

Dickenson County Public Schools

P.O. Box 1127, 309 Volunteer Avenue
Clintwood, Virginia 24228
Phone (276) 926-4643 Fax (276) 926-6374

Haydee L. Robinson, Superintendent



DCPS 2020 -2021 Instructional Plan and Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

The instructional program for the 2020-2021 school year for Dickenson County Public schools will look much different than what it has in previous school years. The COVID-19 Return to Learning Guidelines and Requirements has made it necessary for us to find new ways to provide a quality instructional program for our students, while still ensuring that all students, teachers, and staff are safe in this time of uncertainty. For this reason, we have developed two different types of instructional plans to accommodate those needs. It is our hope that this will provide parent choice, while still ensuring that the appropriate type of instruction is being provided to all students. The Dickenson County Public Schools is committed to providing an equitable instructional program and to meet the needs of all our students.

Available Instructional Programs

The choice of instructional plans for the 2020-2021 school year is for your child to attend a Hybrid instructional program or a Virtual instructional program. These plans will be different from one another, but the instructional content is the same for each grade level.

Hybrid Instructional Program

If you choose a Hybrid instructional plan for your child, he/she will attend school two days per week and be assigned to either Cohort A or Cohort B. Cohort A students will attend school on Monday/Tuesday of each week and receive instruction from home on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday for that week. If your child is assigned to Cohort B, he/she will attend school on Thursday/Friday and receive instruction from home on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for the week. When instructional schedules are finalized, you will be notified of the Cohort assignment for your child.

If you choose for your child to participate in Hybrid instruction, and attend school 2-days per week, the only requirement is to be enrolled in DCPS as a student. If you do not complete an Application to Participate in Virtual Instruction, your child will be automatically enrolled in Hybrid instruction and placed in either Cohort A or Cohort B for instruction. All students enrolled in Hybrid instruction will be notified of his/her Cohort placement during the week of Aug. 17 - 21 2020.

Virtual Instructional Program

If you choose a Virtual instructional plan for your child, he/she will not attend school. All assignments and instruction will take place online with a DCPS teacher. This will include scheduled, LIVE, Google Meet instruction to simulate classroom instruction, and the completion of assignments from home 5-days per week. Specific information regarding instructional schedules and assignments will be provided by your child's teacher(s) once school begins.

It is important to note, students will not be enrolled in remote/virtual instruction unless an Application to Participate in Virtual Instruction is completed and on file with DCPS. If you choose for your child to participate in Virtual instruction for the 2020-2021 school year, please contact your child's school to enroll in this program.

The instructional schedule for remote students will vary from the Hybrid schedule. Students will log in during the day for whole group instruction and then log on and log off on a staggered schedule throughout the school day for small group/remediation instructional activities. Core subjects including English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies will be taught. The emphasis in Pre K - 2 grades will be English and Math. The Virtual Instructional Program at Ridgeview High School is different and is explained in this document on page 7.

First Day of School for Students

Traditionally, the first day of school for all students is the same. However, with the choice of instructional plans, and required social distancing guidelines, the first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year will be different for students depending on the type of instruction he/she receives.

Hybrid Instructional Program

If your child participates in Hybrid instruction, the first day of school will depend on whether your child is enrolled in Cohort A or Cohort B for instruction. Listed below are the Hybrid start dates for students in these cohorts s.

Cohort A: August 24, 2020

Cohort B: August 27, 2020

Virtual Instructional Program

If your child participates in Virtual instruction, he/she will begin school on August 24, 2020. During the week of August 17, 2020, your child's teacher will contact you by email or phone to

welcome you and your child to the virtual instruction program and schedule you with a virtual open house time to discuss the program and the requirements for successful participation.

Chromebook Availability for Instructional Purposes

Regardless of the instructional plan you choose, to ensure that instruction will continue 5-days per week, all DCPS students will receive a Chromebook and both Hybrid and Virtual students will be completing assignments 5-days per week using Google Classroom. Hybrid students will still be required to access their assignments and attend school virtually on the days that he/she is not attending school. Those assignments will need to be completed on the assigned due dates and submitted to the teacher as those are required. Specific information concerning assignments and requirements will be provided by your child's teacher(s) once school begins.

Parent Changes to Student Enrollment for the 2020-2021 School Year

We at DCPS understand that circumstances may change after you have chosen a participation of instruction plan for your child. To ensure that both Hybrid social distancing guidelines for the classrooms and bus transportation are adhered to, we are limiting instructional plan changes to the first 10-days of school. This 10-day guideline will begin with the first day of school on August 24, 2020 and end on September 4, 2020. During this time, parents will have the option to change the type of instruction their child was enrolled in before the start of school. However, beginning on Tuesday, September 2, 2020, the type of instruction chosen for all students will be confirmed and all students will participate in the chosen instructional plan until the end of the first semester on Friday, December 18, 2020. Prior to the first day of school on Monday, January 4, 2020, state COVID-19 policies and guidelines will be evaluated and instructional types and programs will be evaluated for the 2nd semester of instruction. This information will be communicated to teachers, students, and parents as soon as it is available for the upcoming 2021 semester.

Changes to COVID-19 Return to Learning Guidelines

As we have all seen, directives and state guidelines can change at any time. If at any time, the State of Virginia is returned to Phase II, we at DCPS will have to make the adjustment and move to virtual/remote instruction for all students. The choice of an instructional plan will not be available to the parents and students of DCPS as we are required to follow the guidelines that are set by the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Department of Health, and the State of Virginia. If we at DCPS are faced with this scenario, we will make the necessary adjustments to ensure that a quality education is made available to all students. Should this situation arise, adjustments to the Hybrid instructional program will be communicated to teachers, students, and parents of DCPS as quickly as possible and we will continue with a plan of instruction to meet the needs of the students in our division.

If your child is enrolled in virtual instruction, he/she will continue with their instructional plan that was started within the first 10-days of the school year. Any changes will be communicated by both the school, and your child's teacher should the need arise.

Accommodations for Internet Access from Home

As long as the State of Virginia remains in Phase III for the Returning to Learning plan, both Hybrid and Virtual instruction will be required to complete assignments from home 5-days per week. However, we are very aware of the issues that we have with internet access in our region. Although this will cause obstacles for virtual learning, that does not mean that learning cannot continue 5-days per week. Coordinating access to learning materials for offline use will be scheduled and must take place at scheduled times to ensure that all students are receiving equal instruction and continuing to learn as their online peers.

Participating in Hybrid Instruction Without Internet Access

If your child attends either Cohort A or Cohort B for Hybrid instruction, he/she will be downloading assignments to his/her Chromebook, before leaving school, on the second day of instruction for the week. These assignments must be completed before he/she returns to school on their next scheduled day. Using available video technology and Google tools, teachers will be providing recorded videos and instructional supports for these assignments to the best of their ability. Specific details and requirements will also be provided by the teacher when assignments are downloaded to the Chromebook. These will be found in a document entitled “Weekly Lesson Plan and Objectives”.

Participating in Virtual Instructional Without Internet Access

If your child participates in Virtual instruction, and you do not have internet access from home, it will be necessary for students and parents to download and upload instructional videos and assignments each week. To do this, a DCPS Hotspot (school wifi access) must be accessed on one of the DCPS school campuses or a public Hotspot (public wifi access) close to your home. These assignments and instructional materials will be downloaded to the DCPS student Chromebook that will be provided by your child’s school. The student will then have one instructional week to complete these assignments and you will return to your chosen Hotspot to upload the completed work. This time will also be used to download new assignments for the following week. This will become the routine for your child to complete the required work and will take place on designed days for each school. Due to the instructional differences of Ridgeview High School students vs. Ridgeview Middle and Elementary school students, download requirements will be different. It may be necessary for Ridgeview High School students to upload and download assignments two days per week. This will be necessary to meet the pace of instruction required at the high school level. We do realize that you may have children that attend different schools in our county. For this reason, the weekly download date for Ridgeview Middle and our elementary schools will also be one of the dates for material download needed for Ridgeview High School students. The additional download day for Ridgeview High School students ONLY will be communicated by your child’s teacher at the high school level.

DCPS Outreach and Student/Parent Support Site

We do realize that the 2020-2021 school year is going to be much different than any school year in the past. Guidelines and requirements change sporadically and we at DCPS have to make adjustments and change with them.

To help alleviate some of the stress that you may face during this new instructional year, we have developed the [DCPS Outreach and Support Site](#) for our students and parents. This site will be used to communicate information and provide the technical support you and your child will need to participate in a quality instructional program during the upcoming school year.

This site includes:

Introduction to Chromebooks

Support for both Hybrid and Instructional Programs

Supports for Downloading and Uploading Offline Materials

Support for Instructional Programs and Apps

Student Gmail Support

Technical Support for Chromebook Problems

Contact Information

To access this site, students/parents will be able to bookmark the link directly on the student chromebook or your personal computer, locate this site on the DCPS website, or on our DCPS Facebook page at any time.

Attendance Policy and Guidelines

The Code of Virginia states that every parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child who is of school age shall cause such child to attend a public school or otherwise provide the child with an education in accordance with state law unless the child is exempt from the state's compulsory attendance requirement. Attendance for all students enrolled in Dickenson County Public Schools will be recorded daily.

Hybrid schedule students will be marked present or absent on the days they are scheduled to attend school. Parents/Guardians should notify the school of their child's absence and should provide the school with a written note or doctor's excuse immediately when their child returns to school but no later than three days after they return.

The attendance of remote students will be determined by time-based and task-based participation that produce meaningful interactions. Meaningful interactions are defined as two-way engagement with a student and staff that allows some sort of feedback or input from the student on successes and challenges.

A meaningful interaction with a teacher could mean an email, attending an online Google Meeting, logging in to Google Classroom to complete an assignment, a phone conference with the teacher, participation in an online class, or submission of an online project or assignment. All remote students are expected to participate and submit all assignments as described in the syllabus or schedule provided by their teacher.

Dickenson County Schools will not award attendance awards for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information about Dickenson County Public Schools attendance procedures during the COVID-19 Pandemic, please visit: [Pandemic Attendance Procedures](#)

Questions and Answers regarding Virtual Instruction at Ridgeview High School

1. On Aug. 24, 2020, will all Cohorts begin and login?

August 24th - Cohorts A, B, and C with internet and Cohort A without internet

August 27th - Cohort B without internet

August 31st - Cohort C without internet

2. Will students login for each class on their schedule?

Yes

3. Will they remain logged in during the entire class?

No. Students will remain logged in during direct instruction and be allowed to log off for independent work. Students will have the opportunity to log back into the class during the designated class time for help as needed; the teacher will remain in the Google Meet classroom for the duration of the class.

4. For students who do not have access to the Internet, what is the procedure?

Students without internet access will receive instruction on a jump drive. Jump drives will be available for student pickup by 11:00 am on Wednesday. On Wednesday students can return the work completed from the previous week on the same jump drive shared with the students from RHS.

5. What day will parents/students come to the Ridgeview campus and download work and assignments?

Wednesday by 11:00 am

6. What will parent communication look like (i.e. Google Classroom, Remind, Email)

Google Classroom

Email

Phone Calls to Parents

7. How will the students know how to access their Google Classrooms?

Will class codes be sent out or will each teacher create a classroom and invite the students so they can press join and ensure they have all classes available?

Teachers will send an invite to students to join Google Classroom via student email.

