

Brooks Families,

We hope you've had a fantastic week! The Brooks staff is eagerly anticipating the return of our students and working hard to prepare for their arrival. Below you'll find information regarding reopening.

Materials Distribution

Brooks will host one more materials distribution next week on **Wednesday, October 21st from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm** in the main entrance area. This distribution is for the following:

- Families to pick up carpool/walker tags
- Virtual Academy students who need to pick up 2nd quarter instructional materials
- All 4th/5th grade students to pick up 2nd quarter instructional materials.

There will be no car side pick-up. Parents will need to park and proceed to the tables that are set up near the main entrance for carpool/walker tags and the cafeteria doors to retrieve needed instructional materials. As a reminder, in accordance with state health guidelines and district guidance, all individuals visiting the school campus must wear a mask and make every effort to maintain 6 feet of social distance between yourself and others.

Update to Remote Learning Days

Wednesday, October 28th will be a Remote Learning Day for students at Brooks. This decision is based on the county's directive that schools can schedule a remote learning day on Wednesday that week. This aligns with the district's schedule of having remote learning days on most Wednesdays through the end of the fall semester when there is not another scheduled workday or holiday that same week. All students will participate in Remote Learning Days, regardless of what school environment they're in. Therefore, no students will report in-person to the school campus on that day.

Health Guidance – Picking up Sick Children

Last week, I shared guidance regarding students exhibiting symptoms of illness at home or at school. It is important to reiterate that if a student experiences any symptoms of illness, they must stay home. Such symptoms include *fever, stomachache, diarrhea, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose, headache, loss of taste/smell, etc...* If a student comes to school and exhibits one or more of the above symptoms, he/she will be transported to the Health Care Waiting Room and parents will be called to pick the child up immediately.

I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring that we have accurate contact information for each student. Additionally, please think through a plan for how your child will be picked up from school, should they become ill. Parents/guardians are required to pick up students if they exhibit ANY of the symptoms above. Students will not be transported home by school staff.

Mask Breaks

I have received several questions this week regarding mask breaks. Below is the guidance the district has provided related to this topic.

Employees may give students a face covering break if they can meet all the following conditions:

- Outside only
- Spaced 8-10 feet from all other individuals, including employees
- Students should remain stationary in the same space

- Students should all face the same direction

Morning Arrival – Independent Walkers

Independent walkers are a large portion of our daily walkers to and from school. In the past, these students have arrived in the morning without a parent. This creates a new complexity this year, as students must undergo health screenings and temperature checks each day and must return home if they do not pass them. It is for this reason that I recommend a parent walk to school with their child. I cannot mandate this, however, if a parent is here, and the student does not pass the health screening, they will return home immediately with their parent. If the student does not have a parent here and cannot pass either aspect of the health screening, he/she will be escorted to our Health Care Waiting Room where they will remain until someone comes to get them.

Virtual Academy & Remote Learning Schedule

To accommodate the return to in-person instruction, we've had to make some changes to our Virtual Academy Schedule. These changes will take effect on 10/26. Below is the new schedule we'll use for students enrolled in the Virtual Academy and students that are in Plan B but are in their remote learning weeks.

VIRTUAL ACADEMY					
K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Morning Meeting Live 20 minutes	Morning Meeting Live 20 minutes	Morning Meeting Live 20 minutes			
Letterland Live 20 mins	Letterland Live 20 mins	Letterland Live 20 mins	ELA Live (Module & ALL Block) 40 mins	Sci/ Social Studies Live 25 mins	MIT
Letterland Practice 10 mins	Letterland Practice 10 mins	Letterland Practice 10 mins		Sci/SS Practice 20 mins	ELA Live (Module & ALL Block) 50 min
Math Live 40 mins with brain breaks	Math Live 40 mins with brain breaks	MIT	ELA Practice 30 mins	ELA Live (Module & ALL Block) 50 min	
Math Practice 30 mins	Math Practice 30 mins	Content Based Literacy Live 30 mins	Instructional Support 40 mins	Math Live 40 mins with brain breaks	
Content Based Literacy Live 30 mins	Content Based Literacy Live 30 mins	ELA Practice 30 mins	Dreambox 20 mins		Math Live 40 mins with brain breaks
Lunch - Play Break	Lunch - Play Break	Lunch - Play Break			
MIT	Instructional Support 30 mins	Math Live 40 mins with brain breaks	Math Live 40 mins with brain breaks	Math Practice 30 mins	Math Practice 30 mins
ELA Practice 40 mins		ELA Practice 40 mins	Math Practice 30 mins	Dreambox 20 mins	Sci/ Social Studies Live 25 mins
Sci/ Social Studies Live 25 mins	MIT	Sci/ SS Practice 20 mins			
Sci/ SS Practice 15 mins	Instructional Support 30 mins	ELA Practice 30 mins			
Instructional Support 30 mins	MIT 2:45-3:05	Instructional Support 20 mins	MIT	ELA Practice 30 mins	Instructional Support 30 mins
Teacher Office Hours					

Teacher Assignments & Daily Schedules

During Pre- K – 3rd grade cohort rotations, grade level teachers will have to be creative in determining how to ensure students in both learning environments (in-person and remote learning) are receiving high-quality instruction. To facilitate this, your child may have a different teacher or a “team” of teachers that rotate to cover instruction in both environments. ***Your child will still be assigned to the same teacher that they’ve had since the beginning of school.*** They will still receive feedback and grades from the same teacher they’ve had since the beginning of the year. However, to follow all health and safety guidance and socially distance students, we must use different academic structures to meet the needs of our students.

Each grade level will share their specific plans with you very soon. Additionally, teachers/grade levels may have to amend the remote learning schedule to facilitate learning in both environments. If changes have been made, teachers will communicate them with families. Thank you for understanding and for your flexibility as we work to ensure all students are getting high-quality instruction each day.

Important: Technology Guidance for In-Person Learning

Please be advised that because schools will have limited technology available to students on campus when students return, the following new guidance will apply when we return to in-person learning:

- Students with WCPSS devices should bring their device to and from school.
- Students who are using a personal device can choose to bring their device to school. If you choose to send your child with his/her own personal device, parents will be required to sign a BYOD form. Additionally, students will be responsible for following Health and Safety guidelines which state that students cannot share a device with another student.

REMINDERS

Technology Needs

If you are continuing to experience technology difficulties or something arises throughout the day, please don’t hesitate to contact the WCPSS Technology Help Desk at 919-694-8100. WCPSS Technology Services has also created a support page for families experiencing difficulties or needing support to learn new tech tools. You can access their website [here](#).

Join Memberhub

If you’re looking for ways to get connected with the PTA and other Brooks families, join Memberhub! The Brooks PTA uses Memberhub as a means of communication with families throughout the year. This platform is used to send out the PTA’s weekly newsletter, provide fundraising updates, provide information regarding volunteer opportunities, and other school-wide information. Please click here to join: <https://brooks.new.memberhub.store/store>.

As always, please reach out to either Ms. Taylor or me for support. We are more than happy to answer questions, address concerns, or provide guidance when needed.

Sincerely,

Marie Palmer, Principal

