

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



# OLMSTED FALLS

## 2020-2021

## RESPONSIBLE RESTART

**UPDATED 9-30-2020**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS COMING SOON!**

# FAQ

## GENERAL BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

**In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, what is the plan for reopening Olmsted Falls City Schools for the 2020-2021 school year?** OFCS will provide two pathway options for families to choose from for the method of education for each student: Pathway A features All-In, Hybrid and Remote instruction models dependent on advisory levels and local health orders; Pathway B features 100% on-line Distance eLearning.

**When is the first day of school?** The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8th. For the final approved version of the 2020-2021 OFCS School Year Calendar, please click [HERE](#).

**When do I need to decide which learning pathway my child will take (Pathway A In-Person Instruction when possible OR Pathway B 100% OFCS Distance eLearning?)** On Monday, August 17th, each family's primary email address was sent a secure link to access an individualized form for each student in their household. This form will allow you to indicate which pathway of instruction you will select for each student, in-person (when possible) or a 100% distance learning model. You will also provide information about technology (device/connectivity) and transportation preferences (if applicable). The deadline to complete the individualized Restart Form for each student will be Friday, August 21st.

**When do I complete the annual returning student registration for my child for school?** All OFCS families will receive an email notification confirming once the annual Returning Student Registration portal has been opened and is available for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. We anticipate 2020-2021 Returning Student Registration to open the week of August 24, 2020.

**Where do I find my student's school supply list?** The ECC Supply List is available [HERE](#). The Falls-Lenox Supply List is available [HERE](#). The OFIS Supply List is available [HERE](#). The OFMS Supply List is available [HERE](#). Any updates pertaining to supply lists will be provided by the building.

**Will preschool students also start the school year remotely?** Preschool students who are on IEPs will start the year with in-person instruction 4-days per week.

**Will parent-teacher conferences be held remotely or in person?** Details will be shared as plans for conferences are worked out. These conferences could potentially take place through Google Meetings.

**I have multiple students in the district. Will they be on the same schedule in terms of days of in-person attendance when the district is in a Hybrid mode?** We are committed to doing our best to align schedules within families as it relates to days of attendance in the Hybrid model, however those schedules will parallel the school day. The school day start/end times vary by building.



# FAQ

## LEARNING PATHWAY OPTIONS

**Will I have the option of changing my child's learning pathway at any point during the year? In some instances yes, and in others no. For planning and staffing reasons we will need parents to make a choice of Pathway A or Pathway B by August 21, 2020.**

**If the District moves to a "Hybrid" or "All In" model (from a "Remote" model) and my child wants to return to school after originally selecting OFCS 100% Distance eLearning, can my student change to Pathway A In-Person Instruction? Parents who want their child to return to in-person instruction (when available) after initially selecting Pathway B OFCS 100% Distance eLearning will need to inform the building Principal and the Principal will determine the classroom placement for the student as well as the hybrid days they will be assigned to attend (*this may not follow the last name schedule based upon the size of the classes at that time*). This transition can happen within a week of notifying the Principal.**

**NOTE: Students in grades 6-12 who have selected the Edmentum online learning platform cannot transition back to OFCS instruction until the end of the semester.**

**If my K-12 student is in Pathway B-OFCS Distance eLearning with an OFCS teacher, will he/she have the same classroom teacher if we choose to return to the school building in an All-In or Hybrid situation? Due to staffing assignments, we will not be able to guarantee the same teacher if the student returns to the school building.**

**If the District moves to a "Hybrid" or "All-In" model (from a Remote Model), and I am NOT comfortable sending my child back to the school building at that time, can my student change to OFCS 100% Distance eLearning Pathway B? Yes, families of students in grades K-12 who originally selected Pathway A (*in-person instruction when possible*) for their student, but who end up not being comfortable with in-person instruction when that time comes, can request that their child change to the 100% OFCS Distance eLearning Model by notifying their child's principal.**

**NOTE: Students would not be able to opt into the Edmentum online learning platform mid-semester.**

**Can one family member attend school in-person and another family member choose the OFCS Distance eLearning option, or is it all one choice per family? Yes, each student will have the option for their own learning pathway. Families will complete an individualized form on-line to select the preferred pathway for each of their students.**



# FAQ

## LEARNING PATHWAY OPTIONS (continued)

**My student is in Pathway A, attending school in-person when allowable. Are they able to remote in if needed due to extended illness, symptoms of illness and/or an injury that may keep them home for more than a day or two?** Our goal is to maximize instructional time for students and our buildings will work with families who may be in need of temporary remote-in access for their students due to illness or injury. For students in grades 4-12, we will be able to coordinate with families to provide temporary remote access to your child's classroom(s). To request remote access to your child's classroom(s), please plan to contact the building principal and then allow 24 hours for your request to be processed and access links provided.

For students in grades K-3, we are unable to provide remote access to their assigned classroom due to the way virtual learning is structured in our younger grades. Students in grades K-3 are able to receive classwork as needed for absences due to illness or injury, but will not be able to remote into the classroom directly. Please plan to contact your child's building principal for assistance with receiving missed classwork/homework. For absences longer than 30 days, a more permanent change to Pathway B (100% Online Learning with OFCS Teachers) can be explored. (Updated 9/30/20)

**How will you determine when it's safe to move to a "Hybrid" or "All-In" model?** The model of school-based instruction will be determined by a combination of factors including the Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level and local Cuyahoga Department of Health recommendations. Specifically, we will use the number of new cases per day in our county along with the positive test rate.

**How much notice will families be given when the District decides to switch from "Full Remote Instruction" to "Hybrid" or "All-In" models (or vice versa)?** The district plans to provide one week advance notice for shifts between Remote Learning, Hybrid, or All-In models. For example, if we determine and announce on a Wednesday that we can shift from a Remote to a Hybrid model, the actual shift will occur the FOLLOWING Wednesday. Please note however that shifts from All-in or Hybrid models back to full Remote Learning due to a Level 4 (purple) designation on the Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level scale would need to happen immediately.

**How long is the District committed to the "Full Remote Instruction" model? If COVID conditions improve during that time, would the district consider returning to a "Hybrid" or "All In" model during that period?** The District will remain in the Full Remote Instruction model as long as the metrics we're using warrant it. Should our COVID County Advisory Level change, coupled with improvements in other key indicators that the Cuyahoga County Board of Health uses, our model of instruction could change. We have committed to providing families with one week notice ahead of a transition from a Remote model to a Hybrid or All In model.



# FAQ

## OFCS DISTANCE E-LEARNING- PATHWAY “B”

**Why is the district offering Edmentum for Distance eLearning for grades 6-12?** We would not be able to provide flexible schedules for all students based upon staffing issues. Edmentum however, allows students the flexibility to work at their own pace and to complete their work at any time during the day. The OFCS Distance eLearning with OFCS teachers requires that the students follow a typical school day schedule.

**Can we preview the Edmentum program?** Yes. Check out the Edmentum Courseware Overview [HERE](#).

**Will my child have opportunities to speak with other students and teachers, such as giving an oral presentation, with the Edmentum learning platform?** Your child will have an OFCS teacher who will oversee the program for your child. This staff member will touch base with the students who they are overseeing throughout the week. The meetings will provide a time to touch base with the student and to ensure they are progressing on schedule, able to log in and to assist the student with scheduling them for times during the school day when they can get core subject help with OFCS teachers during lab periods. The student will not have an OFCS teacher teaching content and, unless the student works with other peers also taking the same Edmentum courses, they will not have an opportunity to connect with peers during their course time. However, all students are able to participate in any OFCS extracurricular activity including any sports and clubs when applicable.

**Will there be elective or AP classes for high school students choosing the Edmentum model of the OFCS Distance eLearning pathway?** Yes. AP and Honors classes are an option for students, as well as a catalogue of over 100 electives for students to choose from. Students can stay on track towards graduation requirements with Health and PE options as well. Check out the Edmentum course catalog [HERE](#).

**Will there still be an OFCS Distance eLearning Pathway if the district starts the year in the Full Remote model?** Yes. Some families may not be able to return to school, even once it is possible, for personal or health reasons. Therefore, the Distance eLearning Pathway will be available no matter how the school year begins.



## OFCS DISTANCE E-LEARNING PATHWAY “B” (continued)

**What if my child does not do well with Distance eLearning? Can we switch to in-person/hybrid learning?** Students in grades K-12 who have chosen OFCS 100% Distance Learning option provided by OFCS teachers can integrate back into the in-person/hybrid learning. However, students in Grades 6-12 who have chosen the Edmentum option will need to finish out the semester before being able to integrate back to OFCS in-person instruction.

**How will students with IEPs be supported in the OFCS Distance eLearning pathway?** Students with disabilities on IEPs will have access to remote special education services. This includes support provided by an Intervention Specialist and related services (if applicable) per the IEP. 504 accommodations and services applicable to the remote learning environment will be provided.

**How will Distance eLearning work for grades K-5?** Students will be assigned to a grade level teacher. This teacher will provide the students’ instruction.

**How are Olmsted Falls teachers supporting K-3 students in the OFCS Distance eLearning pathway?** OFCS Distance eLearning with OFCS teachers will feature a combination of recorded and live online instruction in each of the four core subject areas. Additionally, teachers will support student learning through online small group targeted intervention sessions.

**How are Olmsted Falls teachers supporting 4-12 students in the OFCS Distance eLearning pathway?** OFCS Distance eLearning with OFCS teachers will feature all live online instruction for students in grades 4-12. Additionally, teachers will support student learning through online small group targeted intervention sessions. Students in grades 4-8 will follow live instruction during the regular school day provided by their assigned team of teachers. Students in 9-12 will follow live instruction during the regular school day provided by the teachers in their established high school schedule.

**Can an OFCS Distance eLearning student attend Polaris?** Yes, Polaris currently plans to offer in-person instruction and specific safety guidelines and protocols will be communicated by Polaris. OFCS will provide shuttle bus service between OFHS and Polaris. Additional details will be provided.

**Can students who choose the OFCS Distance eLearning pathway still participate in clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities?** Yes! We encourage all students to participate in activities outside of just the academic coursework.



# FAQ

## ACADEMICS

**Will special services such as EL, special education, and gifted support be provided in the learning models?** Students with disabilities on IEPs will have access to special education services in all of the learning models. This includes support provided by an Intervention Specialist and related services (if applicable) per the IEP. 504 accommodations and services applicable to all learning models. EL and gifted services will be provided in the same manner as core instruction, virtual, hybrid or in-person.

**How will my student(s) get their workbooks and textbooks for classes?** Details will be coming soon. We are working to coordinate a supply/chromebook pick-up process.

**Will students be graded for work completed during Full Remote eLearning 2.0?** Yes! Work will be graded. There will be assignment deadlines and normal grading practices. Contact your building principal with questions about specific grading practices.

**What is inquiry-based instruction?** Inquiry based learning will be used as an extension of the classroom instruction provided on the two in-school face-to-face days and the Wednesday Remote Learning day. It is a student centered approach where open-ended questions related to previously learned content are posed to students. In turn, students independently research answers to these questions, develop questions of their own, and prepare to share their findings with others when they return to school.



# FAQ

## HEALTH & SAFETY

**Are face masks required?** Face coverings are required for all adults and students on district campus. Exemptions will be considered for documented medical reasons. Staff will look for opportunities for breaks throughout the day.

**Will the District provide face masks?** Due to style, size and comfort preference students are to bring their own face covering to school. It is recommended students bring a second backup mask and face coverings are cleaned frequently.

**What if my child cannot wear a face mask?** Wearing a face cover is a developed skill so students are encouraged to practice prior to attending school and wear to the maximum extent possible. Face covering breaks will be provided as directed by the teaching staff.

**Does it matter the type of face mask my child wears?** While various face coverings are available and some provide greater protection over others it is recommended that the student wear the face covering most comfortable to them to support success with wearing the face covering through the entire school day.

**What if my doctor recommends my child not wear a mask due to other health concerns?** Under very rare circumstances, face covering exemptions may be requested and should be obtained from a health care professional and submitted to building admin/clinic staff for approval. Face shields and other measures may be approved through the exemption process.

**What cleaning protocols will be used?** The district has used some of its COVID-19 relief funds to purchase additional, high efficiency cleaning equipment. Frequent cleaning and sanitizing will occur during the school day and after. High touch points will receive more frequent cleanings.

**My child takes a daily medication at school. Will this put him at greater risk of exposure to potentially sick students in the clinic?** Each building has established a well clinic and a sick clinic location. Well clinic will conduct tasks like distribution of daily medication, standard school health screening (hearing/vision) and other wellness prevention tasks. The sick clinic will be reserved for those students with symptoms of COVID-19 who are awaiting pickup to report home.





# FAQ

## FOOD SERVICE

**Will breakfast and lunch be available to students during Hybrid and Full Remote eLearning on days when students are not in the building?** Yes. To receive a breakfast and/or lunch, meals must be ordered the day before via Google Form. Meals given to students via curbside pickup and bus delivery. Additional instructions will be provided.

**How will lunch look in the Hybrid model?** Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Mitigations include:

- 6 feet social distancing enforced in the lunch line and eating space
- Hand sanitizer station at the beginning of each line
- Each line has 1 way flow only
- Cafeteria staff will wear PPE at all times
- Everything served to students will be individually wrapped
- Meals will be served in a grab and go bag
- Contactless Payment only. Students will not use pin pads at checkout
- High contact surfaces (tables, chairs, cafeteria counters) will be disinfected in between each lunch period

## FOOD SERVICE

**Will lunches be provided during remote learning to families in need of food assistance like they were in the spring?** Yes, food service will offer both a curbside pickup and home delivery option. Home delivery is being provided to accommodate families with transportation needs, so we ask that families consider curbside pickup as the first option before choosing delivery. (Updated 8/20/20)



# FAQ

## TECHNOLOGY

**What do I do if I have no Internet access at home?** Families in need of internet connectivity should indicate this need through the individual online OFCS Responsible Restart Form that has been emailed to all families to be completed by Friday, August 21. Families can also reach out to their building principal should connectivity issues arise after the start of the year. The District is seeking funds via a grant from the state to help subsidize/pay for family connectivity for those that need the financial help.

(Updated 8/20/20)

**What do I do if I need a Chromebook for my child(ren)?** OFCS will be working to provide loaner devices for each student in need of one. Please be sure to complete the Responsible Restart Form (e-mailed to all parents on 8/14) for each child in your household and indicate that you need a device, or contact your building principal.

(Updated 8/20/20)

**My children share one device and will need to use it at the same time. What should we do?** It will be important that each student has their own dedicated device. Please be sure to complete the Responsible Restart Form for each child in your household (e-mailed to all parents on 8/14) and indicate that you need an additional device, or contact your building principal.

(Updated 8/20/20)

**Can my child use a smartphone, iPad, laptop, or another device for remote learning if we don't have a Chromebook?** Google Classroom and GoogleMeets work best with Chromebooks. A Chromebook or laptop is best for younger students.

(Updated 8/20//20)

**I would like to purchase a Chromebook for my child to use at home. What do I buy?** A Chromebook brand like Lenovo, HP and Acer should all work well. The device should have at a minimum of 4GB of memory with a 32GB eMMC drive. Here are a few links to example devices:

- Lenovo 100E - 11" screen Chromebook [Lenovo](#)
- HP 11 - 11.6" screen Chromebook [HP](#)
- Acer Spin 11 - 11.6" screen Chromebook [Acer](#) (Updated 8/20/20)



# FAQ

## TRANSPORTATION

**Will busing be offered during "All In" and "Hybrid" instruction?** Yes, transportation services will be offered to all K-12 students, and Pre-K students with IEP's attending the program. We will be asking families who will NOT use the school bus to get to/from school to "opt out" of bus service (for a set amount of time) so that we can plan and maintain safe and efficient bus routes this school year.

**When will I find out what bus my child will ride?** Once the decision is made by the BOE as to how OFCS will proceed with the school year, the Transportation Department will work quickly to finalize route plans associated with the chosen model and get information out to our families so that they can be prepared to return to school. We truly appreciate everyone's continued patience with the process this year as bus information has typically already arrived at your home at this point in the summer.

**My child gets dropped off at an alternate location. Is this still allowed?** The Transportation Department accepted alternate transportation requests for the 2020-21 school year. Please refer to the "Transportation" page on the district website for specific information related to processing alternate transportation requests.

**How will you keep students safe? Will there be procedures in place for cleaning, social distancing, etc?** Safety is always our primary concern in the OFCS Transportation department. Buses will be cleaned daily and also sanitized between each route with an EPA approved solution. Students will have strict assigned seating with a maximum of two students per seat. Students with siblings on the same route will be seated together. Students will be required to wear a facial covering on the school bus. The bus will be loaded and unloaded in a manner that reduces contact between passengers.

**Will transportation be provided for OFHS students attending Polaris?** OFCS will provide shuttle bus service between OFHS and Polaris. Families of OFHS juniors and seniors attending Polaris were sent a link to complete regarding their student's transportation needs between home and OFHS for shuttle service. Additional details will be provided once routing and logistics have been finalized. (Updated 8/20/20)

**Will busing be available if my child switches from Pathway B to Pathway A and wants to return to the school building?** Bus service will be available if a child returns to the school building. Because of the mitigation techniques we are using on the bus that limit capacity, it may take the Transportation Department a couple of days to make the necessary adjustments to add a student to a route once a change to return to the school building has been requested. (Updated 8/20/20)



# FAQ

## TRANSPORTATION (continued)

**Will there be distance between rows (seated in every other row?)** Students will maintain assigned seats each day (AM and PM), and those assignments will be distanced as space is permitted on each bus route. School bus seats will be cleaned daily and disinfected between each route. (Updated 8/20/20)

**How will the bus be loaded/unloaded to insure social distancing?** Whenever possible buses will be loaded from back to front, and unloaded front to back to minimize contact between individuals. Students will be required to wear facial coverings on the bus. Students will sanitize their hands upon entering the bus, as well as upon exiting. Students will be reminded to keep hands/feet to themselves at all times.

(Updated 8/20/20)



# FAQ

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Will attendance be taken during remote instruction?** Yes. Parents should report their student's absence by calling the school attendance lines.

**Will field trips be permitted during the 2020-2021 school year?** At this time, we do not plan to offer field trips for the 2020-21 school year. If conditions improve, we may reevaluate field trip opportunities later in the year.

**Will volunteers be allowed in the building during Hybrid or All-In learning?** At this time, we do not plan to permit volunteers in the building. If conditions improve, we may reevaluate volunteer opportunities later in the year.

**How can PTA and Booster groups support the schools during this time when volunteers are unable to enter the building?** Groups should work with the building Principal to determine how they can assist students and staff.

**What resources will be available this year to support student mental health and wellness?** School Counselors will be available for student support in all instructional models. This includes classroom guidance lesson, small group and individual check-ins. The district behavior specialist is available to support any family across the district and will be creating parent videos on topics such as creating a home learning environment to set students up for success and addressing challenging behavior during this unprecedented time. The home liaison will offer support to any family to ensure basic and social-emotional needs are met. The Student Wellness page will be updated with more resources, including contact information to reach any of these respective staff members.

**How will recess look in the Hybrid model?** **ECC:** students will attend half-day. Lunch and recess will be at home. **Falls-Lenox:** Recess will look different. Students will have an outdoor break. Students will remain in the same designated areas by classroom (no mixing of classes). **OFIS:** Indoor Recess will occur in classrooms. Outdoor recess will look different. Students will have an outdoor break. Students will remain in designated areas by classroom (no mixing of classes). **(Updated 8/20/20)**



## HEALTH EXPERT GUIDANCE

**Why are we not following the guidance from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics that says children should be in school?** Guidance from national health experts (i.e., Centers for Disease Control and American Academy of Pediatrics) certainly plays an important role in school district planning. However, this guidance from the national level also directs districts to proceed with more caution in the event of local COVID surges with higher rates transmission in their local community. That is currently the case in Cuyahoga County.

**Why are some schools allowed to open? Didn't the Governor say we could open if we wanted to?** All communities are different. The Governor did not order all schools to remain closed. However, each school district was instructed to make the decision to reopen buildings or remain in a remote schooling mode without much guidance from the state. As we approach the start of the school year, we hope to see State of Ohio and local health departments come up with appropriate triggers for decision making.

**What role did the Cuyahoga County Board of Health Recommendations play in the decision to start the school year remotely?** School district's relationship with their local Board of Health is critical to making local decisions based on local data. OFCS partners with our local health department to ensure we have both the best data and the best guidance for keeping students and our school community safe.

**Why can't we use the data from Olmsted Falls instead of looking at Cuyahoga County? We don't have that many cases!** Zip code data indicate where patients with COVID-19 live, not where they contracted the illness. Northeast Ohio is transient with people moving across cities and county borders for work, medical appointments, etc. Infectious diseases don't recognize borders. Transmission is currently widespread.



# FAQ

## COVID-19 PROCEDURES

**Will health screenings be conducted?** Parents will be provided "signs and symbols" resources published by the CDC. Parents will conduct student self-health assessments prior to reporting on campus or to the bus stop. To conduct these assessments on campus is not feasible and can cause student clustering which is to be avoided when possible.

**What do I do if my child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at home?** The parent should report the child absent sick from school and seek medical advice from their primary care provider. Follow the medical advice. The student can return to campus after symptom free for designated period of time.

**What happens if my student exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?** The student will be isolated from others, reporting to the sick clinic. The parent or emergency contact will be notified. The student should leave campus as soon as reasonable, returning only after symptom free for a designated period of time.

**What happens if my student's teacher or classmate is suspected of, or tests positive for, COVID-19?** The district will follow the direction of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for response to any positive case. Depending on the facts of the case the CCBoH may conduct contact tracing and issue self-quarantine orders. The district will assist the CCBoH with tracing and notices as requested. The district Nurse is the primary contact for the CCBoH.

