Guiding Principles

- Ensure a strong educational program for any instructional model we choose to or are required to adopt.
- Use evidence-based practices, such as wearing face coverings, washing hands, and minimizing exposure opportunities.
- Provide as much flexibility to families as possible to choose an instructional model that they feel comfortable with for their children.
2020-2021 Overview of Instructional Options

● Students and parents/guardians will be asked to select an instructional plan that best fits their needs.
● The return-to-school plan prioritizes the health and safety of students and staff while maximizing educational opportunities.
● Our educational offerings will include a hybrid option and a fully online option for our students.
● Individual considerations will be made per IDEA and section 504 to determine necessary accommodations to allow for educational benefit and equal access to educational programming.
How Instructional Decisions Are Made

COVID-19 Rates

LOW

Traditional In School

Hybrid

HIGH

Fully Online
Shared Language

In an effort to create a common understanding, for the purpose of Fox Chapel Area’s return-to-school plan, the following definitions apply:

**Hybrid**: Learning and teaching is a mix of in person at school and online at home.

**Synchronous**: In an online learning environment that is synchronous, teachers and students are online at the same time with live instruction. Synchronous learning can be with a whole class, small group, or one-on-one.

**Asynchronous**: In an online learning environment that is asynchronous, students utilize various modes of instruction, including teacher-recorded videos, other videos/media, software or web-based applications, and print materials provided by the district. Students can access lessons and materials at any time.
Elementary Options (Grades Pre-K-5)

**Option 1**: Hybrid instruction

**Option 2**: FCA Virtual: Blended learning (synchronous and asynchronous) with curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area teachers

**Option 3**: FCA Virtual (asynchronous only) with curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area teachers
Elementary Option #1

Hybrid Instruction

- Mix of in-person and online instruction
- Students will be grouped into cohorts and assigned to report to school on designated days.
  - Students assigned to “Cohort Group 1” will attend school on Monday and Thursday of each week. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous online instruction provided by our FCA teachers.
  - Students assigned to “Cohort Group 2” will attend school on Tuesday and Friday of each week. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous online instruction provided by Fox Chapel Area teachers.
  - If an elementary school student has a sibling at the middle school or high school, the district will make every attempt to assign in-school instruction on the same days of the week as their middle school and/or high school sibling(s).
  - Final elementary cohort assignments will be finalized August 13.
Elementary Option #2

FCA Virtual: Blended Learning

- Fully online learning environment
- Synchronous and asynchronous curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area educators
  - Synchronous: Teachers and students are online at assigned times during regular school hours with live instruction. Learning opportunities will include whole class, small group, and one-on-one instruction.
  - Asynchronous: Students will also utilize various modes of instruction, including teacher-recorded videos, other videos/media, software or web-based applications, and print materials provided by the district. Students can access these learning activities and materials at any time.
Elementary Option #3

FCA Virtual: Completely Asynchronous Learning

- Asynchronous curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area educators
  - Fully online learning environment in which students will utilize various modes of instruction, including teacher-recorded videos, other videos/media, software or web-based applications, and print materials provided by the district. Students can access these learning activities and materials at any time.
- Students will have opportunities to schedule meetings with Fox Chapel Area educators.
Secondary Options (Grades 6-12)

Option 1: Hybrid instruction

Option 2: FCA Virtual: Blended learning (synchronous and asynchronous) with curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area teachers

Option 3: Fox Chapel Area Online (FCAO) asynchronous curricula facilitated by Fox Chapel Area educators

Slide Revised 7.30.20
Secondary Option #1

Hybrid Instruction

- Mix of in-person and online instruction
- Students will be grouped into cohorts and assigned to report to school on designated days.
  - Cohort Group 1: Students with last names A-L will attend school on Monday and Thursday of each week. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday they will receive a blend of synchronous and asynchronous online instruction provided by Fox Chapel Area teachers.
  - Cohort Group 2: Students with last names M-Z will attend school on Tuesday and Friday of each week. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday they will receive a blend of synchronous and asynchronous online instruction provided by Fox Chapel Area teachers.
  - Families with multiple last names will default to the oldest student in the household’s last name in an effort to keep siblings in all schools attending in-person instruction on the same days.
Secondary Option #2

FCA Virtual: Blended Learning

- Fully online learning environment
- Synchronous and asynchronous curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area educators
  - Synchronous: Teachers and students are online at assigned times during regular school hours with live instruction. Learning opportunities will include whole class, small group, and one-on-one instruction.
  - Asynchronous: Students will also utilize various modes of instruction, including teacher-recorded videos, other videos/media, software or web-based applications, and print materials provided by the district. Students can access these learning activities and materials at any time.
Secondary Option #3

FCA Virtual: Completely Asynchronous Learning

- Asynchronous curricula (mainly Edgenuity) facilitated by Fox Chapel Area educators
  - Fully online learning environment in which students will utilize various modes of instruction that may include teacher-recorded videos, other videos/media, software or web based applications, and print materials provided by the district. Students can access these learning activities and materials at any time.
- Students will have opportunities to schedule meetings with Fox Chapel Area educators.

Please Note: Due to the asynchronous nature of this option, students will not be able to switch to another option until the end of the course in which the student is enrolled.
Additional Information

- All schools will facilitate district programming, including elementary special area classes, social/emotional learning, academic interventions, English learners, special education, and gifted programming.
- Adjustments to student assigned groups may be made as necessary for classroom size, bus capacity, or other reasons to achieve the desired goal of fewer students in school buildings.
- Transfer from one instructional option into another is preferred at the end of a 9-week grading period. However, if the selected instructional option is not meeting your child’s needs, please contact your building principal.
- Device distribution for grades Pre-K-6 will occur in August.
- Students in grades 9-12 will have the opportunity to use a personal device or receive one from the district.
Timeline

- August 3rd: FCASD Board of Directors Meeting
- August 4th: FCASD Board of Directors Meeting
- August 4th-9th: FCA Virtual Commitment Form Available
- August 5th-9th: Transportation Opt Out Form Available
- August 10th: FCASD Board of Directors Meeting
- August 4th: "A Day in the Life of an Elementary Virtual Student" Published
- August 13th: Elementary Cohorts Finalized & Published
- Device Request Form Available (Grades 9-12)
Future Timeline Topics

- “A Day in the Life of an Elementary Hybrid Student” Published
- “A Day in the Life of a Secondary Hybrid Student” Published
- “A Day in the Life of a Secondary Virtual Student” Published
- PreK-5 Device Distribution & Guardian Training
- 6th Grade Device Distribution
- 9th-12th Grade Device Distribution & Student Training
Thank you