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.
Decision-Making

Return-to-School Coalition (Instruction; Special Education; Technology and Communications; Safety, Health Services, and Wellness; and Facilities, Athletics, and Extracurriculars)

Parent and Staff Survey Results

CDC, PA Department of Health, Allegheny County Health Department Guidelines
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 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (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

FULLY ONLINE

HIGH
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 (Pre-K-Grade 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: Completely Asynchronous Learning with curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area teachers

*Note: The hybrid model could be replaced with a 5-day-per-week model, but there are different implications in this model.
Elementary Option #1: Hybrid

- Mix of in-person and online instruction
- Two days of in-person instruction and three days of online instruction
- Students grouped into two cohorts and assigned to report to school on designated days
How Will Elementary Students Be Grouped?

Students will be grouped into two cohorts.

**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 primarily by the same Fox Chapel Area teachers students work with during face-to-face days.

**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 primarily by the same Fox Chapel Area teachers students work with during face-to-face days.
What Does an Elementary Schedule Look Like for Each Cohort?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cohort 1: In-School</td>
<td>Cohort 1: Virtual Learning</td>
<td>Cohorts 1 and 2: Virtual Learning</td>
<td>Cohort 1: In-School</td>
<td>Cohort 1: Virtual Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort 2: Virtual Learning</td>
<td>Cohort 2: In-School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Was the Split in Days Determined?

- Offers **face-to-face instruction at more regular intervals** for students so that teachers may intervene in person more rapidly when students need additional support or enrichment.

- Provides **more consistency of in-person** instruction for students, as opposed to having 5 full days away from school each week.

- Different cohorts will often be using **different classrooms** while in the building, thus helping with the cleaning and sanitization efforts.
How Will Elementary Cohorts Be Determined?

- The division for elementary cohorts will be respectful to families who have students in other buildings as much as possible and will be balanced according to a host of student indicators.

- Cohort assignments will also afford elementary siblings to be able to attend school on the same days.

- Cohort sizes are yet to be determined based on how many families elect fully online instruction.

- Final elementary cohort assignments will be finalized no later than August 13.
Who Will Teach My Elementary Child?

- The two cohorts of students at the elementary level are being **split by full classes**, so different classes will be meeting in-person on different days.

- Elementary students in the current hybrid model will **stay with their teacher** during in-person instruction and the same teacher during the online days.

- If a student in the hybrid model would need to be **quarantined**, he or she would stay with his/her teacher/class during the quarantine period and engage fully on the online days with the teacher and/or a "buddy teacher" on what would have been the in-person days.
Will Transitions Occur Throughout the Day?

- We know that it is not good for any student, especially elementary students, to remain in one classroom all day long.
- Although we may limit transitions to minimize them at times, having less students in the building makes those transitions that will occur much easier (especially for lunch and recess).
- Children will have specials, intervention, and enrichment while in school and online, but these may look somewhat different at times due to increased health and safety measures.
### What Are the Benefits to Elementary Students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>The teacher moves with the students. Therefore, students stay with the same teacher 5 days a week within this model.</th>
<th>The flow of instruction is continuous and affords our students the opportunity to engage with a scope and sequence that is more comprehensive and sequential.</th>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Benefits**

- The flow of instruction is continuous and affords our students the opportunity to engage with a scope and sequence that is more comprehensive and sequential.
- The teacher moves with the students. Therefore, students stay with the same teacher 5 days a week within this model.
- This hybrid model selected will offer our students with the most synchronous instruction during the online days. Any other hybrid model would make providing synchronous instruction during online days more challenging.
Elementary Option #2

FCA Virtual: Blended Learning

- Fully online learning environment

- Synchronous and asynchronous curricula provided by Fox Chapel Area educators
  - Synchronous: Educators 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 #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 primarily provided by the FCA educator(s) that they see during their in-person days.
  - 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 primarily provided by the FCA educator(s) that they see during their in-person days.
  - 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 #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.
FCA Virtual

- Follows a common schedule

- Depending on numbers, could be scheduled in the following ways:
  - Option #1: May be assigned to a separate teacher/class
  - Option #2: May be assigned to a class that is in person for two days and online for three days. Those fully online students would engage with the whole class during the online days and engage with their teacher and/or a “buddy” teacher for synchronous instruction on the two days that the rest of the class is in the building.
Other Considerations
Replacing Elementary Hybrid with Elementary 5-Day-Per-Week Instruction

- The district could replace the elementary hybrid model with an elementary 5-day-per-week in-person instruction model.

- This model addresses the educational needs of early learners by providing more in-person instruction.

- More students would be in the buildings, so more classroom spaces would be used and some transitions may be more limited during the day to try to keep students cohorted as much as possible.
Replacing Elementary Hybrid with Elementary 5-Day-Per-Week Instruction

- In this model, elementary students would attend either fully in person or fully online. These would be taught by different teachers.

- If a student would “switch” models throughout the year, the student would “switch” teachers as well.

- If a student would need to quarantine, the student may also need to “switch” teachers for the quarantine period.
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
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. On 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. On 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.
What Does a Schedule Look Like for Each Cohort?

Hybrid Model

- Students will attend school in two cohorts (A-L) and (M-Z) two days per week and work online for three days
- Wednesday will be online from home for students
Why Did We Choose This Model, and What Other Models Were Considered?

- The district prepared both a fully online model and a hybrid model.
- The hybrid model was chosen in response to current health and safety recommendations, and to promote the most effective educational program.
- It is possible that circumstances can change, and, in response, the model will change (fully online or fully in person).

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.
What Will Option #2, FCA Virtual Learning, Look Like?

- FCA Virtual is the new name for the Schoology courses teachers have been developing.

- FCA Virtual: Blended Learning means that courses include both synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences.

- The “synchronous” component will be the in-person instruction for hybrid students and for FCA Virtual Blended students, contact during non-teaching periods and/or Wednesdays.
Secondary Option #3

FCAO (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.
What is the Difference Between Option #2
FCA Virtual: Blended Learning and Option #3
FCAO (Asynchronous Learning)

Option #2 – FCA Virtual: Blended Learning is a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning using Schoology as the learning management system and Fox Chapel Area curricula and teachers. Families would choose this option if the student was available for live, online instruction during the school day.

Option #3 – FCAO (completely asynchronous learning) is a long-standing option for secondary students and includes a combination of Edgenuity curricula and Fox Chapel Area teacher-designed curricula in Schoology. Families would choose this option if a student was unavailable for synchronous instruction during the school day. Not all courses are available in this option.
What Curriculum Will We Use in the Secondary Hybrid Model?

- Secondary teachers will develop fully online course experiences in Schoology and students will follow this curricula to the greatest extent possible.

- Some courses will be adapted to better fit an online environment.

- Rich and meaningful Schoology courses that match the district’s current written curriculum will serve as a foundation upon which Fox Chapel Area teachers will provide instruction in many circumstances, including fully online.
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 the building principal.

• Device distribution for pre-kindergarten through grade 6 will begin later in August.

• Students in grades 9-12 will have the opportunity to use a personal device or receive one from the district.
August 3
FCASD Board of Directors Meeting

August 4
“A Day in the Life of an Elementary Virtual Student” Published

August 4-9
FCA Virtual Commitment Form Available

August 5-9
Transportation Opt Out Form Available

August 10
Device Request Form Available (Grades 9-12)

August 13
FCASD Board of Directors Meeting

Elementary Cohorts Finalized & Published
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
- Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 Device Distribution & Guardian Training
- 6th-Grade Device Distribution
- 9th-12th Grade Device Distribution & Student Training
Thank You