



VOYAGER ACADEMY

2020 -2021 REOPENING PLAN

FAQ

What factors are evaluated to determine Voyager's readiness to return to in-person instruction?

There are many factors that impact our school readiness to reopen to in-person instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. First and foremost is our concern for the safety of our students and staff. As a result, we continuously monitor the community spread of COVID-19 by reviewing data on the NCDHHS Covid data dashboard and the Durham Public Health Covid dashboard. We are also reviewing information from the Harvard Global Health Institute and the World Health organization to stay abreast of the latest medical and health recommendations to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Additionally, we partner with the Durham Public Health department to review and discuss the current results and how they could impact school-aged children and families in our community. We are also equally concerned with how safe our Voyager community feels about their return to in-person instruction on campus. Student, parent, and staff surveys and feedback are evaluated and taken into consideration. School readiness and our ability to comply with all CDC and NCDHHS requirements and recommendations for safety are also reviewed and evaluated to ensure our compliance. Additionally, we consider and evaluate all options for the delivery of instruction and strive to balance the needs of all students and staff so that we continue to provide academic excellence and social and emotional well-being.

What is the plan for returning to in-person instruction on campus?

The administration and staff are currently working on the plans to return to in-person instruction in the hybrid model on January 5, 2020. Preparing for our return to campus in January is a complex process and our team is fully engaged in planning all the logistics required. Families

that want to remain remote all year have completed the enrollment form. Voyager school leaders and staff will begin to build cohorts, develop schedules, and allocate staff for the hybrid model.

How will the students be divided by cohort when we return in the hybrid model?

There will be three groups of students, full year remote learners, and in-person Cohorts A and B. Students enrolled in remote learning all year will be removed from the in-person cohorts and the remaining students will be divided in half into Cohort A and B. Outlined below are the schedule for the three groups:

- Cohort A - will attend in-person on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday - Friday will be remote
- Cohort B - will attend in-person on Thursday and Friday, Monday - Wednesday will be remote
- Remote All Year

What priorities will be taken into consider for cohort placement knowing that cohorts need to be evenly split?

- Siblings at all grade levels will be assigned to the same cohort
- Child Care needs
- Pod arrangements

What will the hybrid learning schedule look like for each school?

Final hybrid learning schedules for our return in January will look different for each school. Instruction will be a combination of in-person instruction, live zoom, recorded zoom, small groups, and independent practice. Details will be shared with all when it is finalized.

Will there be team sports, clubs, or extracurricular activities in the upcoming school year?

Sports will resume when the school opens for in-person instruction. The team schedules will follow the NCHSAA when we return on campus. Some clubs will be started during remote instruction and will be held virtually. Club advisors and building principals will share information as it becomes available. All other extracurricular activities will resume when we return to in-person instruction.

Will students that are learning remotely all year be allowed to participate in sports and clubs when the school resumes in person instruction.

Yes.

Will there be a prom, homecoming, yearbook, spirit week, etc. in the upcoming school year?

As we continue to work through various scenarios, we will include these events and activities as we plan for the school year.

What about the middle school events that happen throughout the year?

As we continue to work through various scenarios, we will include these events and activities as we plan for the school year.

What is the plan for graduation this year?

Graduation is planned to take place in the traditional VAHS venue, the Carolina Theatre, on May 27, 2020 at 5:30pm pending whether there are COVID restrictions at that time. Alternate plans are being developed as a backup plan should COVID restrictions impact our current plan.

How will students and parents be able to provide input into how remote learning is working?

We will continue to solicit input from staff, students, and parents about the remote learning process using surveys and zoom meetings.

How will the data collected from the surveys be used?

Please know that the surveys are critical to the decision-making process. The surveys are intended to provide the school leadership team, board, and taskforce with valuable feedback from those directly impacted by the plans. The school leadership team will consider all input and make decisions that best support the entire school community balancing safety, academic excellence, and social and emotional well-being of our students.

Will the school have before and/or after school care in the upcoming school year?

Before and after school care will resume when in-person instruction starts on campus. Students will only be able to participate in before/after care on the days they are attending in-person instruction on campus.

Will the grading system be traditional for the upcoming school year?

Teachers will utilize the standard grading system during the 2020-2021 school year and we will continue to hold virtual conferences, issue progress reports, and report cards for all students.

Will the school supply masks, and other PPE for faculty, staff and students when we return to campus?

The state has provided the school with an initial supply of face masks for all students and staff. These supplies will be distributed when we return to campus. Families will need to ensure that all students have a clean face mask to attend school each day.

Will masks be required to be worn all day if school is held on campus?

At this time, masks are a requirement for all staff and students while they are on campus indoors and outdoors.. (Students and staff are also allowed to take a brief mask break if needed. Voyager will follow the guidelines of the NC Department of Health.

What if my student (or staff/faculty member) is unable to wear a mask due to skin irritation or other medical concern?

A medical exemption with a doctor's note is required to attend school without a mask.

Will loaner computers be made available to students for remote classes?

The school has provided chromebooks to all students that required a computer at the start of the school year. Please contact your building principal if you need a device.

What does the remote learning schedule look like in each school at this time?

- [VAMS Fall 2020 Remote Learning Daily Schedule](#)
- [VAHS Fall 2020 Remote Learning Daily Schedule](#)
- [VAES Fall 2020 Remote Learning Daily Schedule](#)
- [VAES Fall 2020 Remote Elective Daily Schedule](#)
- [VAES Fall 2020 Detailed Daily Schedule](#)

Will there be State End of Course and End of Grade testing this year?

Yes, all End of Course and End of Grade Testing will be conducted this school year.

Can I attend another school this year or switch to home schooling (not remote learning) and return to Voyager next year when in-person instruction resumes full time all year?

If a student withdraws from Voyager Academy they would need to reapply for the following school year.

Will the school require students and staff to maintain social distancing?

Yes, students and staff will be required to maintain 6 foot social distancing to ensure safety.

What precautions has the school implemented to ensure safety when we return in January?

Voyager has implemented all CDC safety guidelines to ensure student and staff safety. Guidelines include social distancing, health screenings, temperature checks, handwashing procedures, sanitation stations, touchless water bottle stations, social distancing safety stickers on floors, directional signs in halls, safety posters, plexiglass dividers, and staff and student training.

Will the school require any health screening before entering the building?

Each morning students will be asked to complete a health screening survey and have their temperature taken before they enter a school building. Anyone with a fever or symptoms will not be allowed to enter school.

[Student Health Screening Survey](#)

[Staff Health Screening Survey](#)

How will the school handle a staff or student that has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19?

We will be following the guidance and direction from CDC, NCDHHS, and Durham public health. The school will report any incident to the public health department and we will follow their recommendations for next steps. The public health department will conduct the contact tracing. We will post information about any school affected case to inform our community without disclosing any personal information and take all safety measures for cleaning, disinfecting, and closing if recommended by the public health officials.

What are the guidelines and resources from NCDHHS to ensure a safe environment for all?

- [StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit - K-12 \(Spanish\)](#)
- [For Families: What to Expect When Schools Reopen \(Spanish\)](#)
- [What Are We Learning About COVID-19 and Children? \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 \(K-12\)](#)
- [StrongSchoolsNC Infection Control and PPE Guidance \(K-12\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Social Media Outreach \(Spanish\)](#)

Will the school provide access to meals for students that qualify for free and reduced lunch during remote instruction and when we return to campus?

Yes. From now until December 31, 2020, Durham County Public Schools is providing free meals to all children aged 18 and under. Drive-through pick up of meals is available weekly from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Pick-up sites are listed [here](#) and

below. No ID is required to pick up the meals. If you are unable to pick up at the designated time, click [here](#) to obtain information on how to have meals delivered to your home.

We are also in the process of evaluating lunch providers so students will have access to free and reduced meals when we return to campus.

What recommendations does the school have for families that need child care?

We understand that remote learning presents many challenges to families trying to balance working while caring for their children who are now learning at home. The school has connected families with UNC School of Education, a local community church, the PTO, and Student U to assist families in need of child care during remote learning. Our PTO has also graciously offered to coordinate matching families interested in establishing COVID pods to share in child care as well. Please reach out directly to the school PTO for additional information on the co-op child care pods.

Student U will provide a supervised remote learning space for families of Voyager Academy Middle School and High School students to complete their Voyager school work in a safe supervised learning center while Voyager is operating in a remote learning environment and parents are working. Applications for the learning center will be prioritized by Student U for families that qualify for free or reduced lunch, have parents that are essential workers, or have become recently unemployed, are experiencing homelessness, are part of the foster care system, or live in public housing.

- [Apply to Student U Here](#)
- Faith Community Church [Child Care Flyer](#)
- UNC School of Education contact: helyne@email.unc.edu

What plans did Voyager develop to prepare the 2020 -2021 school year to respond to COVID.

The Voyager team worked with the Reopening Task Force to develop our recommendation and plans for reopening school during the COVID-19 pandemic. We recommended a phased-in measured approach starting with remote learning, moving to a hybrid model, as we prepare to return to full capacity with in-person instruction. Linked below are the Reopening Plan and the Remote Learning Plan required by the state that were developed and approved at the start of the 2020 -2021 school year.

[Voyager Academy 2020 - 2021 Reopening Plan](#)

[Voyager Academy 2020 - 2021 Remote Learning Plan for State](#)

Will the plans change if there is a spike in cases of Covid in NC and our surrounding area?

We will continue to stay abreast of the COVID-19 community spread and continue to assess our plans to ensure the safety of all. The community will continue to be involved so that we obtain input to guide our decision making as we move forward.