

The Chester Academy In-Person Hybrid Model:

What is an In-Person Hybrid instructional model? What does it look like at Chester Academy? What day will my child be in school? We understand there are lots of questions as you make a decision about what instructional model will work best for you and your child. Here is a breakdown of what a day at Chester Academy may look like for your children if they select the In-Person Hybrid model.

How will my child get to school?

Every child that chooses the In-Person Hybrid model will have an opportunity to take the bus. It is also acceptable for you to drop your child off at the school. Based on the results of our soon to be distributed transportation survey, we will be communicating our pickup and drop off procedures in the coming weeks.

What day will my child come to school?

Chester Academy will provide live instruction to students choosing the In-Person Hybrid model on the following schedule:

Grades 7-12:

A Day students: Tuesday and Wednesday

B Day students: Thursday and Friday

Monday will serve as a day of remote instruction for all students in grades 7-12.

6th Grade

All sixth grade students will attend school five days a week.

Cohorts and room assignments for our In-Person Hybrid model are still being assigned. As soon as we have completed these assignments, families will be notified of their cohort and be assigned to either an A Day or B Day (once again, 6th grade will attend daily).

What exactly does being in a cohort mean?

A cohort is a smaller group of students that will be grouped together and assigned to one location. We have chosen to assign smaller cohorts to create an environment where students have their own area that nobody else will touch throughout the day. In a cohort, social distancing will be observed with at least 6ft

of space between all students. In our 7th – 12th grade cohorts, class size will be limited to a maximum of 11 students plus instructional staff. Sixth grade students will be broken up into cohorts of a maximum of 15 students and will be assigned to a larger instructional area. All students must wear masks at all times unless eating lunch, or going outside for a mask break.

What will my child's schedule look like?

Students will receive two schedules. The first schedule will be their traditional schedule that will list all of their classes and teachers. These schedules will also have room numbers on their (please ignore room numbers at this time as students will not be changing classes). We have developed the traditional schedule in the event of a return to a traditional day (our fingers are crossed that this will happen at some point this year), or if the building is closed and we are all on remote instruction. You will also receive a schedule that designates what cohort your child is in. All students will be assigned to a cohort whether they have selected a remote option or an In-Person Hybrid option as some students may choose to change their instructional model after five weeks. The In-Person Hybrid schedule will have a room assignment for students to report to when they arrive to school. All instruction will take place in this assigned room. Some teachers may choose to take their students outside for fresh air while they teach their lesson. Schedules will be released in the coming weeks as we approach the first day of school.

We will do our very best to provide students with as many of their classes as possible for live instruction. Students will still be able to receive course credit whether they are taking their courses live or remotely. Here is a breakdown of the curriculum your children will receive while in the building live:

6th Grade:

All 6th grade students will receive Math, Science, Social Studies and English. There will be one period per day where students receive instruction from their specials teachers on a rotating basis and one period assigned for students to eat lunch and work independently/ remotely.

7th & 8th Grade:

We have made every effort to provide our Middle School Students with as many of their teachers as we can possibly schedule in person, without having the students change locations. These students will receive Math, Science, Social Studies and English daily. We are also currently creating groupings that will incorporate honors, inclusion and self-contained special education services. Additionally, physical education and Spanish will be incorporated on a rotating day schedule, as well as other elective classes whenever possible. French will not be offered at the Middle School this year. Students will be given the remaining period of the day to work independently and eat lunch. Some electives for 7th & 8th grade students will be fully remote. Teachers of these classes however, will be here in the building and will have opportunities to meet with their students as needed.

9th, 10th & 11th Grade

Our Freshmen, Sophomore & Junior class students will receive Math, Science, Social Studies and English on a daily basis. Additionally, students will be assigned a specials period with a rotation of specialty teachers. If a student is assigned to a cohort that is instructed by a teacher they are not enrolled in, the student will have the option to work independently on remote instruction during that period. Spanish and French will be taught remotely at this level. All students will be provided with a lunch period/ remote instruction period to work independently as well. All related services and special education services will be provided.

12th Grade

Our Senior class has many scheduling options to choose from when building a traditional schedule. Unlike our other grades, students are not generally enrolled in the same grouping of classes. That being said, their cohort schedule in an In-Person Hybrid model presents some challenges. We will make every attempt to schedule students for as many of their courses as possible, but the Senior class model will involve more of a reliance in working independently and remotely. We may have sections with students working at various levels of Math and Science in the same cohort. We will assign staff to facilitate these cohorts in these specific content areas. Additionally, we will make efforts to provide students with live instruction in their specialty classes whenever possible on a rotating basis, as well physical education. Due to our health screening procedures and contact tracing, Seniors will not be permitted to leave school during their lunch period and will not

receive late arrival or early release at this time. We hope that we can revisit having these privileges as the year progresses and we appreciate your understanding.

What does my child do when they are not assigned to be in school?

When your child is not in school they will follow their teacher's Google Classroom remotely to stay up to date on their classes. Instruction may be a mix of asynchronous and synchronous. New school work will be fluid throughout the week. New material will be taught when children are assigned on remote learning days. Students are responsible to check into their Google Classroom daily, when not in school for live instruction, or they will be marked absent. Students will be accountable to adhere to all deadlines assigned by their teachers whether they are working in person or remotely.

What if my child has CTEC?

We are currently in the process of receiving information regarding students participating in the CTEC program. CTEC will be running on an A/B schedule (in-person every other day). If your child is enrolled as a CTEC student, you will be assigned as either an A day student or B day student. When you are attending Chester Academy on your assigned CTEC day, you will be transported over to BOCES and attend your program in-person. On days you are not scheduled for in-person learning at CTEC, you will be expected to follow their hours and attend classes remotely (using synchronous technology).

Upon returning to Chester Academy from CTEC each day, students will report to their assigned classroom. The arrival back to our building is approximately 10:45am. Students will work at Chester Academy on their remaining courses until we dismiss at 12:15 pm. We will do our best to have CTEC students meet with as many of their teachers as possible, but there will certainly be a greater reliance on working remotely for your courses here at Chester.

We will continue to provide you with more information from CTEC as it becomes available. CTEC is still in the process of assigning students to a specific day.

Where will my child eat lunch?

Lunch will be eaten in their assigned classrooms. Lunch orders will be taken earlier in the day and food will be delivered.

How are you social distancing in the building?

The smaller cohorts that have been developed assure that all student desks are at least six feet from each other. Additionally, hallways will have directional lanes for students and stairwells will be assigned as up or down.

Will there be sports and clubs?

It is our intention to have extracurricular clubs. As we start the year, we may have to run them virtually, but we still feel this is extremely important for our students.

Currently, athletics is scheduled to begin on September 21st. We will keep you posted if there is a change to that date.

Does my child have to wear a mask all day if they attend school live?

For the health and safety of all students and staff, masks will be required at all times in the building. We will provide fresh air breaks at various times for students. Students will be permitted to remove their mask while eating lunch and must stay at their desk, socially distant from others. As soon as they finish their lunch the mask must go back on. If your child is not accustomed to wearing a mask, we suggest you start practicing at home. Students that do not adhere to the mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Who can I call if I have further questions?

Please contact the Chester Academy Main Office if you have any further questions or concerns. We are always happy to assist you and understand that this is an extremely stressful time for our families. Our contact information is below:

Chester Academy Main Office: (845) 469-2231

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Chester Academy Principal

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Remote Learning Plan for Chester Academy:

Remote Learning Plan if all schools are closed for in-person learning:

Remote Learning If Chester Academy is using a Remote Learning model, teachers will use Google Classroom and will post assignments daily to the extent of engaging students for the equivalent of 180 minutes per week (this includes both synchronous and asynchronous instruction as well the estimated time of student engagement). Each teacher, based on their instructional discipline, would be given specific times for live synchronous instruction (Google Meet). A draft of that schedule is posted below. This draft is subject to change and specific times would be communicated should we incorporate a full remote model. Asynchronous instruction would be posted on days that a teacher does not have a synchronous meet.

Synchronous – All students receive instruction at the same time.

Asynchronous – Students work independently on their own schedule.

Please note that the schedule for synchronous instruction below is reflective of students in grades 6-12 using a Remote Learning model. Students working

remotely will follow the daily instructions and assignment postings created by each of their teachers in Google Classroom

ELA	SS	ELA	SS	Health
Math	Science	Health	Science	PE
Music	World Languages	PE	World Languages	Music
FACS	Art	Math	Art	Tech
	Tech	FACS		

Students receiving special education related services would schedule times for synchronous Google Meets with their service providers.

Remote Learning Plan for students choosing to stay home during our In-Person Hybrid Instructional Plan:

- Students will receive their schedule with all of their classes listed as if there was a regular traditional instructional day.
- Each teacher on your schedule will add you to their Google Classroom.
- Each student, while working remotely, will receive assignments, instructional videos, assessments and feedback from their teachers through the Google Classroom.
- Each student will be required to check into their Google Classrooms each daily (prior to 1pm) for attendance purposes. If students do not check in to their Google Classroom and complete the check in assignment they will be marked absent for the scheduled class for that day.
- Students will have opportunities to schedule time to meet with their teachers remotely to seek extra help and assistance through live video Google Meets.
- As the semester progresses, some teachers may attempt to have live instructional classes through Google Meet during their scheduled live hybrid cohort instructional periods. Much of this will be contingent on bandwidth capacity in the building.

- Students utilizing remote instruction will be accountable for the same amount of work, and the same deadlines, as students choosing the hybrid model.
- Parents with concerns about their child's progress should continue to contact their child's teacher or counselors to discuss their concerns. This can be done over the phone or through Google Meet.

We look forward to seeing your children in September!

Respectfully,

John Flanagan

Chester Academy Principal