

## **Q and A from Parent Meeting 7/16/20**

**Thank you to all the families who joined us on Thursday for the Parent Meeting. Below you will find the current answers to the questions posed at the meeting. We will continue to update information as we have more specific details to the opening of school. Thank you for your support as we work through the next steps.**

1. Will there be Leesville Middle teachers assigned to work with VA students – **We are waiting for the final numbers for students selecting Virtual Academy to complete the schedule. Leesville Middle teachers will be teaching VA. However, there may be a need to pair with another middle school to complete the class schedule.**
2. Can you share the difference in the amount of remote instruction (not just office hours) in Plan B versus remote? It sounds like VA will have more consistent online instruction given that Plan B staff will be providing face to face instruction.

**Students / families should expect instruction to happen Monday - Friday.**

**Students receive approximately 5-6 hours of instruction and/or instructional activities per day regardless of the learning environment.**

**Virtual Academy** – Students will receive a minimum of 2.5 hours of live instruction each day. Over a three-week span would equal a minimum of 37.5 hours of live instruction.

**Plan A:** Full Day of In Person Instruction

**Plan B** – Students will receive 5 hours of instruction daily on the week they are scheduled for in person

During Remote Learning Weeks students would receive a minimum of 5 hours of live instruction per week. In a 3-week rotation this would equal a minimum of 35 hours.

**Plan C** – also requires a minimum of 2.5 hours of live instruction daily.

1. Will there be a non-virtual academy option where my child is working with her LRMS teacher and classmates? **At this time, there are two options VA and Plan B. Plan B provides blended instruction with both in-person and virtual.**

2. Do you think there will be an in-person orientation before the first day. **Due to health and safety guidelines, at this time we will host a virtual orientation via google meet. We will send invitations when the plans are finalized.**
3. What does the transition from B to C look like in terms of teachers if there will be multiple teachers for in school vs. online learning. **Our goal is to create student schedules for Plan B if the district then needs to move to Plan C there would be no change in teacher assignments and the transition would be easier for students and families.**
4. Will students be with the same group all day long? **At this time the guidelines require limited numbers of student groups throughout the day. Our current plan would have students scheduled with the same small group of students for core classes (math, language arts, science and social studies) and physical education for the day. Students would rotate one additional time for their elective choice.**
5. Will specials be dropped for in-person week in favor of a longer "block" type schedule to allow for more in person instruction in core classes and less exposure for staff? **At this time, we plan for student schedules to include physical education and an elective.**
6. How do you foresee students interacting with each other and with teachers when they attend school? **Teachers and students will follow social distancing guidelines and still be able to share thoughts and ideas.**
7. Will all electives be offered with Plan B, including Band? **Yes - we are planning to offer all electives.**
8. What percentage of LRMS students are enrolled for VA so far? **At this time 30% of students have selected VA**
9. Plan B: regarding core courses, will the cohort stay together for all four classes? Will they remain in one room for all four core classes with teachers rotating? **At this time, we are planning for small cohorts of students to remain together and have the teachers rotate into the classroom.**
10. If we are choosing to attend school on plan B, we do NOT need to complete any paperwork? **That is correct. If you are choosing Plan B there is no paperwork required.**
11. If we sign up for VA fall and spring semesters, can we switch to plan be at the end of fall before spring semester? or are we stuck w/VA for the entire school year? **At this time there is an opportunity to move from VA to Plan B instruction at the end of the fall semester.**
12. If we select Plan B, when will we know the assigned in school building weeks. **Once the student schedules are completed and students are assigned to either A, B or C, families will receive a calendar for each track.**

13. Will Compacted Math still be offered as an in-person class during the week the students are at school with Plan B? **There has been district discussion about not offering Compacted Math for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. At this time, there has been no final decision.**
14. Will classes be mostly live for "remote learning" as part of plan B? **We are planning for teachers to be able to connect with students throughout the day when they are assigned to remote learning on plan B. The schedule has not been finalized, yet. The minimum requirement is 5 hours each week.**
15. If we choose virtual academy can my student still participate in honors band? **We are waiting for families to finalize their plans for either Virtual Academy or Plan B. With both plans we plan to meet the needs of the students and continue their growth as a music student.**
16. Is school still scheduled to start on Aug.17th. Why the early start? **At this time, the start date is August 17<sup>th</sup>.**
17. Will the students who are doing remote learning and have an IEP get the services they need? **Yes, students with specialized instruction will receive services.**
18. What factors will be considered when choosing cohort groups for in-person instruction? **Students will first be assigned to either A, B or C groups by transportation department. Once we receive this information, we will use the students' math needs to create a class schedule.**
19. How are schools going to control and monitor students while they are at home in plan B? **Our current plan has a time each day for teachers to connect with students who are learning remotely. This time could be used to live lessons, pre-recorded lessons or time for enrichment or extra assistance.**
20. Does Plan B and Virtual Academy curriculums differ? Are they both run by LRMS? Or is VA run by Wake County? **The curriculum for Virtual and Plan B are the same and will be taught by Leesville Middle teachers as much as possible.**
21. If a rising 6th grade student chose Band as an elective can they choose a different elective for Virtual Academy that is more doable on a remote basis? **At this time, we are planning to offer band as an elective for Virtual Academy.**
22. How will you handle students who cannot check in during that synchronous learning time if they are having technology issues? Will those synchronous sessions be recorded and posted so students can access them at another time? **We know that technology will at times be a struggle. There will be time for additional support in the schedule.**
23. If a family starts in Plan B then decide it isn't a good fit, do they have the flexibility to move to VA at any point in the year? (I understand moving in the opposite direction is not possible.) **The plan at this time is to provide that opportunity at the end of the semester in January.**

24. How are assessments going to look like for all students Virtual and Plan B? **Teachers will use a variety of strategies for assessing student progress – that includes projects, assignments, and tests.**
25. Will the kids move from class to class with masks? Have lockers? **Students will remain with a cohort of students throughout core classes and physical education classes. They will be required to wear masks. Students will not be using lockers.**
26. It sounds like what you just said is that no classes will be live through remote learning but will be check-ins or office hours. Will there be any consistency for the plan b remote students? **Teachers will have a scheduled time to meet with students who are working remotely each day. Teachers will use a variety of strategies that include, live sessions, recorded sessions and extra help sessions. In the spring, office hours were an option. There will be more student accountability and sessions will not be optional.**
27. How will SSA 7th grade students work under plan B? **Students will be scheduled to support their learning needs. For example, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student could be also scheduled for math I.**
28. If more students sign up for VA, creating less students in the building as a whole, could this increase the amount of time students who are in Plan B are in person for learning? Is this at the discretion of the school or the county? **We will not be able to create a different schedule for students and will follow the plan provided by the district.**
29. What will happen if there are more than 10 students per classroom? **We are currently waiting for the final numbers for each group to create a schedule that meets the student needs and follow the health and safety guidelines provided.**
30. If we have more than one child, in a different school, and opt for plan B, how do we ensure that our children are physically going to school for the same week? **District is currently working to ensure students from the same address are assigned to the same group.**
31. So, during the two weeks of at-home remote learning, what will the daily (virtual) face-to-face time be with the teachers? **Students will receive a schedule for remote learning that will provide specific times to meet with each teacher.**
32. How is lunch handled? Where will they eat? **At this time we are planning for lunch to be delivered to the classrooms and students will eat in classrooms.**
33. What about the virtual academy? no specials?? **We are planning to offer electives in the Virtual Academy. However, we may not be able to offer all the current electives.**
34. Will the class size be capped at 10 students? **Each classroom will have a maximum capacity for the space. We will schedule according to the capacity. Which will be approximately 10 students.**

35. If the school transitions to Plan C, would it be the same model as virtual academy? **Yes - we are planning to schedule for plan B. However, if the shift is to Pan C students would then follow the same schedule as VA until it is safe to return to Plan B.**
36. Does "applying for VA" mean "accepted for VA" when you are giving those statistics about students who are in VA? **Yes - applying for VA assigns the student to VA and not applying assigns the student to Plan B**
37. Can we delay vaccine requirements if we chose Virtual? **Students have 30 days from the enrollment date to complete the required vaccinations.**
38. What steps are being taken to make VA students feel like they are still part of the LRMS community? **Students in VA will be assigned a team just like the students on plan B. As much as possible teachers will engage students and plan for students to connect with school and other students virtually.**
39. Will Math 1 be offered to virtual academy students that completed Math 7+ during the last school year? **Yes**
40. In the past students were grouped more with similar scoring students on EOGs in Math and English. Will they be all mixed up this year? **Since there will be limited opportunity for mixing of students throughout the school day, math needs of the students will be one criterion for assigning students to groups.**
41. If a teacher or student gets the virus, what will be done? How will you handle the situation? **We will follow the health and safety guidelines provided by the district.**
42. If we do attend school, when are we getting our school supply list? **We will be updating the supply list for both VA and Plan B later this week. There is no need to purchase supplies until the list is updated.**
43. How do you foresee the curriculum pacing in plan b? Will staff members repeat the same lessons for three weeks or will remote students and in class students' pace together? **Teachers will plan to meet the needs of each of the 3 groups to take in consideration remote and in person times.**
44. Will there be opportunities for Virtual students to socialize with each other? **Yes virtually.**
45. Will a laptop be available for all students on Plan B who request one? **Yes**
46. Are we going to do P.E? **Yes**
47. What would the special services look like? **Students will receive special education and AIG services as needed.**
48. Will VA be a team of teachers with a different teacher per subject similar to the traditional LRMS team schedule? **Yes - VA students will be assigned a team of teachers just like the students on Plan B**
49. For Plan B, for on campus students, how long will the school day be? And will the same schedule be expected for remote students in the other groups? **The current school day is scheduled for 8:15 – 3:00.**

50. How about the bus rules? **Buses will follow CDC suggested guidelines.**
51. How are you going to deal with any issues with students not wearing masks, pulling masks down during class etc.? Not all kids will behave in a responsible manner as they are kids after all. **We will follow the discipline process for students who struggle with new processes and procedures.**
52. Since my family has declined bus service for the semester, because we can now walk or bike, would that affect my student's temperature at check in. **Yes – students, teachers and staff members will all require a temperature check prior to beginning of school day.**
53. Can students bring their own laptop to class or do they have to use a school computer? **Students may continue to use their own devices.**
54. Will teachers be working with students during the first week to "teach" them how to use the virtual platform chosen for the team? **Yes**
55. What will the bathroom procedures be? Will they have a certain time frame, and will they be cleaned between each group? **We will follow the district guidelines for cleaning for all areas.**
56. Is the first week of school staggered entry.....so all groups (a,b and c) come for a day? **Yes – the current plan has each of the three groups attending school on a different day for the first two weeks.**
57. What would carpool look like to maintain social distancing? **We will communicate the plan for social distancing for the carpool and buses, as well.**
58. How is orchestra going to work for the students doing VA? Will it be offered for students choosing VA? **We hope to be able to offer all electives to students selecting VA.**