

LJMS FAQ's for Returning to School in the FALL

LJMS FAQ's from 7/2. We have provided updated answers to questions we received. As more information is provided, we will continue to provide updates. Thank you!

Question or Concern	Response/Outcome
How will testing be handled for distance learning. How can you ensure no cheating?	As we shared last week, ISD will be providing curriculum and assessments for all schools. Keeping these pacing guides and aligned curriculum in mind, our instructional leadership team at LJMS is in the process of developing a process of how students will be assessed and our academic honesty will remain upheld by all students.
What time will school start/end	The current proposal is 7:15 am to 2 pm (this could change)
Mask Wearing - Would all students in LJ be required to wear masks in all areas within LJ school premises, incl. the classrooms? Some students may not feel comfortable about wearing masks. Would they be required to wear masks given that it would be safer to everyone? Would face shields be an acceptable alternative for masks?	Regarding masks, we will continue to follow guidance from FCPS and VDOH officials on policies for students being required to wear masks. We are currently looking into all PPE that may be utilized in helping all students and staff feel more comfortable in all settings.
For the in-school option: if the Covid-19 situation outside gets worse after we have committed to and started the in-school, and we all have to revert back to online instruction exclusively, will those students have the 4 day synchronous learning option or just the 2 day synchronous learning option?	FCPS has shared that with a sharp rise or emergency level of infections, individual schools or all schools may revert back to virtual learning or temporarily shut down.
For the in-school option, will in-school class time be used for new instruction/notes or will it focus on application of the material provided for on asynchronous days?	In-school learning will focus on new grade-level or advanced program instruction with review being provided as needed. The intervention block on Mondays would be an opportunity for review/extensions in student learning and would take place virtually for all students.
In the all-virtual option for students, how will classes with labs be handled if only virtual instruction is done?	Virtual labs will supplement all synchronous instruction, as well as asynchronous work as assigned by their teacher.
Use of Bathroom - some schools in other countries implemented the "one at a time" bathroom policies. Would LJ do the same?	Yes
In both in-school and online options, will distance learning be interactive in a bi-directional manner through voice and video? How will questions be answered – just through chat? The options in the spring were very limited to encourage class participation and were mostly one-directional from the teacher.	We will consider all elements that would be beneficial to student learning/participation in a virtual environment
Will distance learning be interactive in general? for example, Virtual Virginia was listed as a teaching option – but our experience is that it is all study on your own.	We will attempt to make virtual and in-person learning as interactive as possible with high-quality synchronous and asynchronous activities each week. We have purchased whole-school licenses to EdPuzzle, Pear Deck, Newsela and several other digital platforms to
One best practice from other countries is all teachers and staff to be tested before schools reopen. Will LJ do the same?	N/A
In the virtual option, will all tests they all be open note since closed-book tests cannot be enforced?	N/A
What training will be provided for teachers so they can be better when teaching in a more interactive fashion as opposed to the synchronous option provided in Spring? Many teachers were fairly unprepared to do synchronous instruction online and not tech-savvy.	The School Board has now moved the school start date to Sept 8th. The additional two weeks will be devoted to professional development seminars to help support distance learning.
If electing to do 4 days of online learning, how will power outages, loss of internet access, or other technical difficulties affect attendance?	We will do our absolute best to make phone calls for attendance confirmation and support all needs as they arise.
Will students have to use the FCPS supplied laptop to do virtual learning? Or will students still be able to use their own devices/computers?	Each student will receive a FCPS laptop this year as we enter 1:1 with FCPS for all Middle Schools. We recommend you use the FCPS provided device in case any maintenance needs to be done to the device. FCPS staff will not trouble shoot a personal device.
Thomas Jefferson High School, when is the test date and where will the test be conducted?	Please refer to the TJHSST web site for those details. https://tjhsst.fcps.edu/

