



The ExplorisSM School
Empowering Learners To Improve Our World

Frequently Asked Questions: Re-Opening 2020

Why are the plans called A, B, and C? Which plan are we using?

Plans A, B, and C have been named by the State of North Carolina. Each school has been asked to develop these three plans. We will receive guidance from the state level about which Plans we are allowed to implement. As of July 13, 2020, Exploris has not finalized which of the three plans we will be using to begin the year. Guidance from the governor is expected soon.

How much are we following the plan of WCPSS?

We are not required to follow any of the plans of WCPSS. We operate as our own independent “district.” We are not part of any of Wake County’s programs, however we are mindful of how their plans and scheduling impact families.

What measures are you taking to keep students safe?

We will be using a number of changes to keep students safe:

- Temperature checks everyday at arrival
- Every adult and student will be required to wear a mask
- Hand sanitizer dispensers and air purifiers in every classroom
- Students will leave their classroom only for the bathroom or outside time
- Students will spend more learning-time outside
- The number of people per room is determined based on the square-footage of each room and its capacity for physical distancing
- Plastic screens will be installed on long tables to allow students to sit at either end of the table and maintain 6 feet of distance from their tablemate
- Visitors will not be allowed in the building
- For more information see our [Plan B Information Document](#)

Who will be cleaning the school and how often?

The school will be completely disinfected via a professional-grade fogging at the end of July. We have hired a new professional cleaning team which will thoroughly sanitize each day.

Will kids be able to walk up to the entrance as usual or do we have to use the carpool lane?

At the elementary campus, students will be required to arrive via the carpool lane. Walk-ups will not be allowed. If your student bikes to school, they can bike through the carpool lane.

At the middle school, we will have designated entrances and screening points. There may be some changes to middle school arrival procedures.



How will 504 Plans and IEPs be implemented?

IEP services and accommodations will be implemented as outlined in a student's plan while in the physical school building and in an appropriately applicable way during virtual learning. These plans will be implemented and coordinated by your child's assigned case manager at the beginning of the school year.

What does the A/B schedule look like? If I opt for 100% remote, what teachers will I have?

The grade levels will each be split into Group A and Group B. Group A students will learn on campus for two weeks, while Group B students will learn remotely. Then, the groups will switch locations. Any student who opts for 100% remote learning will be assigned to a crew as usual. They will learn with their cohort when that group is remote, and then join the other grade level cohort when their crew is in-person.

Will teachers be available for support during remote learning?

Yes. Teachers will communicate regularly in multiple ways and be accessible.

Will remote learning include live meetings via Zoom or other platforms?

Yes. Live learning will be an essential part of school. Teachers will implement various live experiences such as lessons and crew meetings.

For families who choose 100% remote, will there be opportunities for in-person, socially-distant interactions?

This decision will be determined by individual grade levels based on the number of students involved in 100% remote learning, the comfort level of teachers and families, and the developmental needs of the students.

Will there be before and after school care?

Unfortunately, at this time we cannot provide before or after care if Plan B is implemented. We are reducing the number of people each student comes in contact with, and these programs mix multiple grade levels together.

Will there be an increased level of academic learning via remote learning compared to Spring 2020?

Exploris is committed to educational excellence. We quickly and successfully implemented a virtual learning environment in the spring during a crisis situation. The state suspended grades, testing, and attendance. However, in the fall we will implement virtual learning in a manner that is more similar to in-person learning including grades, testing, and attendance (unless directed otherwise by the state). When learning remotely, students will be expected to attend school, complete assignments, revise their work, and participate in the full curriculum.



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During in-person instruction weeks, are school hours the same as they have been for previous years?

Yes. It is possible that arrival will take longer than usual due to screening procedures. The school hours are:

Elementary: Arrival 8:10-8:30; Dismissal 3:15-3:40

Middle: Arrival 7:55-8:10; Dismissal 3:15-3:30

While on campus, will the elementary school kids be able to play with their friends?

We will provide as much outside recess time as possible. Students will be required to observe a “no-touch” rule during outside play.

What criteria determines who is in Group A or B?

The groups have been determined based on the following factors: keeping sibling groups on the same schedule, the needs for exceptional children, keep the children of our staff on the same schedule as their parent, and keeping carpool groups together as much as possible.

Do all students need to wear a face covering?

Based on guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, some students in kindergarten and first grade may have adjusted hours and strategies for mask wearing based on their developmental needs. Any student who cannot or does not wear a mask will need to learn remotely. Masks may be removed for outside play and lunch.

Acceptable face coverings are paper or cloth masks that cover the mouth and nose and do not have a valve/vent and balaclavas.

How can I help my child prepare to wear a mask all day?

Here are a few resources:

- [How to Help Kids Embrace Mask-Wearing](#)
- [How to make Face Masks More Comfortable for Kids](#)
- [Five Ways to Help Your Child Understand Social Distancing](#)

What if my child can't be present for live video meetings?

If needed, prearrange with the teacher to have academic classes recorded for later access or parent-guidance.

With Exploris' unique learning techniques (collaboration, group learning, etc.) what is the environment going to be like on campus?

We will include these things as much as possible, and as safely as possible in both in-person and remote learning.



How will you be taking requests for carpool tracks?

We will include this question in the July 14 family form.

What is the deadline for deciding to go remote?

A form will be sent on July 14th requiring families to select 100% remote or 50% remote, if Plan B is in place. Responses should be submitted July 20th.

If we begin the year in person, can we switch to online at any point?

Yes, you will be able to work out this switch with your campus Associate Director and your children's teachers.

Who will need to stay home if a student on campus needs to be quarantined?

This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis dependent on the level of exposure and contact and in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines.

If a family decides to opt for 100% remote, is there any chance they can rejoin in-person learning as the year progresses and things change with the virus?

Families who elect to stay in 100% remote learning would stay in that program unless there is room to add the student back on campus under plan B or until we move to Plan A. Once we know the numbers of students who are electing to stay fully at home, we will build the on-campus cohorts. Those numbers have a finite aspect to them, since we will only be able to have a certain number of students physically in the classroom at one time. We will also be using these numbers to allot our staff to online or in person instruction, so we'll need those numbers to be stable for at least a trimester at a time. We would certainly do our best to accommodate kids who wanted to change from remote to hybrid remote/in person, but we'll need to ask families for flexibility and to understand that these constraints may make it difficult to honor a request to move from fully remote to hybrid immediately.

Is the HVAC going to have fresh air intake?

Our HVAC already allows for fresh air intake to ensure circulation. We are also adding high quality air purifiers to each room.