

SKY Academy Venice Opening of the 2020-21 School Year Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the first day of school?

We are currently scheduled to open for students August 31st. This will be the first day for both in person and remote students.

2. Why would SKY Academy choose to fully reopen schools when COVID-19 cases are rising in our community and state?

The decision to reopen schools at this time is in direct response to the [Florida Department of Education's Emergency Order 2020-EO-06](#) which was issued and signed by Education Commissioner Corcoran on July 6, 2020. Within the Emergency Order, Commissioner Corcoran outlines that brick and mortar schools will need to reopen at least five days a week for all students beginning in August or risk the loss of funding. All school districts in Florida are required to submit their reopening plans to the DOE by July 31, 2020. Until SKY Academy receives an order from the Governor and FLDOE to open schools remotely, we must proceed opening schools face to face five days a week in August.

3. What option do I have if I don't feel comfortable sending my student to our school building?

There are two options for families this year. The first is the traditional in person plan where students will come to SKY Academy five days a week just like they have done in previous years. The second option is that students will learn remotely from home with SKY teachers.

4. Can I change my mind after the school year starts and choose a different option?

Yes. We understand that circumstances change and the needs of students and families change. Students will be able to transition from remote to in person instruction and vice versa. We encourage you to make the change at the quarter unless there are specific circumstances that need to be addressed, then a meeting with Admin can take place to plan the transition sooner.

5. If my student needs to quarantine due to exposure or being sick, can they quickly switch from in person to remote instruction?

Yes. Instruction and curriculum between in person and remote learning is aligned and very similar for this exact purpose.

Remote Instruction:

6. What does the remote learning option look like?

Students who choose the remote option will have the exact same teachers as they would with the traditional in person option. Students will have a schedule of classes to follow each day and a specified time that they will need to log onto their device from home in order to participate in class activities and assignments.

The instruction will be the same as in person, as will all the assignments and expectations.

7. How many hours a day can I expect my student to be on the computer in order to complete the remote option?

The expectation is that you will attend all the same classes. Assignments and homework may add to the amount of time in which a student will need to be on the computer each day.

8. Are there specific times for remote instruction during the day?

Yes, each student will have a schedule and will be expected to attend every class everyday. The schedule and time will be very similar to the in person schedule.

9. What time will remote learning start each day?

The same time that SKY Academy starts, which is 7:45am.

10. What time will remote learning end each day?

The same time that SKY Academy ends, which is 2:40pm.

11. Will there be a break for lunch during remote instruction?

Yes, students will be scheduled to eat lunch at the same time as they normally would at SKY Academy.

12. Will there be breaks during remote instruction in order to stand and get away from the computer for a few minutes?

Yes, just like in person instruction, students will have time between classes to move around. Rather than having to walk from one classroom to another, remote students can use the three minutes to use the restroom, stretch, and take a quick walk around the house.

13. What if I don't have a device to use while at home in order to log into classes and complete assignments?

All students working remotely will be issued a SKY Academy device. We will have a device pickup day during the week of August 24th.

14. What platform will be used during remote instruction for assignments and class activities?

At SKY Academy we use Google Classroom. This platform will be used for both in person and remote instruction. Remote instruction students will be expected to log into Google Classroom for each class period and click on the video link in order to participate in the class activities.

15. How will assignments be turned in while learning remotely?

All assignments will be turned in through each class's Google Classroom page.

16. What if my student has never used Google Classroom before?

We will be providing a training for all students and parents prior to the start of the school year on how to use Google Classroom. All of our teachers will also be

completing a comprehensive Google Classroom certification program, which will allow them to provide additional training and support as needed throughout the school year.

17. Will remote instruction be the same as in person instruction?

Yes, the same activities and instruction will take place regardless of which option you choose. This includes the same class expectations and grading policies.

18. Will remote instruction look like the 4th quarter that we just completed?

No. The 2019-20 4th quarter was a unique situation in which all schools were thrown into a new experience very quickly. The 4th quarter was successful and our students did well, but the new remote option will look and feel different. During the 4th quarter, the main focus was on grace and understanding before grades. If you chose the remote option, the same assignment, timelines, and levels of participation will be expected as if you were in the traditional in person classroom. Assignments and activities will be assigned everyday, not just once a week like during the 4th quarter.

19. Will attendance be taken everyday during remote instruction?

Yes. Students will be expected to attend every class everyday, and be on time. Attendance and tardies will be recorded and included in the student's permanent record. If a student is absent a valid note will need to be provided in order for the absence to be excused.

20. Will students still be expected to take tests during remote instruction?

Yes, students will take the same tests remotely as they would during in person instruction. Tests taken remotely will require students to complete the tests online. The tests will be timed, just like they would be in person.

21. What if my student has an IEP or 504 plan, can they choose the remote learning option?

Yes, accommodations for IEP and 504 students will still be provided during remote instruction. This will obviously look different, but the accommodations will still be available and monitored by our teachers and ESE liaison.

22. Will my student have to wear a school uniform during remote instruction?

No, while during remote instruction students will not be required to wear a school uniform. If the student chooses to transition to in person instruction they will need complete uniforms at this time. We do ask that students are dressed appropriately while doing remote instruction and interacting with their teachers and peers through our online platform.

23. Will lunch be available during remote instruction?

Yes, if you would like for your students to eat a SKY Academy lunch, they will still be available for purchase every school day. They would however need to be picked up from the school at a designated time. Students on free and reduced lunch will also still be eligible to receive their free or reduced lunch if they choose the remote option, but the meal would need to be picked up from SKY Academy each day.

In Person Instruction:

24. What does the in person learning option look like?

This will look very similar to what it has looked like in previous years. There will be increased safety measures, but the structure of how teachers teach will be the same.

25. What safety measures will be taken for in person instruction?

At SKY Academy we are taking the safety of our students and staff very seriously.

1. Anyone entering the building will be temperature checked and those with a temperature over 100.4 will need to go home until the temperature has been reduced for 72 hours without medication.
2. 10 touch free sanitation stations have been installed throughout the building providing ample opportunities for sanitizing hands.
3. Face coverings will be required for all staff and students while on SKY Academy property.
4. Transparent desk shields will be provided for students during the school day. They will carry these shields to each class and set them up on their desk.
5. Social distancing will be adhered to as best as possible within each class structure and the cafeteria.
6. Students will be issued a Chromebook that they will carry with them to each class. Students will not share Chromebooks.
7. Additional space has been created in the locker room area to provide better distancing.
8. All classrooms, hallways, offices, and the cafeteria will be electrostatically cleaned every night.
9. Increased cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be implemented.
10. Students will be greeted outside their classrooms every period by the teacher who will sanitize their hands prior to entering the room.

26. Will bus transportation be provided to SKY Academy?

Yes. Bus transportation will still be provided and all students will be required to wear face coverings while on the bus.

27. Will we be required to purchase new school uniforms or can we continue to use the same uniforms from last year?

We understand that this is a unique time period and some families have been adversely impacted by job closures or reduction in hours. Students can continue to follow the same uniform policy as last year throughout the first semester. Students for the first semester will not be required to purchase new uniforms. Uniforms however do need to fit properly and be in good condition.

28. Will aftercare still be provided at SKY Academy?

Yes, aftercare will still be provided. .

29. Will there be after school interscholastic sports at SKY Academy this year?

That is a great question. At the moment we do not have an answer to this question. As we get closer to the school year we should have a better picture about the fall sports season. We are not part of FHSAA and therefore do not follow all their plans.

30. Will students still eat lunch in the cafeteria?

Yes, students will still eat in the cafeteria, but we will also be adding additional outdoor seating in order to create more social distancing space for the students.

31. What happens if a student or staff member becomes ill during the school day?

Students or staff members who become ill during the school day will be asked to go home until they feel better and are symptom free for 72 hours without medication. Students will be quarantined on campus until they can be quickly picked up by their parents and the area will be deep cleaned.

32. Will we be notified if a student or staff member is sick?

SKY Academy has a communication flow chart which lays out what information can be shared and with whom it can be shared. If a student or staff member tests positive, information will be shared according to CDC and DOH guidelines, while maintaining privacy rights.

33. Will staff and students have access to water fountains?

Drinking fountains will not be available for use. Students and staff may bring their own water bottles to school.