

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## 1. Will my student maintain the same teachers?

- a. The goal for the transition to the AGSD Hybrid Educational Model is for there to be as few changes as possible for students and teachers through changing rosters.
  - At the elementary level, there is the possibility of a teacher change. This will be determined based on the number of families who select the Online Academy versus Hybrid. Until families make that selection, we do not know how many online teachers and in-person teachers we will need. Once we have that information, we will review class lists and make the fewest number of moves. Families will not be able to change their selection (Online Academy or Hybrid) until the next selection window at the end of November.
  - At the secondary level, all teachers will remain the same.

## 2. Will my child's schedule remain the same?

- a. Elementary –
  - The Online Academy will remain the same for core (English Language Arts (ELA), math, science and social studies) areas. Adjustments to encore areas may be necessary.
  - The Hybrid Model will be adjusted as shown in the AM/PM Sample Hybrid Learning Schedules in the [Parent Guide](#).
- b. Secondary – The amount of time for each block will remain the same but the block may be adjusted slightly during the day.
  - View a [sample Hybrid schedule for Fred S. Engle Middle School](#).
  - View a [sample Hybrid schedule for Avon Grove High School](#).

## 3. Will transportation be provided to an alternate site or daycare facility when a student is learning in-person?

- a. Yes. The [AGSD Transportation to Childcare Request form](#) is available on the Transportation page of the website and will follow the same procedures as in previous years.

## 4. Will my child be required to wear a mask in school?

- a. Yes. Students who will be attending school in person and using AGSD transportation will be required to wear a face covering. Participation in physical education will be governed by the Health and Safety Plan for Athletics.

## 5. How will the students be divided into each cohort?

- a. Cohorts will be built alphabetically based on the student's last name. The assignment of students to a cohort will be communicated once the selection forms have been returned. Students who reside in the same household will be assigned to the same cohort.

## 6. When a student or teacher has been exposed to COVID-19, what is the contact tracing and quarantine plan to limit the spread?

- a. The Chester County Health Department (CCHD) will be the lead organization as related to test results, contact tracing, quarantining of staff or students, and recommendations for closure. AGSD is partnering with the CCHD and will rely heavily on their guidance in these situations.
- 7. If there is a COVID-19 outbreak in a school, what are the criteria to return to online, even if the numbers for Chester County are within levels acceptable for hybrid? What are the criteria for then returning back to school after the outbreak has passed?**
  - a. The two primary metrics to be followed in Chester County are the incidence rates per 100,000 people and the percent positivity of tests taken.
  - b. For AGSD as a district or for a specific school, the CCHD will be the lead organization as related to recommendations for closure. AGSD is partnering with the CCHD and will rely heavily on their guidance in these situations.
- 8. If a student becomes exposed and must quarantine, how will they obtain the class instruction that they miss?**
  - a. When students miss a day of instruction, resources and information will be available in Schoology and caregivers and students are encouraged to contact each teacher directly.
- 9. Why is the elementary Hybrid model in an AM/PM format?**
  - a. Allows for in-person ELA and math instruction every day
  - b. Provides more in-person instructional minutes over the course of five days and less asynchronous time than the A/B format:
    - A/B format: 700 in-person minutes
    - AM/PM format: 750 in-person minutes
  - c. Builds routines and procedures for the return to full in-person instruction
  - d. Reduces the amount of screen time per day
  - e. Prevents students having five days in a row without in-person instruction
  - f. Involves a structure for teachers to focus solely on the in-person learners and not both at the same time
  - g. Allow for more consistent curriculum progressions and core instruction
  - h. Allows interaction with teacher and student every day where the A/B would allow only two days of interaction
  - i. Is developmentally more appropriate for most students due to maturity and independence of learners
- 10. If our selection does not go well, can we reconsider prior to the second semester in either direction?**
  - a. An additional selection window will take place between November 30 and December 4. This will take effect on January 26, 2021 and remain in effect until the end of the school year.
- 11. Can I change my selection once I find out who my student's teacher is?**
  - a. No.
- 12. What specialized technology will be provided at the secondary level in order to support teachers so that they can instruct both their in-person and remote learners?**

- a. All teachers will have access to an external webcam with a wide-array microphone and will use this for the synchronous parts of each lesson.

**13. Will office hours be offered for secondary students in the AGSD Online Academy?**

- a. Students in the Online Academy will access teachers through the continuation of their current schedules. There is also time built into both the middle school and high school schedules to request time with teachers for support outside of the daily schedule.

**14. How will elementary students transition to a new teacher, if this change is necessary?**

- a. Similar to the beginning of the school year, experiences are being planned for the transition of students, whether in the Online Academy or the Hybrid Model, to meet and become familiar with new teachers and processes.

**15. Will recess take place at the buildings?**

- a. No.

**16. Which meals will be served in-person?**

- a. Students will have access to both breakfast and lunch when they are learning in-person.

**17. If the school district must go 100% online again due to rising COVID-19 cases in Chester County, will the Online Academy be integrated back into those that selected Hybrid or will it be maintained separately?**

- a. All AGSD teachers are prepared to lead instruction when students are learning online. If closures are necessary, students will continue to follow their current daily schedule.

**18. Will my student be responsible for bringing her/his Chromebook to school every day?**

- a. Yes. Chromebooks will need to be brought to school charged each day.

**19. Will the integrated model for secondary students include teachers simultaneously teaching in-person and on-line students at the same time?**

- a. Yes, for middle school and high school only.

**20. Will extra-curricular clubs be starting to provide an opportunity for socialization?**

- a. Yes. Schedules for co-curriculars will be published by each of the building principals.

**21. Is it possible that AGSD will have to move back and forth between the Hybrid and Remote models based on the metrics for Chester County?**

- a. Yes. We will follow and respond to the data of Chester County as it is made available.

**22. Does the Hybrid model create more asynchronous learning time than the AGSD Online Academy?**

- a. Yes. When students in the Hybrid model are not learning in person they will be expected to complete more work asynchronously and independently compared to students in the Online Academy.

**23. Will students in the Hybrid model interact with students in the AGSD Online Academy?**

- a. For elementary students, no.
- b. For secondary students, yes.

**24. Will spaces be cleaned between the morning and afternoon sessions on the elementary campus?**

- a. Yes. The amount of time scheduled in between the morning and afternoon sessions was organized to incorporate the cleaning and sanitizing of spaces. This will follow the AGSD Health and Safety Plan guidelines.

**25. Will the Online Academy continue to function the way it does today?**

- a. At the elementary level, once necessary teacher adjustments have been made, the Online Academy will look very similar to its current structure for ELA, math, science and social studies. Encore subjects, however, will have more asynchronous learning time than in the current Online Academy.
- b. At the secondary level, the integration of students in both models (Hybrid and Remote) will allow schedules and teachers to remain the same. This will result in synchronous time built into each model, with students who are learning remotely viewing portions of class via camera and interacting through various technology tools. There is potential for more asynchronous time for those who are learning remotely than in the current model.

**26. For a high school student, when will they know if they've been issued a parking permit?**

- a. Students who have submitted the required paperwork for a parking permit will be notified by mid-October.