

Quarter 4 2021 Return Memo

This memo presents the initial planning information for a planned return to full-time, in-person instruction at Arlington High School (AHS) starting May 6, 2021. Beginning last fall, AHS was forced to adopt a predominantly remote model for most students. The challenges of small classrooms, limited space, and ventilation created space issues that prevented us from adopting a 2-cohort model (where students are in-person for half of their instructional time). We provided “reverse field trips” and then “in-person shift classes” to provide limited live contact with teachers and students. Because instruction was predominantly remote, students could participate in all the same classes without necessitating the creation of a separate “Remote Academy” and all students had access to the full selection of high school classes.

Recent changes in health guidance have now made it possible for us to schedule full-time in person classes. These include:

- CDC and state guidelines determined that 3 foot distancing (chair-to-chair) is safe for classrooms.
- Low levels of community transmission
- Repaired ventilation

The state has not yet provided guidelines or a timeline for high schools to return to in-person instruction. We organized our planning around the following expectations.

- The state will provide guidance in April with at least 2 weeks notice
- Under state guidance, students will have a choice to continue remote learning or chose in-person instruction
- Under state guidance, in-person instruction will be required to be 5 days per week and meet the 27.5 hour per week time on learning standard

The predominantly remote learning model allowed us to offer a full selection of high school classes to all students, because we did not need to offer a separate Remote Academy. The school committee agreement reached in September with the Arlington Education Association (AEA) does not allow the district to require teachers to teach remote and in-person students simultaneously. In order to keep current course offerings, the high school teachers have agreed to simultaneous instruction for the remainder of this year. We appreciate the willingness of the high school faculty to adopt this challenging instructional approach in order to meet the needs of our students.

The table below outlines the proposed plan for the return to in-person instruction. The column in red is included to compare the option of creating a separate Remote Academy. We are proposing to adopt the column in green, “Combined Remote and In-person,” based on the agreement (LOA) with the high school teachers.

Instructional Model	Combined Remote and In-person (LOA)	Separate Remote and In-person
Format	Teachers will have ~80% of students in person and ~20% attending remotely by zoom.	Split students into separate In-Person and Remote Academies. Expect about ~80% in person and ~20% remote.
Impact	<p>Keep all students/teachers in current classes.</p> <p>Remote students will be participating remotely (watching by zoom) in in-person classrooms.</p>	Reschedule 20-24% of students and classes to create a Remote Academy. This would result in new schedules for almost all students and teachers. We would not be able to offer a Remote option for most AP or stand-alone classes.

		Remote and in-person students would be in new separate classes.
Grades/Credits	Students will receive regular grades and credits for current classes.	Students will receive grades/ credit for half a year (2.5 credits) in their current classes and then receive new credits/grades for Q4. TBD impact on senior grades/credits. Combining grades/credits for students who failed Q3 in the first half of a class and then switched sections.
Quarantine for In-person Students	In-person students will switch to remote and attend class by zoom.	In-person students will either do independent work (from Google Classroom) or teachers will volunteer to have students attend class by zoom.
Class sizes	With ~20% remote, the number of students in-person in each section will be <u>smaller</u> .	With ~20% in Remote Academy, the number of students in-person in each section will be <u>larger</u> .
Return to In-person Instruction dates	May 5 - No school for PD and set up. May 6 - Grade 12 students will be in-person. All other grades will be remote. May 7 - Grade 9 students will be in-person. All other grades will be remote. May 10 - All grades are in-person May 6-10 - Special education and other formerly in-person programs continue in-person	
Student program decision date	Students will need to <u>commit to the in-person or remote program by Tuesday, April 13</u> . A form will be sent Wednesday, April 7. If we do not receive a commitment for, students will be placed according to their Quarter 3 status. That is, students who have opted-in to in-person shifts will be in-person. Students who have opted-out of in-person shifts will be remote. Students in the existing 4-day in-person programs will remain in their current programs. Classrooms will be assigned based on in-person enrollment which will make changes after April 13 difficult.	

Existing 4-day In-person Student Programs (Special Ed., ELL, WP, MB, IPA)	Students in the existing 4-day in-person programs will remain in their current programs. Their schedule will shift to the 5-day in-person schedule..
Physical Education (PE) classes	<p>The new schedule will not have a separate period for PE classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All PE classes will be rescheduled and offered two-days per week (and alternating Wednesdays) during blocks A, B, C, D • Grade 9 PE classes will end at Quarter 3, April 13, 2021. Students will receive the full 5 credits for and meet the requirement for the year. • Grade 10/11 students in PE classes will be rescheduled where possible into new sections. • PE classes will be offered where available to students with open periods. • There will be sections of remote PE available for students who do not attend in-person.
Performing Arts	The instrumental and choral Music programs will use outdoor spaces as much as possible to allow students to rehearse together. We will follow plans based on the DESE Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations. Plan for Performing Arts
Ventilation	All spaces cleared for student and class use have had their ventilation restored to full functionality and air filters have been upgraded. This means that the air volume is regularly replaced by fresh air multiple times (minimum is roughly 4 times per hour) each hour. In addition, classrooms have been equipped with medical grade air purifiers, Austin Air HealthMate units with true HEPA filtration.
COVID Hygiene Summary	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IDDxkk8EpWa0DHGXoKbikViT1AhEI1z532OCW7yI3Yg/edit?usp=sharing
Vaccinations	All teachers have been able to receive or be scheduled for vaccinations. Students 16 and up are encouraged to sign up for vaccinations as they become available.
Pool testing	Mandatory testing is in place for winter athletes (200+) and spring athletes (400+ athletes starting 4/26). Testing will be required to attend the senior prom. Testing is available to all in-person students. CONSENT FORM

Bell schedule	DRAFT Schedule
Tech set up	The District will equip each room with an adequate set-up of projection, screen, plugs, extension cords, and connectors, and provide each classroom teacher with a Macbook and an additional chromebook to use for simultaneous instruction. Classroom teachers will be provided with a personal amplification device on request. Teachers may personalize teaching spaces with additional technology that has been provided or is available.
Room locations	Classes will be assigned to rooms based on the in-person enrollment and room capacity at the 3ft distance. This means that teachers are likely to share rooms and teach in multiple rooms.
Advisory	The final 4-5 Advisory activities will be held during an extended block and supervised by administration and advisory staff.
Unsupervised time	During unsupervised time, students can leave campus. In the building, they may be in <u>supervised</u> study areas (study halls, library).
Mask breaks	We will designate outdoor areas (tents and courtyard) for mask breaks. Students can take mask breaks outside or in large indoor spaces - 6 ft apart, not moving around. Staff can create a break time in classes, where appropriate.
Hallways and stairwells	During passing time, students will follow the one-way travel patterns. Students may not linger in hallways or stairwells between or during classes.
Student devices	We will be asking students to continue the practice of bringing personal devices to school. This may require some additional distribution of school chromebooks.
When to consider going remote	Based on guidance from the CDC, it may be necessary to return the high school to remote instruction under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High levels of community transmission (CDC) • High levels of case positive in high school population • Evidence of significant in-school transmission • Disruptive levels of quarantines in the high school population • Other Board of Health or Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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