

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Fall 2020 @ Spectrum Middle School and Spectrum High School (Spectrum)

Important: This document is being compiled in an effort to be proactive and responsive to questions regarding the implementation of both a hybrid and distance learning model for the fall of 2020. Answers may be modified and more questions added as information becomes available and additional guidance is provided by MDE and MDH. *Note: The date for any changes will be indicated on each question.*

SCHEDULE & LOGISTICS FOR BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Question: Has Spectrum considered moving the deep cleaning day to Wednesday instead of Monday like some other districts? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Not at this time. One of the priorities is choosing a base model that is flexible, allowing the school to move between models. In order to do so, the school needs to minimize changes to the calendar and daily schedules as much as possible. Many students and families schedule their personal calendars around the school calendar daily, weekly, and for the entire year. Each change can have many ramifications. Whether done on Monday or Wednesday, each option would have four on campus student days between deep cleaning.*

Question: When will Open House take place? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Rather than having just one evening for Open House, families will now have to choose a specific date/time to attend Open House, which will be more of a housekeeping time. This year, Spectrum is offering two different dates/times - Tuesday, August 25 from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Once ready, a link to sign up for a specific time to have student pictures taken will be disseminated to all families. Unlike previous years, students must have their picture taken at the school building where they will attend. Parents will sign up online for a picture time and students will pick up and drop off needed items (including Chromebooks) after having their picture taken. In this way, students/families attend Open House at a specific time, limiting the number of people in the building to ensure 50% capacity. Masks and social distancing will be required. Parents should be on the lookout for more detailed and specific information on Open House to come.*

Question: How will Chromebooks be distributed to students? (Updated 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Chromebooks will be distributed during Open House after the student has had their school picture taken.*

Question: When will school supply lists be posted? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Spectrum has been delaying sending out the supply lists until more information was available about the model being implemented for the fall. The school did not want parents to purchase items that would not be needed. Now that a hybrid and distance learning models have been identified, the supply lists will be posted Monday, August 17th. Supply lists will be shortened and simplified significantly as needs will vary depending upon the option chosen by parents.*

Question: When will school pictures be taken? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Please see “When will Open House take place?” for student picture information. Student pictures will be taken at the time chosen by the student/family during Open House (either Tuesday, August 25, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m., or Thursday, August 27, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.) and at the respective school building the student will be attending.*

Question: When will 6th grade orientation (WIN) and freshman orientation (Link) take place? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: WIN orientation will take place in person (for those who are comfortable doing so) on August 20. More information will be sent home soon.

Link orientation is currently scheduled to take place virtually on Monday, August 31. More information will be sent out to 9th graders before the start of school.

TEACHING/LEARNING MODEL (IN-PERSON/SYNCHRONOUS/ASYNCHRONOUS)

Question: Will Spectrum consider MDH guidelines regarding county level data on COVID cases per 10,000 people when making its decision on which base line model will be implemented? (Updated: 08-11-2020)

Answer: Yes - as a public school, Spectrum must consider the COVID case data per county as a critical factor in its decision-making process to determine the base level model.

Question: How frequently is Spectrum considering shifting between models (hybrid, in-person, full distance learning)? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Spectrum will consider changing the model by quarter hoping that we can have students on campus in-person more often. If the case numbers increase (either per county or at Spectrum), the timeline may have to be shortened and shifted to more distance learning based on recommendations of MDH and MDE.

Question: What will a typical day look like for a student when on campus in-person 2 days a week (either Tue./Wed. Or Thurs./Fri.)? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Students will follow their daily schedule moving from class to class. All classes will be limited to 50% capacity in the classroom to ensure social distancing of 6 feet is achievable. The first part of each class will include a connection with the teacher, taking attendance, a period of teaching/learning (which will vary in time and content depending upon the type of class and the day), and further instruction on requirements for the remainder of the class. This portion of the class will be recorded and posted by 3:10 p.m. each day. It will likely vary from 10-45 minutes. Synchronous students will be online during this portion of the class as well. Once the recorded portion of the class is completed, students on campus will continue to work with their peers and the teacher on their work and synchronous students will work independently at home.

Question: What will a typical day look like for a student who is accessing their classes synchronously (either full time or on the other days when they are not on campus in-person)? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: A student accessing classes synchronously will follow their daily bell schedule according to the class schedule. They will be expected to be online (via Zoom) and ready to begin at least 1 minute before the scheduled start time. The teacher will connect with the students (both in-person and synchronous) as a group, take attendance, provide a period of teaching/learning, and give instructions on expectations for the day. This portion of the class will be recorded and posted by 3:10 p.m. each school day. It will likely vary from 10-45 minutes depending upon the class. Some teachers may encourage students to rejoin for small or large group activities later in the period. However, those will not be required for attendance. Synchronous students will have the remainder of each period to complete the expectations described by the teacher in the recorded portion of the class. They could also choose to complete it later in the day.

Question: What will a typical day look like for a student who is accessing their classes asynchronously (completing work by the end of each day based on their daily schedule)? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: It is a general expectation that students will participate in their classes at the time they are happening (whether in person or via distance learning). Exceptions may be available for students who have unique circumstances that would not allow them to participate synchronously. However, this will need to be approved through administration in advance. The recording of the first portion of each class will be posted daily by 3:10

p.m. Students who receive permission to proceed asynchronously, will view the recordings provided for each class later on the same day and complete the work expectations.

Question: What will Mondays look like for all students? (Update: 08/11/2020)

Answer: We anticipate Monday will be a day for advisory where all students connect with their advisor via distance learning either individually or at the same time (depending upon the purpose for the week). If it is the whole class together, this will last approximately 60 minutes and will take place in the morning. The specific time will be determined prior to school starting. The remainder of the day will be work time for students.

Question: What about students who are in band? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: A student accessing classes synchronously as well as those who are on campus will follow their daily bell schedule according to the class schedule. Students who are synchronous will be expected to be online (via Zoom) and ready to begin at least 1 minute before the scheduled start time. Within the music room, students will be socially distanced, as required. If playing a non-wind instrument, students will be required to wear a face mask or shield at all times. More information will be shared by the instrumental music instructor by the first day of class.

Question: What about students who are in choir? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: A student accessing classes synchronously as well as those who are on campus will follow their daily bell schedule according to the class schedule. Students who are synchronous will be expected to be online (via Zoom) and ready to begin at least 1 minute before the scheduled start time. Within the music room, students will be socially distanced as required. More information will be shared by the choir instructor by the first day of class.

Question: What about Service Learning/Community Service and Senior Capstone? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: As was done in the spring, Service Learning/Community Service will be temporarily placed on hold allowing students to focus on their other courses. A decision will be made by quarter as to when Service Learning will start for the year. Senior Capstone will continue in a modified version. More information on Senior Capstone will be available before the start of school.

Question: Will students be required to change clothes for PE? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Students will be encouraged to change prior to PE class and the number of students allowed in the locker rooms will be limited to 50% capacity. Given the 50% capacity limitation during the hybrid model implementation, the ability to change clothing prior to PE class should be doable. Spectrum will continue to monitor this carefully and will make adjustments as needed.

Question: Will students be sharing PE equipment in class? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Sharing equipment is allowable based on MSHSL guidelines and Spectrum phased in plans for athletic activities. Equipment will be wiped down at least between classes and may be done during classes as well.

Question: Are classes required to be outside for PE or do they have the option to teach in the gym? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Holding class outside will be preferable and encouraged whenever possible. Using the gym is an option, requiring masks as noted above.

Question: Will students or teaching staff rotate? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Students in grades 6 - 12 will rotate between classrooms. Since student groups are mixed and schedules are based on student electives and levels, no one group of students remains the same throughout the

school day. At the end of every class period, time will be allotted for cleaning of surfaces, etc., to ready the room for the next group of students.

Students will be using lockers and will be encouraged to maintain social distancing of three lockers between students. If other students are using a locker near them, they will be instructed to wait until they are done.

Question: Will students be able to switch to distance learning later if they change their mind? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Parents/students are being asked to choose either the hybrid model or full distance learning for the quarter. They would be able to make a different choice for the second quarter (if still allowable under the Executive Order).*

Question: How often will Schoology be updated? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Teachers are encouraged to update their resources for each class on a daily basis. The resources needed for the day will be updated no later than when the class recording is posted by 3:10 p.m.*

Question: How will group projects be addressed between in-person and synchronous students? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *There are a number of ways that teachers will be able to mix groups and have them connect. Zoom and Google Meet are two good options.*

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Question: Will students eat in the lunch room or in classrooms? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *As required by MDE, Spectrum will ensure social distancing at all times and 50% capacity will be maintained in the hybrid model. This includes the lunchroom where students will be eating. Spectrum met with its school lunch provider, Premier Kitchen, and will be offering either a boxed salad or bag lunch each school day. Parents will need to order meals in advance.*

Question: Will meals be available to students who are either doing full distance learning or are off campus 2 days a week? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *Spectrum is currently working through the details of how meals would be made available to these students. This will depend upon the number of students needing meals. The school is currently considering providing meals to be picked up for the week, a daily delivery option, or a combination of the two depending upon need and number of meals ordered.*

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Question: Will students be required to wear masks? If not, what other options are available? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: *FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS @ SPECTRUM*

In accordance with Executive Order 20-81 Requiring Minnesotans to Wear a Face Covering in Certain Settings to Prevent the Spread of COVID 19, students attending Spectrum Middle School and Spectrum High School will be required to wear a face covering while inside the campus buildings and while riding on school transportation. A face covering is defined in the Executive Order as a covering that covers the nose and mouth completely, and can include a paper or disposable face mask, a cloth face mask, a scarf, a bandanna, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. Students that are unable to tolerate a face covering as defined above may choose to wear a face shield (a clear plastic barrier that covers the face). Students who cannot comply with the

Executive Order due to medical, mental health, or developmental conditions, should contact administration to arrange distance learning accommodations.

Masks may temporarily be removed while on campus for participation in the following:

- *Physical education activities in the gym;*
- *classes held outside;*
- *while eating or drinking;*
- *upon request for physical identification; and/or*
- *during indoor performances or practices involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments.*

In these instances, physical distancing should be observed to the extent possible and face covering should be replaced as soon as the activity is completed.

Question: What if my student forgets a mask?

Answer: While parents are encouraged to send students with a face covering (mask or shield) on the bus and at school, masks will be available both on buses and in buildings for those who forget.

TECHNOLOGY

Question: Will Spectrum have the ability to monitor student computers? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Yes. Spectrum utilizes Hapara, a screen monitoring program, to monitor student computers during the school day (7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.). This software does not allow access to cameras - only what is on the computer screen. Parents also have the ability to get a report on what students are accessing, either realtime or after the fact, using Securly software provided by the school.

Question: How will Chromebooks be distributed to students? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Chromebooks will be distributed during Open House after the student has had their school picture taken.

Question: What will happen if a student experiences technology issues when trying to access their classes synchronously? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: If a student has limited access to technology in the home, they should contact our Technology Department. Limited hot spots are available from the school.

If a student is experiencing technology access issues when they are supposed to access their classes, they should attempt to resolve them as soon as possible. If they are not able to get into the class, they will have the option of doing the work asynchronously (later in the day) after they have been able to address their technology concerns. If concerns go beyond that day, they should contact the teacher and work out a solution.

CLEANING & FACILITIES

Question: What cleaning protocol will be used in the buildings? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Beginning in the spring, all school buildings were thoroughly deep cleaned, including student lockers. All commonly touched surfaces will continue to be cleaned daily. Classroom tables/desktops will be cleaned between classes. A deep cleaning will take place each Monday using newly purchased equipment allowing for disinfecting of all surfaces in a timely manner.

Question: Are any changes being made to Spectrum's ventilation/HVAC systems? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Spectrum had all systems reviewed by professionals for recommendations on any necessary adjustments or changes. As a result, all filters are being upgraded and replaced monthly (rather than quarterly). In addition, slight adjustments to air flow are being made based on room use.

Question: Will desks/tabletops be sanitized between classes and if so by who? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: Staff will ensure that all desks and tabletops are cleaned and sanitized after each class. Custodial staff will deep clean all school buildings every Monday, as well as every evening.

HEALTH RELATED

Question: What will be the procedure if a student or staff member show symptoms or test positive for COVID-19? (Updated: 08/11/2020)

Answer: DECISION TREE FOR SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS OR STAFF @ SPECTRUM (Updated: 08/11/2020)

If a **student** presents with symptoms consistent with COVID 19 while on campus - student and siblings are excluded from in-person classes and activities until one of the following happen:

A. Student gets tested and is -

NEGATIVE

1. Siblings return to school and activities
2. Student stays home until no fever for 24hrs without medication *and* symptoms are improving

POSITIVE

1. Student stays home a minimum of 10 days from onset of symptoms *and* no fever for 24 hrs without medication *and* symptoms are improving
2. Siblings are excluded from in-person classes and activities for 14 days from onset of sick sibling's symptoms

B. Students who are not tested will fall under the positive test guidelines for attendance on campus. Their siblings will also be excluded from on-campus classes and activities for the 14 day period.

If a **staff member** (essential worker) presents with symptoms consistent with COVID 19, the following will happen:

A. The staff member goes home

B. If a staff member has students at Spectrum, the students will be excluded from in-person classes and activities for 14 days

C. The staff member should be tested for COVID-19

NEGATIVE

1. Staff member's student(s) return to school
2. Staff member returns to school when no fever for 24 hrs without medication and symptoms subside

POSITIVE

1. Staff member stays home for minimum 10 days from onset of symptoms and may return to work after no fever for 24 hrs without medication and symptoms subside

2. Staff member's student(s) return to school after 14 asymptomatic days from onset of parent's symptoms

If a **staff member has a child** that presents with symptoms consistent with COVID 19, the staff member will be expected at work while asymptomatic unless needed at home to care for sick child (CDC guidelines for essential workers).