

## Answers to Parent-Submitted Questions

**Disclaimer:** These answers are based on the most current information available as of the date of this posting (August 17, 2020); however, pandemic information changes rapidly, and the answers to these questions may change as new information becomes available. Every effort will be made to inform parents as new information becomes available.

### Category: Health and Safety Protocols

**What is the school doing to prevent the spread of COVID-19??**

- Requiring face coverings, socially distancing six feet apart whenever possible, implementing one-way hallways, and hand washing (or hand sanitizing) regularly for 20 seconds are examples of some of our new health and safety protocols.
- We will be teaching and practicing these new procedures to students during the four-week phase in and throughout the school year.
- COVID-19 prevention really begins with the self-screening process, and we cannot emphasize this point enough. Parents and guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school. We are asking the same from our employees. All staff members will conduct a self-screening each day prior to coming to work. The symptoms that we are asking you to screen for can be found on the Pearland JH South website.
- If you are sick, or if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms in a way that is not normal for you, stay home. Students in Pearland ISD who stay home due to COVID symptoms but are physically able to log in to Canvas and work could participate in remote asynchronous instruction from home and still be counted present, so there really is no reason to risk your health or the health of others by coming to school if you are sick.
- At school, teachers will monitor students and refer students to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Any student with a temperature 100 degrees or greater and/or showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be treated as a possible positive case.
- Symptomatic students will wait in a designated isolation room and are monitored until a parent/guardian arrives for student pickup.

**What happens if a student/staff member contracts COVID?**

- Pearland ISD is cooperating with and following the recommended protocols from the Brazoria County Health Department and the Texas Department of State Health Services.
- In the event that PJH South has a lab-confirmed positive case, campus administration will contact trace to determine if any individuals came into close contact with the lab confirmed positive, and we will notify those individuals so that they can contact their health care provider and isolate. There will be a lot of assigned seating this year, even in the cafeteria, to allow us the ability to contact trace should the need arise.
- Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a lab-confirmed positive individual for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes or more.

- **In the event that PJH South has a lab-confirmed positive case, staff and parents will be notified. Obviously, for confidentiality reasons, we would not disclose the individual's name, but parents will be notified if there is a lab confirmed positive case on campus.**

### **Phase-in process**

**Can you explain how the four week phase-in process will work?**

- **We want to emphasize that school starts for all learners, both on-campus and remote, on August 31.**
- **For remote learners, it's pretty simple. They log on to Canvas every day to each class and complete the daily instruction, activities, or assignments that the teacher has posted for the day. During the phase-in period, the activities in Canvas do not have to be completed live, during the time the class is meeting at school, but they do need to be completed daily in order for the student to be counted present.**
- **For on campus learners, ¼ of the on-campus students will attend one day a week for weeks 1 and 2, and then ½ of the on-campus learners will attend two days a week for weeks 3 and 4.**
- **The phase-in calendar, which explains which group of students attends each day, alphabetically by last name, is posted on the PJH South website.**

### **Remote Learner Orientation**

**Can you explain what the remote learner orientation will look like and who should attend?**

- **Our remote learner orientation will be delivered virtually on Thursday, August 27.**
- **Parents of remote learners can expect to receive an e-mail from each of their child's teachers with an invitation to participate in a Zoom meeting for each class on August 27 at the scheduled class start time.**
- **A parent/guardian is encouraged to attend the meeting with their student.**
- **During the Zoom meeting, teachers will show students how to log in to Canvas, discuss class procedures and expectations, and answer any questions that students may have.**

### **Technology**

**Is a particular brand/touchscreen required if I buy my child a laptop?**

- **There is no "requirement" of brand or touchscreen. The district website lists the required device specifications**
- **The following is a summary of the technology requirements: Broadband Internet access, laptop or desktop computer for use during each school day (touchscreen laptop preferred), access to a microphone and camera on the device.**

**Below are the specifications for the Dell laptops that the district is purchasing for the 1:1 initiative.**

[https://www.pearlandisd.org/cms/lib/TX01918186/Centricity/domain/67/onetoone/1to1\\_Specs.pdf](https://www.pearlandisd.org/cms/lib/TX01918186/Centricity/domain/67/onetoone/1to1_Specs.pdf)

[https://www.pearlandisd.org/cms/lib/TX01918186/Centricity/domain/4384/documents/GeneralOverview1\\_1.pdf](https://www.pearlandisd.org/cms/lib/TX01918186/Centricity/domain/4384/documents/GeneralOverview1_1.pdf)

**Can my child use a Chromebook or does it have to be windows?**

**The district does not recommend Chromebooks because of the heavy use of Microsoft Office applications.** However, if the student has access to the browser and is able to download the Microsoft 365 apps, including Teams, the device should work. I do want parents to know that the district Technology Department will not be able to troubleshoot issues or repair any device not owned by the district.

**If I marked “Yes” that we had a device during online registration, can I still request a laptop for my child?**

Yes. Please go back into the Skyward online registration and edit question one.

**If laptops are not available the first day of school and we don’t have a device, what should we do?**

The technology department is working hard to provide temporary devices in the event that the 1:1 devices are not available before the first day of school. The district will start with the list of families who needed technology in the spring first, but we know that there are likely additional families that need technology now. Please fill out the form that was sent through Skyward to identify that your student does not have any access to technology during the first week of school.

**Once they arrive, how will the 1:1 laptops be assigned and distributed?**

Once the 1:1 devices are in, the Technology department will schedule a date and time to be at each campus for face to face learners. Remote learners will have scheduled distribution that coincides with the campus distribution but will be a drive through pick up at the Pearland ISD Education Support Center.

### **Canvas**

**Will all teachers be using Canvas this year? Any other programs?**

- **Canvas will be the learning management system used for junior highs. Any other programs that students might need to access, such as Microsoft Teams, can be accessed through Canvas. Parents are not required to purchase any additional software.**

**How will teachers meet students remotely?**

- **Teachers will meet with students remotely using Microsoft Teams, which is a video conferencing app.**

**How will tutoring be offered for face to face/remote students?**

- **We will offer virtual tutoring before school. Teachers will have designated tutoring days from 8:00 – 8:30 AM. Students may access the virtual tutoring by joining the teacher’s Microsoft TEAMS meeting from school or at home.**

### **Course Selection**

- **If I chose remote learning for my child and an elective needs to be changed, will I be notified and provided alternatives?**

Below are the only PJH South classes not offered to remote learners. If your child is a remote learner and was scheduled for one of the classes below, the counselors will place your student in their 2<sup>nd</sup> choice elective from course selection.

Campus	Course Name	Course Number
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	CHOIR MIXED 7	107078
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	CHOIR MIXED 8	108078
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	COUNSELOR AIDE	149004
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	LIBRARY AIDE	149005
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	MATH 180	TBD
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	OFFICE AIDE	149006
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	PRINCIPAL AIDE	149007
PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH	STUDENT AIDE	189199

**When and how will the children get their schedules this school year?**

- Junior High schedules will go live in Skyward on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Will class sizes be limited?**

- Class sizes are limited, but they are limited based on the percentage of students that chose on-campus learning at each school.
- Currently, we are close to 50% on-campus and 50% remote. If that percentage stays the same until September 28 when all on-campus learners attend face to face, then we predict that a typical core academic class, like English/Language Arts or Math, will have about 12 on-campus learners in each class.

**Can my student participate in extra-curricular activities, like athletics or fine arts if s/he is a remote learner?**

- Yes. They would be a remote learner during the school day, and then they would arrive at school at a specified time for practice. All on-campus practices will be after school, and the coach or director will notify the students what time they need to arrive on campus for practice as well as any other specifics. We are looking at staggered arrival times for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade athletes to limit the number of students in the locker room at the same time. This information will be communicated to parents by the coaches.

### School Supplies

**Is there a set school supply list for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>?**

- Yes, school supply lists are posted on the PJH South campus webpage.

**What supplies do face to face learners and remote learners need?**

- The instruction from home should be the same as the instruction at school, so most school supplies should be the same for on-campus and remote learners.

- On-campus learners will need a backpack to carry their laptop, a water bottle (because the water fountains will be closed), and a pair of earbuds to block out other people talking during virtual class discussions.

### Dress Code

- The dress code can be found on the Pearland ISD website under the students tab. It is basically unchanged for this school year, with the exception of the required face covering.
- We understand that for those who have stayed home due to COVID concerns, it may have been difficult to purchase school clothes this year, and we will be as understanding as possible with dress code at the start of the school year. The one clothing item that will not be relaxed is shorts. Shorts will not be allowed at the junior high.
- The dress expectations for remote learners is the same as for on-campus learners.

### IDs

- We are going to require IDs for on-campus learners. Students who purchase a school lunch will scan the ID to pay for their lunch. We will issue IDs within the first two weeks of school. Until then, students will be able to tell the cashier in the cafeteria their ID number to purchase their school lunch and the cashier will enter the number. The cashier will be the only one touching the keypad.