

**2021-2022 Reopening Plan
Guidelines and Procedures**

INTRODUCTION

The safety of our students, staff, and community is at the forefront of all of our decision making and planning for reopening our campus during the 2021-2022 school year. During the 2020-2021 school year we operated in a fully remote and hybrid learning environment. We have developed guidelines and procedures to maintain the safety of our students and staff to mitigate the risks associated with COVID. We also recognize and understand that the individual health issues and circumstances of each family and staff member vary along with their comfort level of returning to in-person instruction on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. We began communicating our intent to return to full in-person instruction during the spring of 2020 so that families and staff could be fully prepared for the start of the new school year. Results and feedback from our school community were considered in the determination to return to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

We are excited and eager to be together learning on campus as a school-wide community. We recognize that we need to be vigilant with our safety protocols and procedures as well as stay abreast of all of the latest data and recommendations from our state and local health departments. Our plans have been purposefully and thoughtfully designed to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students. We will also be responsive to individual family and staff needs and circumstances should a quarantine be required. Our staff are fully prepared to provide an educational plan for students during any mandatory quarantine period to ensure they can stay connected to their academic program. Voyager has also developed a remote learning plan should the school need to transition to a fully remote learning option if an entire grade, building, or full school closure is required. This document is posted on the school website and has been shared with the NC Department of Instruction.

We will continue to communicate regular updates to the entire Voyager community to keep everyone informed as our plans evolve in response to the health crisis and state mandates. Our goal continues to be a safe return to campus for everyone in our school community. Thank you for partnering with us as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

We are confident that the Voyager community of educators, families, and board members will all rise to this challenge and partner together to light the way forward. Together we will foster academic excellence, and ensure the social, and emotional well-being of our community in a safe learning environment.

Academic Excellence, Innovation, and Flexibility in a Safe Learning Environment

It is critical that our students return to their regular education plan during the 2021-2022 school year to further academic growth and social and emotional development at every grade level. Charter Schools are uniquely positioned to evaluate the needs of our community and develop innovative instructional plans to meet all student needs. We are also given greater flexibility with our instructional strategies and school calendar so that we can fulfill our vision of “Inspiring life-long learning in every Viking”. With that in mind, our team will remain steadfast on our mission and core values so that all students will have the opportunity to grow and reach their maximum potential for academic, social, and emotional development while maintaining the health and safety of all students and staff in our school community.

Vision:				
"Inspiring life-long learning in every Viking"				
Mission:				
"to provide students in kindergarten through grade twelve an academically challenging and supportive learning environment"				
Values:				
Voyager prioritizes empathy, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and change making as student outcomes				
 CONFIDENCE Trusting in your own ability and being willing to take academic risks.	 CURIOSITY Being eager to investigate and learn about the world around us.	 EMPATHY Being aware of and respecting another person's feelings, experiences, and differences	 REFLECTION Using past experiences to guide future learning and decision making.	 INTEGRITY Doing the right thing and standing strong in what you believe.

Expectations for academics and engagement will remain consistent to ensure all students reach their potential and strive for academic excellence. Students and staff will be held to the high academic ideals for quality instruction, student engagement and participation, and completion of work demonstrating mastery of content standards and skills. We have high expectations and intend to foster the academic, social, and emotional development of our students throughout the year whether we are learning on campus or if required to transition to learning remotely. Attendance procedures and policies will be implemented and grading of student work will be implemented according to all state guidelines for in person or remote learning.

VOYAGER ACADEMY REOPENING PLAN 2021 – 2022

All Students and Staff Return to Campus with Normal Operations and Health Precautions - Minimum Social Distancing

- Voyager will resume normal operations on campus for all students and staff.
- Minimum social distancing will be implemented.
- Health and hygiene precautions will continue.
- Voyager will continue to maintain cleaning and sanitizing of all schools.
- Voyager staff will continue to monitor and be vigilant about addressing and responding to any suspected, presumptive, or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Voyager will follow all guidelines from the CDC and NCDHHS to report such cases to the Local Health Department and implement isolation and cleaning protocols as required.

EC Service Delivery

- Students are served exactly according to their IEP for service delivery minutes and location (general or special education location).

Voyager Academy COVID Safety Procedures and Guidelines

Surveillance Testing

As part of our return to safe in-person instruction at Voyager Academy, we are participating in a COVID-19 screening testing program. Screening testing will help us identify individuals who have COVID-19 but do not show symptoms. All unvaccinated staff, student athletes, and voluntary students and staff will be tested on a weekly basis.

The primary goal of our screening COVID-19 testing is to limit the number of infected individuals at our school. The testing data will help us plan our learning accommodations and safety procedures for the upcoming school year.

How the testing program will work

Screening COVID-19 testing will take place at our school each week starting **TUESDAY, AUGUST 24th**.

We have asked a team of Duke doctors to help us administer this program and analyze the testing data from our school. Testing data sent to Duke will be de-identified, meaning that Duke will not be able to know who participated in testing or their individual results.

Overview of Process:

1. We will send families a consent form to complete on behalf of each child. If you have multiple children enrolled at Voyager, we will need a consent form for EACH student.
2. If parents/guardians sign the consent form and agree to participate in the testing program, *their child will be assigned a unique identification number*. This number will be used in place of the child's name for all testing-related procedures and data sent to Duke to help protect the child's identity.
3. Families of student athletes that do not want to be tested on campus can elect to test privately and submit a negative PCR test result.
4. Each week, a set of identification numbers will be randomly selected for testing. Because testing is random, a child may NOT be selected to be tested each week.
5. Students selected for testing for a particular week will receive a nasal swab on Tuesday morning at the school by a Duke clinician. *Our school nurse, Mrs. Skoff will be present during testing to assist and provide support to our students.*
6. While the tests we have selected are accurate in most circumstances, it is possible to receive a false positive result. *If a child's test gives a positive read-out, the child will immediately receive a second test to confirm the result.*
7. Our school administrator or nurse will contact families if their child receives a confirmed positive result for COVID-19, and we will provide instructions for picking up the student and how to isolate at home.

About the testing kits

Voyager will start the program by using the [Quidel QuickVue](#) test and will switch to the [Ellume COVID-19 Home Test](#). These tests were chosen because they:

- Use a small swab in the front part of the nose (nares).
- Provide quick results (10-15 minutes).
- Have high accuracy.
- Are suitable and accurate in individuals with and without symptoms.
- Are approved for use in adults and children.
- Can be administered in the school.
- Can securely transmit results to our school or public health department (i.e. it is HIPAA compliant) [Ellume test].

Below is the list of possible COVID symptoms as defined by the CDC and NCDHHS:

- temperature above 100.4F
- cough
- headache
- sore throat
- vomiting
- nausea

- diarrhea
- difficulty breathing
- loss of taste or smell

If a child has any of these symptoms during the school day, the parent will be notified and the child will be sent home from school.

If a child is sent home due to any of the above symptoms, here are some of the various scenarios/criteria to return to school:

Scenario	Criteria to return to school
Person has <i>symptoms of COVID 19</i> but has received a negative PCR test result . *Please provide a copy of the test result to the school prior to your child returning.	Person can return to school when: -It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (if applicable) AND -They have felt well for at least 24 hours
Person has an alternate diagnosis that would explain the symptoms of COVID 19	Person can return to school when: -A doctor’s note explaining the diagnosis is provided to the school.
Person has <i>symptoms of COVID 19</i> but has not been tested nor has visited a health care provider.	Person can return to school when: -It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms AND -It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine) AND -Other symptoms of COVID 19 are improving.
Person has tested positive on a PCR test but the person <i>does not have symptoms</i> .	Person can return to school 10 days after their positive test.

<p>Person <i>has symptoms of COVID 19</i> <u>and</u> has tested positive on a PCR test.</p>	<p>Person can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms AND -It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine) AND -Other symptoms of COVID 19 are improving.
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For **symptom updates and/or to report COVID test results**, please email your child's principal, the front office administrative assistant and the school nurse, Mrs. Skoff cskoff@voyageracademy.net
 For **daily attendance**, school assignments, and homework, please email your child's teacher each day while your child is home with symptoms, awaiting results, or in quarantine.

Response to Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

NCDHHS issued a reference guide for suspected, presumptive, or confirmed cases of COVID-19 to support schools in protecting the health of our school community.

Voyager Academy staff will adhere to all defined guidelines of any suspected, presumptive, or confirmed case of COVID-19 outlined by NCDHHS and the Durham Public Health Department. Families should also recognize that the protocols and guidelines are ever changing and Voyager will modify guidelines and protocols with any updates.

Voyager will implement the protocols below for each of the various possible scenarios:

- Exclusion- Sick student or adult with symptoms will not be allowed to enter the school building. Parents will be asked to pick up any student that shares that they have been exposed to COVID-19 even if they do not show symptoms and will be required to quarantine.
- Infection Control – Voyager staff will wear personal protective equipment while caring for a sick student or adult. The sick person will also be required to wear a face mask.
- Notification of Local Health Department – Voyager will notify the Local Health Department for any suspected, presumptive, or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Notification to School Community – Voyager will notify the school community with any positive case reported and post the Covid data on a dashboard on the school website.
- Contact Tracing – Voyager will conduct contact tracing to identify any potential close contacts that would need to quarantine and notify as appropriate with guidelines on next steps recommended by health department.
- Cleaning and disinfecting –

- Close off areas used by the sick person, including school transportation vehicles, and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
- People should not be in the classroom, or other area of the facility while it is being cleaned.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant that is active against coronaviruses. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Remember to clean items that might not ordinarily be cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, countertops, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures.
- Follow NCDHHS Environmental Health Section guidance for additional cleaning and disinfection recommendations.
- Closure of infected area or school as determined by local authorities- Voyager will consult with the Local Health Department to determine whether an area, a classroom or the entire building should be closed.
 - Close off areas used by the sick person, do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Consult with the Local Health Department as to whether closure of a classroom or entire building is required. There may be no need to close the school if the Local Health Department determines that close contacts are excluded and there is sufficient space to continue normal operations.
 - The Local Health Department may in some situations determine that closure of a facility is needed; this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Local Health Department Next Steps-
- The Local Health Department may also conduct interviews with the person (or their family member if it is a young child) who tested positive and identify individuals who were in close contact with the infected person.
- The Local Health Department will recommend testing close contacts that were exposed to someone that tested positive
- Public health staff will share that all close contacts need to quarantine at
- Voyager will coordinate with the Local Health Department to determine how to inform families and staff as appropriate – they may not necessarily need to be notified, depending on the situation.
- If positive COVID-19 test:
 - The Local Health Department will assist in notifying staff and families that there was an individual who was at the school who has tested positive with COVID-19.
 - A public health professional may contact staff and families if they are identified as a close contact to the individual who tested positive.
 - The notice to staff and families must maintain confidentiality in accordance with NCGS § 130A-143 and all other state and federal laws.

Voyager Mask Policy

The Board of Directors of Voyager Academy has voted to implement a mandatory mask policy. This policy is part of Voyager’s overall commitment to ensure the health and safety of students,

staff, and our community. This mask policy is consistent with CDC and NCDHHS guidance, the Strong Schools Toolkit, and the vast majority of public schools throughout North Carolina. Voyager’s mask policy will be reviewed monthly in accordance with the requirements defined in Session Law 2021-130 Senate Bill 654.

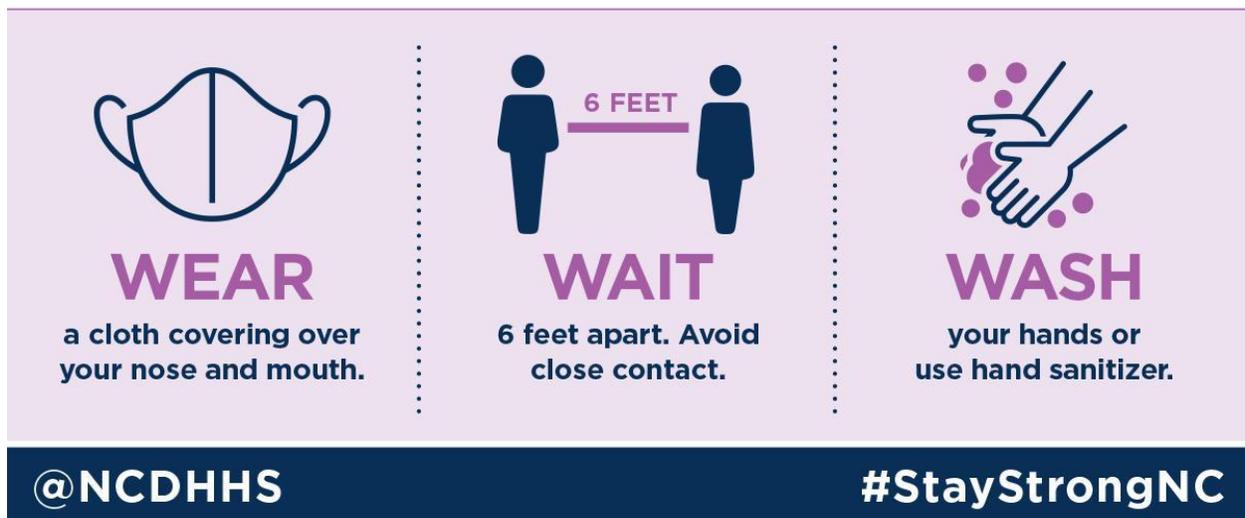
All employees, visitors, and students are required to wear a mask upon entering and remaining on campus. The school requires a two-layer cloth face mask or medical mask. Masks must securely cover the nose, mouth, and chin. Mesh masks, bandanas, neck gaiters, and face shields are not an acceptable face mask covering and are never permitted.

Students who do not follow this policy will be subject to the school’s disciplinary process. Employees who do not follow this policy, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Visitors who do not follow this policy will be asked to comply or leave campus. Because not wearing a mask places other students and staff in direct harm, the school will not be providing mask exemptions except in exceptional circumstances. Any mask accommodation will be reviewed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The school will provide students and staff with mask breaks. In addition, temporary removal of the mask is permitted where necessary for the following purposes:

1. Actively engaging in an outdoor athletic or fitness activity;
2. Outdoor activity when 6 feet of social distancing can be maintained
3. Consuming food or drink;
4. For any emergency or medical purpose.

Personal Health and Safety Protocols –



Wear Masks-

- Voyager will require masks for all students and all adults while on campus outside and inside school buildings.
- Evidence has shown that wearing face coverings helps reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially for those who are sick but may not know it. Individuals should be reminded frequently not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical or behavioral health needs

Social Distancing-

- Maintain social distancing whenever possible.

Wash Hands Frequently

- Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol reduces the spread of disease.
- Voyager will provide hand washing instruction to young students and provide soap and sanitizer to support healthy hygiene behaviors per CDC guidelines. Sanitizing stations will also be set up at the front entrance of each school and provided in each classroom.
- Teachers will reinforce handwashing during key times such as: before, during, and after eating; after using the toilet; after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; and after touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other individuals.
- Teachers will incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activity.

School Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Custodial staff will maintain the cleanliness of all school facilities according to CDC guidelines and recommendations using approved cleaning and disinfecting products that are recommended to combat SARS and COVID viruses.
- Custodial staff will establish a schedule for and perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e. g., door handles, stair rails, faucet handles, toilet handles, playground equipment, drinking fountains, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, with an EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and increase frequency of disinfection during high-density times.
- Staff will disinfect all shared objects (e. g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) between use.

Water Fountains / Kitchen Facilities

- High contact areas like communal kitchens, refrigerators, and water fountains can contribute to the spread of viruses and disease. Extra sanitizing, cleaning, and precautions should be taken and food sharing is not allowed.
- Families should send water bottles to school with their children to provide for hydration throughout the day.

Before and After Care

- Voyager staff will provide before and after care to families that register for the before and after care program on the days your child attends school based on capacity limits and available staffing.

Voyager Academy COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

I kept my child home from school today. It looks like it's just a cold or maybe allergies. Can they come back to school when they are feeling better?

Anytime a child has symptoms of an illness that include (*fever, cough, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing*) they will need to get a PCR COVID test to rule out COVID BEFORE they can return to school. Even if it looks like just a bad cold, allergies, or an upset stomach, the current guidelines from the CDC and department of health say that a child test negative on a PCR COVID test *OR* present a note from the doctor explaining their symptoms before returning to school. If a child returns to school without this documentation, they will be sent back home.

My child was sent home from school today because they aren't feeling well, what do I do next?

Please have your child get PCR COVID tested and report those results to your child's principal and the school nurse, Ms. Skoff cskoff@voyageracademy.net. Your child should remain home until you have received their results and sent them to the school.

I have multiple children that attend Voyager, but only one of them is not feeling well. Can the other children still come to school?

No. If any child in the home is not feeling well, ALL children that attend Voyager must also stay home until the sick child has tested and received a PCR COVID test result.

I'm a parent and am not feeling well. But my children feel fine and don't have any symptoms. Can my children still come to school?

No. If a parent or any other member of the household is not feeling well, ALL children that attend Voyager must stay home from school until the sick family member has tested and received a PCR COVID test result.

I have one child that just tested positive for COVID-19. But my other children that attend Voyager feel fine and don't have any symptoms. Can they still come to school?

No. If a member of the household has tested positive for COVID-19, the remaining family members have been exposed to the virus. All children that attend Voyager will need to stay home and complete *at least* a 10-day quarantine period. Please reach out to your child's principal and the school nurse, Ms. Skoff cskoff@voyageracademy.net for guidance on next steps for quarantining of the family members. You may also call the Durham Department of Health COVID Hotline 919-560-9217 to obtain guidance.

What is the difference between a PCR test and a rapid antigen test?

Rapid antigen tests detect protein fragments specific to the coronavirus. A PCR test detects genetic material that is specific to the coronavirus. PCR testing is considered the "gold standard" in SARS-CoV-2 detection and is the **only** test result type that Voyager Academy will accept in order for a child to return to school after having symptoms of an illness.

I did an at-home COVID test and the result was negative. Can my child come to school?

No. If your child has been staying home with symptoms of an illness, we will only accept a PCR COVID test result. Your child may not return to school with only an at-home test or rapid antigen test result.

I was notified BY THE SCHOOL NURSE that my child was identified as a potential exposure to another student that has recently tested positive for COVID-19. What do I do?

First, PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE EMAIL THAT YOU RECEIVED as there is helpful information and guidance for next steps in the letter. If your child is not currently experiencing any symptoms of illness (*fever, cough, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing*) they DO NOT need to be picked up from school or quarantine from school. Please keep a close watch on your child(ren) for any development of symptoms for 10-14 days after the date of exposure that was in your email. If your child develops symptoms at *any* point during that time please keep your child home from school and have them obtain a PCR COVID test.

I was notified by someone OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL that my child has been exposed to COVID-19. What do I do?

As soon as you are notified of an exposure, please keep your child home from school. They will need to stay home and complete a 10-day quarantine, even if they are not currently showing any symptoms of illness. This 10-day period begins on the LAST day your child was around the person that tested positive for COVID-19. Please notify Voyager Academy that your child is staying home due to an exposure and also include the date of the exposure so that the school can help you calculate the 10-day quarantine period.

While my child is staying home for an illness or exposure, can they still do their school work?

Yes. Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) for the link for at-home attendance and school work assigned each day.

Who else can I contact if I have questions about COVID-19?

You can reach out to the school nurse, Ms. Skoff eskoff@voyageracademy.net, your child's principal, or the Durham Department of Health COVID Hotline number 919-560-9217.

Remote Learning Plan will be implemented at Voyager if we are required to quarantine an entire grade level, building, or school due to a COVID outbreak.

Voyager has submitted the state required remote learning plan that addresses specifics about the instructional model, learning platforms, communications, expectations, and attendance. This document can be viewed on our website under the COVID tab. Families should understand that the plans will vary by grade and school building. Summarized below are the highlights of the remote learning option that will be implemented if we are required to implement a shutdown of an entire grade level, building, or school.

High Expectations & Accountability

- Attendance reporting in a remote learning environment will include participation in zoom classes/Seesaw/Google Classroom w/, submission of student work, and any form of communication between the teacher and student about assignments and classwork. We recognize that all families may not have reliable internet connection and that we will need to be flexible about accepting other demonstrations of student work should technology become unreliable. Voyager will provide technology support for economically disadvantaged families that need assistance with equipment and internet connectivity if the remote learning will be for an extended period of time.

Remote Instructional Learning Model

- Teachers will incorporate synchronous class time and small group instruction to meet the developmental and academic needs of all students. The amount of direct instruction per content area will vary by grade level.
- Teachers will also build in time for independent student work time so that they are not on the computer during their entire school day.
- Teachers will facilitate project based learning experiences to encourage the development of interpersonal and executive functioning skills in small remote group environments when developmentally appropriate.
- Teachers will also schedule office hours to meet individually with students and /or parent/guardians to provide assistance and support.
- Teachers will provide frequent feedback and grades on student work and continuously monitor student progress to ensure growth.

Social and Emotional Development

- The Voyager Social Worker and School Counselors will develop programs to support social and emotional development for students and parents.
- The school Social Worker and School Counselors will also monitor and arrange for nutrition needs and technology support for families that are economically disadvantaged to ensure that we provide an equitable education for all students.
- The Social Worker and School Counselor will provide small group meetings to discuss relevant topics to support students with academic, social, or emotional needs.
- School Counselors will provide academic, college, and career planning meetings to support students as they plan for their future.
- Athletics, Clubs, and Enrichment will not be offered during remote learning.

EC Student Delivery

- Students with general education (**inclusion/Push in**) services on their IEP will have EC teachers co-teach or assist general education classroom teachers during the regular classroom teacher's live teaching sessions.
- If this is not possible, due to scheduling of 2 classes at same time, then EC Teachers will daily (record/copy/print etc.) gen ed classroom assignment and schedule in their Google Classroom academic skills live teaching sessions that day or the following day on that assignment (individual or small group). These academic skills sessions could include re-teaching the lesson, test prep session, and any other modifications and accommodations specified on the students IEP. Service delivery minutes will correspond and all goal areas will be addressed and progress monitored. Occupational Therapy, speech therapy and Visually impaired services will be delivered virtually as well.
- Students with **Pull Out** services will log into their EC Teacher's (Not the gen ed teacher's) Google Classroom for live Google Meet sessions scheduled daily in Reading/Writing (ELA), Math and Social/Emotional skills. Service delivery minutes as specified on the IEP will match and goal areas identified will be taught and progress monitored. Occupational Therapy, speech therapy and Visually impaired services will be delivered virtually as well. Pull Out services are in addition to logging into their Gen Ed teachers' classroom for assignments.
- Students in a **Separate** setting will log into their EC Teacher's Google Classroom for daily instruction at a set time. Goal areas from the IEP will be addressed, IEP service delivery minutes will be modified. These classes may be small group or individual sessions depending on the severity of the disability and the teacher's professional judgment. Occupational Therapy, speech therapy and Visually impaired services will be delivered virtually as well. Teacher assistants will also log in and assist students at teacher's direction.

Voyager Covid Concern Form

Voyager has created an anonymous reporting tool to allow students, staff, and families the opportunity to report any COVID concern to the school so that their concern can be reviewed and addressed. The COVID concern form is on the school website under the COVID tab.