

## Alternate Return to School Proposal The 1/2 Day Model

Original state guidelines for the green phase suggested social distancing of 6 feet “where feasible.” To bring all students back in green, we planned to use WHO distance requirements which were less than six feet to make it work; however, the recent mask/social distancing requirement is causing us to go to a system that would only have half the students in the building at one time to meet those requirements.

On July 14, principal Randy White, put forth a proposal to run kindergarten classes during 2020-2021 using the half-day model used previously for many decades. Upon consideration of the advantages to this approach, it was determined that it may be a better model for the entire elementary school. Upon even further consideration, it appears that the model may work for grades K to 12 with modifications for high school. (skip to section on high school).

The 2020-2021 school year

Here is how the 1/2 day schedule would work for K-8:

- A. Students would attend school either just in the morning or just in the afternoon.
- B. Students would attend every day whether in the green phase or the yellow phase.
- C. Whether a student attends the morning or afternoon would be based on last name. If any students in the home has a last name A-J, all students in that home would attend in the morning and K-Z in afternoon.)
- D. During the part of the day that students are home, they would complete online assignments or in the case of middle school students, take their social studies and science
- E. Elementary and middle school students would have similar schedule, riding the same busses:

Schedule **TENTATIVE-may be tweaked for bussing purposes**

	High School	Middle School	Elementaries
<b>Morning Session</b>	7:45 - 10:20	8:45 - 11:15	9:00 - 11:35
<b>Afternoon Session</b>	12:20 - 2:55	1:10 - 3:40	1:20 - 4:00

Advantages of this approach are:

1. Classes will always be small allowing for social distancing.
2. With social distancing achieved, students would not be required to wear masks all day (but there still would be some times they are worn such as on the bus and in common areas and whoever less than 6’ from someone)
3. This approach eliminates the need to put students in the cafeteria where social distancing is nearly impossible. Students on free and reduced lunch would be given a bag lunch to take home or upon arrival for the afternoon session.
4. Students would have daily contact with teachers which will help with online learning.
5. The establishment of routine, which is very important for children's learning and development, can be achieved.
6. There is consistency for parents to know when childcare is needed.
7. Children will be in small groups of 10-12 students.
8. Shorter day allows for less exposure - contact tracing is easier.
9. Rooms can be sanitized between sessions.
10. Mental health will be improved by students not being so enclosed and socially distanced and managed for a long day.
11. No transitions to other places in the school required - contact tracing minimized.

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12. This would split the number in half of students on our buses
13. More controlled transition for all students and parents during pickup/drop-off and busses at the beginning and end of each day.
14. More one on one time from the teacher for each student
15. Smaller class sizes
16. No Recess=Less outdoor staff management (difficult with social distancing)
17. Special area teachers can push into classroom and support classroom teacher in their specialty area. Co-teaching could occur which would also help with an expected substitute teacher shortage.
18. Teachers will have more time to create online lessons for their grade level giving more flexibility for preparation for online instruction for all our classrooms.
19. More flexibility for all staff to help support with anticipated increased teacher absenteeism due to the virus.
20. Decrease in behavior problems
21. Students will get direct instruction in reading and math **every day**. While other subjects are also important, these two skills must be developed well in the early years and success transfers to all subjects.

### Disadvantages:

1. Increased transportation costs.
2. Fewer parents can transport to the afternoon session.
3. Loss of revenue in cafeterias
4. At the elementary level, focus would be only on reading and math. (No specials)
5. Only language arts and math would be done live at the middle school with science and social studies being done online. (No electives)
6. Parent responsibility for child care in the morning or afternoon, **but not for a whole day every other day**. (possibly an advantage for some?)
7. Students are not in school full time but under current conditions/regulations, that is not possible at this time. Additionally, all students in school increases likelihood of exposure which can result in school shutdown, if widespread.

### High School:

The depth and breadth of classes at the high school contribute significantly to a high school student's future and career choice. In order to allow students to get a full schedule of classes while keeping everyone safe, the high school has developed a comprehensive plan that allows students to take all courses they need for their career goals and graduation credits. A separate plan is available.