



SECONDARY RETURN TO SCHOOL
Information for Families
November 2020



Updating of the Family Choice Option

PCPS recognizes that everyone wants things to return to the way they were prior to March 2020. While we hope that can occur very soon, it is not today. Knowing this, staff have developed a plan that will allow students who choose to return to school for in-person learning to do so and those who choose to learn from home to continue learning virtually. Meeting these diverse needs is neither easy nor perfect. Additionally, we must recognize that the reality of school today looks very different than it did prior to March.

The purpose of this document is to provide families with information regarding our plans to bring secondary students back to school and the need for all PCPS families to update their family choice option. The steps in this return process will ensure the health and safety of students and staff through the implementation of current guidance from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

The decision to bring back students remains contingent on three very important factors: 1) Health Data for our City and Region, 2) Scheduling Dynamics, and 3) Staffing Needs. PCPS continues to be in communication with the Peninsula Health District weekly to assess ongoing health data. PCPS will adjust plans as these metrics change.

In August of 2020, all PCPS families were asked to select the instructional delivery model they felt would best meet the needs of their student(s) and family. Option #1 is the Continuum of Learning or hybrid option, and Option #2 is Poquoson Online or fully virtual option. In order to prepare for the start of the second semester and for the return of secondary students, PCPS needs parents to update their Family Choice Option for each student. The updated choice made now will be for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year or until changes are needed based on one of the three factors listed above.

We ask that parents/guardians read this information carefully as there are changes to student schedules, calendar dates, and marking periods for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade on both the Continuum and in Poquoson Online.

Clarification for Families: What Do We Mean by Live Streaming of Instruction?

Students in both options #1 and #2 may be enrolled in some classes that have a live streaming component. Live streaming entails the use of a conference camera and microphone that allows students who are learning at home to see and hear what is occurring in the classroom. Students at home will utilize the webcam on their chromebook as well as features available in the Canvas Learning Management System such as the chatroom, etc. Instruction will be presented in real time to both students who are present for in-person instruction as well as those who are at home learning virtually. In some instances where the classroom teacher may need to teach from home and live streaming into a classroom, students will use their Chromebooks to engage with the teacher. Another staff member will be in the classroom to provide supervision.

Middle School Details

PMS Learning Delivery Options Information

Option #1: Continuum of Learning

Middle school students who select the Continuum of Learning will return to in-person learning on the following dates:

December 7, 2020 - 6th & 7th Grade
January 11, 2021 - 8th Grade

Option #2: Poquoson Online

Secondary students in Poquoson Online will now follow the schedules shown below in this document, meaning that they will participate in instruction that is live throughout the day according to the school's bell schedule. ***This is a change from the current Poquoson Online schedule.***

Middle School Student Schedule Information

All PMS students will follow a daily schedule with five periods that consist of the student's English, math, social studies, and science courses, and their World Language, Reading Workshop, Resource class or an advisory period.

- Students on the Continuum (Option #1) will attend their five classes in-person on their assigned "A" or "B" day.
- Poquoson Online students will join their five classes each day synchronously.
- These five classes will be live streamed each day to those students who are learning at home (both our Poquoson Online students and our A or B group when not at school).
- All students are expected to be present for all five periods of instruction, whether in-person or at home.

Students not enrolled in a World Language, Reading Workshop, or a Resource class will be assigned an advisory period. The advisory period is for extra academic help and time to complete assignments,

In addition to these five periods, all students will participate in their elective courses (Band, Chorus, Art, PE, Tech Ed, etc.) synchronously at-home twice a week (one afternoon a week and once on Wednesdays).

In order to accommodate a return to school, changes to student schedules are necessary (grades 6-8). The courses that students are enrolled in will not change. Every effort will be made to avoid teacher changes; however, some teacher changes may occur as well as changes to class periods.

Updated Middle School Schedule (effective November 30, 2020 for grades 6, 7 & 8)

DRAFT Poquoson Middle School 6th & 7th Grade Schedule Hybrid and Poquoson Online Students					
Bell Schedule	Monday Group A: In-Person Group B: Live Stream Poq. Online: Live Stream	Tuesday Group A: Live Stream Group B: In-Person Poq. Online: Live Stream	Wednesday Virtual Learning At Home For All Students	Thursday Group A: In-Person Group B: Live Stream Poq. Online: Live Stream	Friday Group A: Live Stream Group B: In-Person Poq. Online: Live Stream
7:50 – 8:38	Period 1	Period 1	<p>Synchronous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elective Classes <p>Asynchronous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Core Classes - World Language - Reading Workshop - Resource 	Period 1	Period 1
8:42 – 9:29	Period 2	Period 2		Period 2	Period 2
9:33 – 10:20	Period 3	Period 3		Period 3	Period 3
10:24 – 11:11	Period 4	Period 4		Period 4	Period 4
11:15 – 12:03	Period 5	Period 5		Period 5	Period 5
12:03 – 1:10	<i>Travel Home & Lunch Break</i>	<i>Travel Home & Lunch Break</i>			<i>Travel Home & Lunch Break</i>
Period 6 1:10 – 1:50 (Virtual At-Home Learning)	Band 7 (Students currently in Mr. Higginbotham's 4 th period)	Chorus 7 (Students currently in Mrs. Sherman's 5 th period)		Band 6 (Students currently in Mr. Higginbotham's 2 nd period)	Forensic Science (Students currently in Mrs. Godsey's 7 th period) Band 6 (Students currently in Mr. Higginbotham's 3 rd period)
Period 7 1:55 – 2:35 (Virtual At-Home Learning)	Band 7 (Students currently in Mr. Higginbotham's 5 th period) Rotation 6 (Student currently in Mr. Parkhill, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Miller, or Mrs. Dudley's 7 th period)	Chorus 6 (Students currently in Mrs. Sherman's 4 th period) Art 7 (Students currently in Mrs. Freeman's 6 th period)		Forensic Science (Students currently in Mrs. Godsey's 2 nd period) Band 6 (Students currently in Mr. Higginbotham's 6 th period) Chorus 7 (Students currently in Mrs. Sherman's 6 th period)	Tech Ed 7 (Students currently in Mr. Parkhill's 6 th period) Forensic Science (Students currently in Mrs. Godsey's 6 th period)

- ✓ New schedules will be generated for all PMS students prior to November 30, 2020. See additional information about Student Schedules in the PCPS Secondary Return to School document.
- ✓ Hybrid students will attend school on their designated in-person days (A or B) for periods 1-5.
- ✓ Periods 1-5 will consist of core classes (English, math, social studies and science) and World Languages, Reading Workshop, Resource or an advisory period. Students not enrolled in a World Language, Reading Workshop, or Resource class will be assigned an advisory period. The advisory period is for extra academic help and time to complete asynchronous instruction.
- ✓ The schedule for Periods 6 & 7 (Virtual at Home Learning) is based on 2020-2021 student selected electives. This information will be included on the student's new schedule.

DRAFT Poquoson Middle School Schedule - 8th Grade Hybrid and Poquoson Online Students

Bell Schedule	Monday Group A: In Person Group B: Live Stream Poq. Online: Live Stream	Tuesday Group A: Live Stream Group B: In Person Poq. Online: Live Stream	Wednesday Virtual Learning At Home For All Students	Thursday Group A: In Person Group B: Live Stream Poq. Online: Live Stream	Friday Group A: Live Stream Group B: In Person Poq. Online: Live Stream
7:20 – 8:08	Period 1	Period 1	Synchronous: - Elective Classes Asynchronous: - Core Classes - World Language - Reading Workshop - Resource	Period 1	Period 1
8:12 – 8:59	Period 2	Period 2		Period 2	Period 2
9:03 – 9:50	Period 3	Period 3		Period 3	Period 3
9:54 – 10:41	Period 4	Period 4		Period 4	Period 4
10:45 – 11:33	Period 5	Period 5		Period 5	Period 5
11:33 – 12:40	<i>Travel Home & Lunch Break</i>	<i>Travel Home & Lunch Break</i>		<i>Travel Home & Lunch Break</i>	<i>Travel Home & Lunch Break</i>
Period 6 12:40 – 1:20 (Virtual At-Home Learning)	Tech Ed 8 (Students currently in Mr. Parkhill's 1 st period)	Computer Applications & Keyboarding (Students currently in Ms. Miller's 2 nd period)		Art 8 (Students currently in Ms. Freeman's 4 th period)	Drama 8 (Students currently in Ms. Sherman's 3 rd period)
Period 7 1:25 – 2:05 (Virtual At-Home Learning)	Chorus 8 (Students currently in Ms. Sherman's 2 nd period)	Band 8 (Students currently in Mr. Higginbotham's 1 st period)	Tech Ed 8 (Students currently in Mr. Parkhill's 2 nd period)	Art 8 (Students currently in Ms. Freeman's 2 nd period)	

- ✓ New schedules will be generated for all PMS students prior to November 30, 2020. See additional information about Student Schedules in the PCPS Secondary Return to School document.
- ✓ Hybrid students will attend school on their designated in-person days (A or B) for periods 1-5.
- ✓ Periods 1-5 will consist of core classes (English, math, social studies and science) and World Languages, Reading Workshop, Resource or an advisory period. Students not enrolled in a World Language, Reading Workshop, or Resource class will be assigned an advisory period. The advisory period is for extra academic help and time to complete asynchronous instruction.
- ✓ The schedule for Periods 6 & 7 (Virtual at Home Learning) is based on 2020-2021 student selected electives. This information will be included on the student's new schedule.

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Option #1: Continuum of Learning (Hybrid) Student Group Designations

Continuum students who will attend school for in-person instruction will be divided into A and B groups. Group A will attend in-person on Mondays and Thursdays and Group B on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesday will continue to be an at-home learning day where students complete asynchronous work at their own pace as well as attend some scheduled synchronous electives.

Group A and Group B will be determined by the student's last name. Specific student group designations will come when students receive their new schedules (anticipated date of November 28th and 29th).

- Every effort will be made to keep PMS students attending school for in-person instruction on the same day as siblings who are attending in-person learning at the Primary School and the Elementary School.
- Every effort will be made to keep siblings in the same family who may have different last names in the same A or B group.
- PMS cannot accommodate specific requests from families for specific group designations.

PMS Calendar and Marking Period Adjustments

The 2020-2021 PCPS School Calendar has been adjusted to include three marking periods instead of four for PMS students. This transition has necessitated that the first quarter be extended (to November 20th) and the second quarter eliminated. The remaining time left in the school year (November 23-June 18) has been divided into two marking periods. Students will begin using their new schedules on November 30, 2020.

Nov. 20	1st Marking Period Ends
Nov. 23	2nd Marking Period Begins
Nov. 23 - Nov 29	PMS staff begin making schedule changes
Nov. 30	Students begin using their new schedules
Dec. 7	Grades 6 & 7 Hybrid Students Return to School
Jan. 11	Grades 8 Hybrid Students Return to School
March 12	2nd Marking Period Ends
March 15	3rd Marking Period Begins
June 18	3rd Marking Period Ends/Last Day of School

Sixth grade students who selected the wheel option were initially assigned a first quarter, second quarter, third quarter, and fourth quarter wheel course. Students will not participate in their originally assigned second quarter wheel course. They will transition on November 30 to their third quarter wheel elective course and their fourth quarter wheel elective course on March 15. We understand that some students may be disappointed by this change and we would like them to know they will have additional opportunities in 7th and 8th grade to explore these courses.

Additionally, students in 7th grade who chose a semester elective will move directly into their second semester elective options on November 30.

There will be no 1st semester or 2nd semester exams in 2020-2021 for high school credit courses at PMS.

Unless otherwise announced by VDOE, students will still complete SOL exams in May.

Grading and Exam Adjustments

- First Marking Period Grade = 32% of Year Grade
- Second Marking Period Grade = 35% of Year Grade
- Third Marking Period Grade = 32% of Year Grade
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There are no first semester or second semester exams in 2020-2021 for high school credit courses. Unless otherwise announced by VDOE, students will still complete SOL exams in May.

High School Details

PHS Learning Delivery Options Information

Option #1: Continuum of Learning

Middle school students who select the Continuum of Learning will return to in-person learning on the following date:

January 11, 2021 - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Option #2: Poquoson Online

Secondary students in Poquoson Online will now follow the schedules shown below in this document, meaning that they will participate in instruction that is live throughout the day according to the school's bell schedule. ***This is a change from the current Poquoson Online schedule.***

High School Student Schedule Information

PHS will transition to a modified block schedule with students who attend in person divided into A and B groups. The schedule for the high school does have students attending for two days in a row (M/T or Th/F) as opposed to on alternating days to accommodate live streaming needs and students who participate in external programs. Periods 1-6 will meet for 80 minutes, while Period 7 will meet for 55 minutes.

Students Assigned to the Hybrid A Group

- Will attend school for ***in-person instruction*** on Mondays for periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 and Tuesdays for periods 2, 4, 6, and 7.
- Will ***live stream from home*** on Thursdays for periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 and Fridays for periods 2, 4, 6, and 7.

Students Assigned to the Hybrid B Group

- Will attend school for ***in-person instruction*** on Thursdays for periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 and Fridays for periods 2, 4, 6, and 7.
- Will ***live stream from home*** on Mondays for periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 and Tuesdays for periods 2, 4, 6, and 7.

Students in Poquoson Online

- Will ***live stream from home*** on Mondays and Thursdays for periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 and Tuesdays and Fridays for periods 2, 4, 6 and 8.

Group A and Group B will be determined by the student's last name. Specific student group designations will be shared prior to the winter break.

- Every effort will be made to keep siblings in the same family and siblings who may have different last names in the same A or B group.
- PHS cannot accommodate specific requests from families for specific group designations.

Students who attend outside programs such as the Governor's School, New Horizons, or the Aviation Academy will receive additional communication related to their specific schedules and participation in their programs.

All students are expected to be present for in-person and/or live streamed instruction on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Wednesday will continue to be an at-home learning day where students complete asynchronous work at their own pace.

Students will be dismissed each day at 12:30pm, with additional time from 12:30pm - 2:00pm Time at the end of each day has been allocated for students needing additional assistance, time to meet with their counselor, etc.

Updated High School Schedule

DRAFT Poquoson High School - Grades 9-12 Hybrid and Poquoson Online Schedule					
Bell Schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Group A: In-person Group B: Live Stream Poquoson Online: Live Stream	Group A: In-person Group B: Live Stream Poquoson Online: Live Stream	At home learning for all students.	Group A: Live Stream Group B: In-Person Poquoson Online: Live Stream	Group A: Live Stream Group B: In-Person Poquoson Online: Live Stream
7:20am – 8:40am	Period 1	Period 2	Asynchronous learning for all students and options for academic support.	Period 1	Period 2
8:45am – 10:05am	Period 3	Period 4		Period 3	Period 4
10:10am – 11:30am	Period 5	Period 6		Period 5	Period 6
11:35am – 12:30pm	Period 7	Period 7		Period 7	Period 7
12:30pm – 2:00pm	Asynchronous work completion at home; Remediation at school as needed; SEL*	Asynchronous work completion at home; Remediation at school as needed; SEL*		Asynchronous work completion at home; Remediation at school as needed; SEL*	Asynchronous work completion at home; Remediation at school as needed; SEL*
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours

- Each block includes approximately 40 minutes of instruction (i.e., direct instruction, small group facilitation, question/answer, etc.), followed by 40 minutes of activities/support/practice.
- 5 minutes between blocks for class changes.
- Students will be assigned to Group A or Group B once survey responses are received.
- Grad-and-Go Lunch provided to students at dismissal.

*SEL is social emotional learning and supports.

PHS Calendar and Marking Period Adjustments

- First Marking Period Begins September 8, 2020
- First Marking Period Ends November 6, 2020
- Second Marking Period Begins November 9, 2020
- Second Marking Period Ends January 22, 2021

End of First Semester

- Third Marking Period Begins January 25, 2021
- Third Marking Period Ends April 2, 2021
- Fourth Marking Period Begins April 12, 2021
- Fourth Marking Period Ends June 18, 2021

End of Second Semester and School Year

PHS Grading and Exam Adjustments

First Semester Grade

- First Marking Period = 50% of First Semester Grade
- Second Marking Period = 50% of First Semester Grade

Second Semester Grade

- Third Marking Period = 50% of Second Semester Grade
- Fourth Marking Period = 50% of Second Semester Grade

Final Grade

- First Semester Grade = 50% of Year Grade
- Second Semester Grade = 50% Year Grade

There are no first semester or second semester exams in 2020-2021.

Unless otherwise announced by VDOE, students will still complete SOL exams in May.

Additional Information for All Secondary Families

School Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be offered free of cost to all students. Secondary students will receive a grab-n-go lunch at dismissal. High school students who remain for additional support from 12:30pm - 2:00pm will eat their grab-n-go lunch in the classroom where they are working. The cafeteria nor commons area at PHS will not be available for student use outside for structured class meetings. Meal distribution for all PCPS families will continue to be available on Monday and Thursday evenings (additional information can be found [HERE](#)).

Transportation

Transportation will be available to all students attending school for in-person instruction. A separate transportation survey will be sent out to families who select the Continuum option on Thursday, November 12. This survey asks whether a student will be riding the bus to and/or from school or whether families will be providing their own transportation to and/or from school. Students who will ride the bus to school will receive specific stop information prior to their first day of in-person learning on January 11, 2021.

Health Mitigation Strategies for In-Person Learning

We need everyone to do their part to ensure everyone stays healthy and safe.

Students will be seated six feet apart and will be asked to wear a face covering any time that six feet of distance cannot be maintained, including during class changes, in the hallways, and on the bus. Congregating in large groups not be allowed and specific protocols for hallway traffic (i.e. direction of movement, continuous movement, maintaining distance) will be in place. Certain courses such as P.E., band, and chorus may follow additional health and mitigation strategies according to the activities in the course. Students are asked to bring and wear a clean mask each day. Schools have disposable masks should a student forget or lose his/her mask. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available in each classroom and throughout the school. Additional information will be shared with students.

Wearing a face covering, practicing physical distancing, washing hands and practicing good respiratory hygiene are critical to ensuring that students can attend school in-person.

Ruvna Electronic Health Screener

Each day parents will receive a text message with a series of health screener questions for their child(ren). This screener includes a review of specific COVID related symptoms, as well as travel, temperature, and COVID exposure questions. Parents are asked to honestly appraise their child each day and keep them home if not cleared by the health screener.

Temperature Checks

When students arrive on campus for in-person instruction, they will have their temperature taken by a staff member before entering the building. If a student has a temperature, they will be directed to the school nurse for additional screening. Students with a temperature will be sent home and will be unable to return to school when they have been fever free for at least 24-hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

What Can Students and Families Expect When They Return to PMS and PHS?

The reality is that school will not look like the school students and parents knew before COVID. There are a number of changes needed to facilitate the safe return to school and follow guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control, the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Education.

- Cafeterias, auditoriums, commons areas, and other large group spaces will not be used by students.

- Students will not be able to congregate between classes or before and after school as they will be asked to maintain six feet of physical distance at all times.
- Lockers will not be used, but students will be able to carry their backpack with them from class to class.
- Students will not be eating lunch at school: A grab-n-go lunch will be provided as they exit the school (this is free to all PCPS students).
- Water fountains and bottle filling stations will be turned off and students will be asked to bring their own bottled water, if possible.
- Band and chorus classes will have different protocols in place to sing and play instruments in-person.
- PE will look a little different as students will not be able to share equipment but will participate in activities that engage while remaining physically distanced.
- Movement in hallways between classes will need to be continuous with additional protocol for direction of traffic in place.
- Each school will have a specific protocol for the staggered use of restrooms.
- It is anticipated that there will be interruptions to in-person learning when students or staff are exposed to COVID or test positive for COVID. PCPS will follow the guidance of the Peninsula Health Department with respect to action steps, which may include a student or staff member staying home, an entire classroom or group of students staying home, or the closure of the school for a short period of time. If students need to remain at home for instruction, they will toggle back to virtual learning for that period of time.
- Classrooms will look a little different because we need to ensure students can be at least six feet apart. An example of a high school classroom is shown below.



Important Calendar Dates

Day	Date	Event
Thursday	November 5	Family Choice Option Update survey opens Secondary Return to School information available for parents, students, and staff
Friday	November 6	First marking period ends for grades K-5 and 9-12

Monday	November 9	Second marking period begins for grades K-5 and 9-12
Wednesday	November 11	Family Choice Option Update survey closes
Thursday	November 12	Transportation Survey opens for Option #1 Continuum families
Friday	November 13	Report Cards issued for grades K-5 and 9-12
Thursday	November 19	Transportation Survey closes
Friday	November 20	First marking period ends for grades 6, 7, & 8 All first marking period work must be turned into teachers by 12:00pm
Monday	November 23	Second marking period begins for grades 6, 7 & 8
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	November 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday All schools and office closed
Saturday or Sunday	November 28 or 29	Anticipated date of new PMS student schedules being available in PowerSchool for students to view
Monday	November 30	Asynchronous learning day for 6th, 7th & 8th grade students to minimize any technical glitches with new schedules
Friday	December 4	Report cards issued for grades 6, 7 & 8
Monday	December 7	6th & 7th grade Continuum students return to school for in-person instruction
Monday	January 11	Grades 8 - 12 grade Continuum students return to school for in-person instruction
Friday	January 22	2nd marking period ends for grades K-5 and 9-12
Monday	January 25	3rd marking period ends for grade K-5 and 9-12