

FAQ on Return to School 2020 for Anderson School

What is a cohort?

A cohort is a group of students who stay together for their school days with minimal interaction with other groups. For Anderson the cohorts will be with one or two grade levels. This model is used to lessen the number of people who are in contact with one another and aid in contact tracing with Health Department in the case of a positive COVID-19 Test

What is meant by an A/B Blended Model?

This model is when students are split into two cohort groups. Siblings would be in the same cohort group. One group would attend Monday/Wednesday/every other Friday and the other group would attend Tuesday/Thursday/every other Friday. On the days students were not in person at school they would be distance learning by working on independent assignments, attending live or watching recorded Google Meets.

Will masks be required?

Yes, masks will be required within Anderson school for all students and staff. They will also be required on the playground. Parents will be required to wear masks if on campus outside of their cars. The only exception is when students or staff are eating and drinking. If the class is outside for a lesson and activity and social distancing can be maintained, masks would not be required at that time.

For opt out instruction, can my student come back when we feel safe?

The opt out policy states that a student can return to in person instruction before the end of the declared public emergency due to a change in circumstances. If a family or student wants to return they can contact the superintendent, and the school board would need to approve their return.

What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19?

The Gallatin City-County Health Department is immediately contacted if they are not the ones who contacted us. They will provide all guidance on contact tracing and quarantining requirements of staff and students.

What will lunch look like?

Students will be eating lunch within the cohorts. We have developed three different levels of lunch. That document is also posted on the website.

What will arrival look like?

Start times will be staggered. There will be a car line for student drop off. Students will be temperature checked and assigned to an area for their cohort before school starts. We are adding an extra bike rack to encourage students to bike whenever possible. The parking lot will operate in reverse with parents pulling in to the far north sign and circling around to the front of the building where staff is ready to take temperatures. Students are not allowed out of the car until they had their temperature checked by a staff member and cleared to enter the property. No drop-offs are allowed without staff clearance. Students will stay in certain areas of the building with their cohorts until it is time to enter. We encourage biking and/or walking for all of those who are able.

What will dismissal look like?

Dismissal times will be staggered from approximately 3:05-3:25. Exact times will be forthcoming, but we will dismiss youngest to oldest. Students will have assigned cohort areas. We will do a car line for pick up with the exception of kindergarten and first grade where parents can have the option of parking in the Little Red School House lot and walking over to Anderson to a point of pickup. As you read above masks are required on school grounds inside and outside. We will have an area for siblings to gather for pick up. Again, we are encouraging biking and/or walking for all of those who are able.

What about extra curricular activities?

The MHSA has come out with guidelines however there are various negotiations going on between the MHSA and county health departments across the state. This may cause guidelines and recommendations to change in the coming weeks. The School Board will make a determination about whether or not Anderson will participate in extracurricular activities for the fall at the August 13th board meeting. If sports are occurring physicals will be required as in past years.

What is the deadline for opting out of in person learning? Can I opt out after the start of school?

You will have seven days to make an opt out decision, and complete the form after the board decides their instructional model. So this will be approximately August 18th. After that time, you do not have the ability to opt out. This is so we can create a quality education with appropriate staffing for our students who are choosing to opt out of in person instruction. The ability to opt back in to in person instruction is stated in the policy.