

Dear La Conner Elementary families,

You may have heard by now that we are preparing to bring students back into the building by implementing a **hybrid learning model**. Very soon, you will be asked to make a decision about whether or not you would like your child to transition to the hybrid model or continue to learn remotely. Before you make that decision, **I want you to know just what you're choosing**, so I've outlined some details for you here, so that you can make an informed decision.

Before going any further, there are some **important facts** for you to know. **First**, whether you choose hybrid or remote learning, this transition may result in a change of teacher and classmates for your child. **Second**, your decision will hold for the remainder of the second trimester, which ends on March 16. At that time, you will have an opportunity to transition from remote to hybrid learning. **Third**, the school will place students in their AM or PM groups; household members will all share the same schedule.

### **Transition Dates**

February 1<sup>st</sup> is our target date for bringing back our Kindergartners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders. Two weeks later, on February 16<sup>th</sup>, we'd like to bring back 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders returning the following week. These dates are tentative because, as we've all experienced, COVID is not predictable. We are watching our county case numbers very carefully.

### **Hybrid Model**

At the beginning of the school year, we talked about a hybrid model that would break students into two groups – Group A and Group B – and these groups would each attend two full days of school a week, and then learn remotely for three days each week. **Our plans have changed**, now that we've had an opportunity to learn from other districts that have attempted hybrid learning already.

We are still planning to break students into two groups (this is required because we can't keep full classrooms of students at a safe distance). However, rather than having groups attend full days two days each week, **we will be having groups attend in either the morning or the afternoon, four days each week**. We like this model better because it gives students more regular contact with their teacher.

**Sample weekly schedule** (times are tentative and may change):

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30AM - 11:00AM	<b>Group A</b> at school <b>Group B</b> completing classroom assignments	<b>Group A</b> at school <b>Group B</b> completing classroom assignments	Students complete school work, & attend optional office hours  Teachers will offer AM and PM office hours, attend planning and collaboration meetings	<b>Group A</b> at school <b>Group B</b> completing classroom assignments	<b>Group A</b> at school <b>Group B</b> completing classroom assignments
11:00AM- 12:30PM	Teacher lunch and planning & Classroom sanitizing	Teacher lunch and planning & Classroom sanitizing		Teacher lunch and planning & Classroom sanitizing	Teacher lunch and planning & Classroom sanitizing
12:30PM- 3:00PM	<b>Group B</b> at school <b>Group A</b> completing classroom assignments	<b>Group B</b> at school <b>Group A</b> completing classroom assignments		<b>Group B</b> at school <b>Group A</b> completing classroom assignments	<b>Group B</b> at school <b>Group A</b> completing classroom assignments

**Sample daily schedule** for a student in the **AM Group**:

8:00	Catch the bus for school
8:30	Opening classroom meeting, social/emotional learning
8:50	Math instruction
9:30	Brain/movement break
9:40	Reading and Writing instruction
11:00	Ride the bus home

11:30	Lunch and exercise
12:30	Complete math practice connected to the day's lesson
1:00	Attend music, PE, or technology Zoom meeting
1:30	Read to self or listen to reading
2:00	Complete reading and/or writing practice connected to the day's lesson
2:30	Attend LAP zoom for extra reading support
2:30	Practice mastery of math facts

If a student attends school in the **PM Group**, they may complete the activities in blue before returning to school the following afternoon.

### More details about the hybrid schedule

- The long **break in the middle of the day** is necessary for cleaning and sanitizing between groups of students, and for bussing groups of kids to and from school in two shifts.
- The asynchronous learning day on **Wednesday** is necessary to provide teacher planning and collaboration time, since that time isn't available during the other days of the week;
  - ◆ teachers will have Zoom office hours available on Wednesdays in both the morning and afternoon.
- While kids are at school, the **instruction** will be focused on math and reading/writing;
  - ◆ science and social studies instruction will be integrated into math and reading/writing instruction or will be the focus of work outside the time students are in school.
- **Music, PE, and Technology** will continue to be optional classes;
  - ◆ these teachers will offer Zoom office hours in the AM for students who attend school in the PM, and in the PM for students who attend school in the AM.
- In order to avoid crowding, and to maximize instruction time while kids are at school, **recesses** will not be regularly scheduled;

- ◆ teachers will provide brain and movement breaks for their class.
- **Masks** will be required while students are at school.
- **Lunch** will not be eaten at school;
  - ◆ breakfast and lunch delivery will continue as it's been all year.
- Each student will be provided with their own set of **classroom materials and supplies** so that they are not spreading germs by sharing.
- If your student has an **IEP**, they will receive their individualized instruction while they are at school.
- If your student receives **Hi-Cap** or **LAP support**, they will attend their small groups on Zoom when they are **not** at school.
- Students who ride the **bus** will go through **health screening** before entering the bus;
  - ◆ Students who **do not** ride the bus will go through **health screening** at the elementary school before entering the building.
- We are following **cleaning and sanitizing procedures** outlined by the CDC and our local Department of Health. For details about these cleaning and sanitizing procedures, please see the document published by the district.

### **Remote Learning**

Remote learning will continue for families who prefer not to transition into the hybrid model at this time. **Some changes will be necessary**, however, to accommodate and staff the hybrid model. Here are some of the biggest changes that remote learners will experience:

- Remote classrooms will have **one teacher assigned to at least two grades**
  - ◆ For example, instead of being in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classmates, your child may be placed with a new teacher in a classroom of classmates in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Remote classrooms will **operate separately** from hybrid classrooms
  - ◆ Students in remote learning will not Zoom into live classrooms in the building
  - ◆ While remote and hybrid teachers will continue to collaborate together, it is likely that hybrid and remote learning will not maintain the same learning pace.

### **What's Next?**

Please check our district website, our social media accounts, and your email frequently for updates and information on hybrid learning. The school will be contacting you within a week to ask what learning model you've chosen. Also, there is a **Zoom Town Hall**

**Meeting** tomorrow night, **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**, which offers lots of opportunity for questions and answers. The link to attend is on the district website, or you can watch on Facebook Live.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments. Please don't hesitate to contact me for anything.

Take care,  
Heather Fakkema-Hovde