student for at least 15 minutes (within teaching and learning environments). Once a case is confirmed, a portion or portions of the school, or the entire school will be closed for cleaning and disinfecting for 2-5 days depending on the exposure and the parts of the school affected. Actions will be taken

on an individual basis based on the circumstances at each school. An outbreak of multiple positive cases in a school may close the entire school.

The procedures above will be the same for confirmed cases in school support sites. When a school closure occurs, all students will be required to continue their daily instructional schedule and academic lessons through our eLearning Manatee platform. The full array of IEP/ESOL services will continue to be provided.

Q. What if a student or employee has symptoms, but is not a confirmed case of COVID-19?

A. If a student or employee is not feeling well, and exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or believes they may have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 72 hours, they should stay at home and not enter a school or district building. The employee or parent of a student should call the school, remain at home and call the Florida Department of Health Manatee County at 1-866-779-6121 and visit a county Covid-19 testing facility immediately.

Q. What safety practices or changes can students and employees expect when schools reopen?

A. Health staff and other designated staff using Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will conduct daily screening of all employees and random students prior to them being admitted to a school or district worksite. Once the district has the capability to screen all students prior to admittance to school campuses those practices will be initiated. If an employee has a temperature of 100.4°F or higher, cough, or shortness of breath, they will not be admitted into the building. If a student has any of the above symptoms, they will be kept in a designated isolation room while waiting to be picked up by a parent or guardian. Visitors to schools or district support sites will be strictly limited until further notice.

Q. Will the district distribute computer devices to students for eLearning purposes? Will internet be provided?

A. Yes, students who do not have a computer device and choose eLearning Manatee will be issued a device from their enrolled school. We cannot guarantee that internet will be provided. Families opting for eLearning should have a plan in place for having consistent internet connection.

Q. Will after-school programs such as extended day enrichment programs still be offered?

A. Yes, extended day programs will be offered during the 2020-2021 school year. Guidelines and details will be available at a later date.

Q: How will you ensure that students not attending brick and mortar schools five-days-a week will still receive meals?

A. Food and Nutrition Services is ensuring a plan is in place to accommodate all School District of Manatee County students.

Q: Will COVID-19 testing be a requirement for employees and staff?

A. COVID testing is optional and not a requirement for employees and staff.

Q. Will my student attending hybrid learning interact with students who are going to school daily?

A. Yes, students who are attending the hybrid plan will interact with students who opt in to 5 days a week. We will practice safe social distancing when possible and require facial coverings to adhere to the CDC guidelines. Our goal in all options is to minimize the number of students in any campus area at a time.

Q. Can my student attend events/clubs/etc.?

A. Yes. Students in any of the 3 learning options may participate in all school related events. These activities will follow all CDC guidelines and social distancing protocols when possible.

Q. How will electives occur in an E-Learning environment?

A. The teachers and curriculum department will work on creating lessons so that the courses are engaging and rigorous for all three options.

Q. Will there be activities, athletics, and clubs? Who will be able to participate?

A. Students on any of the three plans can participate in athletics, activities, and clubs. We will continue to work on the details and share those soon.

Q. What will the school day look like?

A. Transitions between classes will be coordinated to attempt to minimize student interactions. Social distancing and hand washing will be encouraged and implemented when possible. Classes and room sizes vary and the furniture will be arranged to maximize social distancing, although 6 feet will not always be possible. Therefore, face coverings play an important role in reducing the risks to our students, teachers, and staff. Middle school students will have a 7-period bell schedule each day. Lunch times and locations will be adjusted to minimize student interactions.

Q. What additional steps are being taken to address the health and safety of students and staff on campus?

A. We have increased the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout campus so that hand disinfecting is convenient to all students and staff. We will emphasize and teach proper hand washing and sanitizing to all students and staff at the beginning of the year. Our custodial staff are increasing the supplies given to our staff on campus for cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day, as well as implementing additional disinfecting procedures daily for frequently touched surfaces. Students are welcome and encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer/wipes to use throughout the day. While we are providing a cloth mask to each student, they are welcome to wear their favorite face covering from home to use while on campus in accordance with District requirements. Please wash your face coverings on a daily basis as they may be contaminated with contagion.

Q. Will there be opportunities for students and families to learn more about Schoology and eLearning expectations?

A. In August, we will be reaching out to families who have selected the eLearning and Hybrid option for more information. We will also be preparing tutorials to demonstrate where to find course materials and content in Schoology, as well as how to complete work in the learning platform.