



**Columbia**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## **Return to In-Person Learning Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do I check my student's bus route?**

If you indicated you would need transportation to and/or from school, a route and bus stop has been assigned. If you need to make a change or do not have a stop assigned, please contact your child's school. [Find my Bus Route](#)

While the district is providing transportation to eligible riders, families are still encouraged to provide their own transportation, if possible, to reduce the number of students on the bus. Social distancing will be difficult to achieve on a school bus. Students are required to wear a mask on the bus. If a child arrives at the bus without a mask, one will be provided.

### **What are the start times and end times for my student's school?**

CPS schools do not all have the same start and end times. Please check to see what times your school is in session. [What time does school start?](#)

### **What about my student's school supplies?**

#### Elementary

Your child's teacher will provide you with a list of items to return to school. If you have additional questions, contact your teacher or your child's school.

#### Secondary

Middle school and high school supplies are course-specific. Your child's school or teacher(s) will provide information on any school or course-specific supply needs.

### **What do I need to know about school meals?**

All students are eligible for one free breakfast and one free lunch now until June 30, 2021. The Free and Reduced-Priced Meals Application is NOT required to receive FREE meals at this time, however, completing the application may make you eligible for additional benefits. More information can be found here:

[www.cpsk12.org/nutritionservices](http://www.cpsk12.org/nutritionservices)

You may want to keep some money in your student's My School Bucks account because a la carte items such as juice, ice cream, etc. are not included in the free breakfast and lunch meal offering. If you have auto-pay set on your student's My School Bucks account, you may want to log in and turn it off. Unused amounts will roll over at the end of the year to the next school year.

Elementary students will eat meals in their classrooms. If your child has a food allergy, accommodations will be made and shared with you. Each middle school and high

school has a plan for lunch to try to reduce group sizes and create as much distance as possible. Look for that information directly from your child's school.

Grab and Go meals will be available for pick up for virtual students and will be available to in-person students on Wednesdays. Grab and Go meals will only include lunch at this time. Additional information on Grab and Go is available here:

[www.cpsk12.org/grabandgo](http://www.cpsk12.org/grabandgo)

### **When will my elementary student have specials?**

Specials include physical education, media, music and art. A calendar has been developed to designate calendar days as an A, B, C, or D day. This plan ensures that all elementary specials will be taught by a qualified specialist and reduces the number of students a specialist will see over a 14-day period. Each building classroom teacher will know and communicate to students and families which specials class (art, music, media, or physical education) they have on any designated day.

### **What does the 2-day hybrid for secondary students look like?**

The 2-day hybrid for middle school, high school and Career Center students divides the student population in half, to achieve physical distancing in our classrooms. Students in Group 1 will receive in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday and Group 2 will learn from home. Students in Group 2 will receive in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday and Group 1 will learn from home. Learning from home will include a zoom check-in or 15-30 minutes of instruction for each class period depending on the class or lesson taking place, with the remaining class time used to complete online curriculum with limited teacher interaction. On Wednesdays, all students will have assigned work to complete, but will not have live teacher instruction.

### **How do I know what group I am in? *(middle and high school students only)***

In general, Group 1 will be for students with last names beginning with A-K, and Group 2 will be students with last names beginning with L-Z. The district developed groups at the beginning of the year and took into consideration family needs, special requests from parents, and balancing of groups to manage class sizes at that time.

*\*\* Note: Group assignments were originally sent out to families at the beginning of the school year and are available in Home Access. Since that time some families have made changes in enrollment or special requests have been addressed, a reminder message with the most current group assignment will be sent to families on **Friday, January 15**.*

### **What do Wednesdays look like now?**

Wednesdays remain the same. There will not be elementary specials on Wednesdays. All elementary and secondary students will have assigned work to complete. Elementary students have a live morning check-in with teachers and secondary students have access to office hours and additional support resources, but will not have live teacher instruction.

### **Where can I find my second semester schedule? *(middle and high school students only)***

Second semester schedules are currently available in Home Access. A user-friendly version of the schedule will be available in the CPS Families Portal under the "K-12 Back2School" tab on Friday, January 15.

### **Does my student need to wear a mask?**

Students will be required to wear masks. Students should plan to bring **one to wear and one to spare**. Schools also have a supply of masks available should a student need one.

### **What mitigation strategies does CPS have in place?**

Classroom protocols will include the requirement that students, teachers and staff wear masks. Every building has additional hand sanitizer stations and every classroom has hand sanitizer. All CPS building ventilation systems are inspected and filters are being replaced more frequently. CPS is continuing to maintain adequate supplies of soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer and tissues throughout each school. CPS is cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, water fountains, and doorknobs) with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products. Computer safe disinfectant methods are in place for computers and keyboards. Additionally, CPS has installed ionizers throughout the district. The district's comprehensive return plan which outlines specific strategies is available at [www.cpsk12.org/fall2020](http://www.cpsk12.org/fall2020).

### **What if my child is sick?**

If your child is sick, please have the child stay home. If your child or someone in your home currently has COVID-19, please stay home and call your child's school for the next steps. More information on protocols, plans and safety information is included in the district's reopening plans available at <https://www.cpsk12.org/fall2020>.

Parents should screen their children for the following symptoms daily in the morning before the student leaves for school:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose or congestion
- No close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days

If a student has any of these symptoms they should stay home.

### **What else do I need to know?**

Please review handwashing and masking wearing expectations with your student. A video is available as part of the district's Parent-Community University series:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EC-HJuXAnQ&feature=youtu.be>