

Porter Ridge Elementary Reopening FAQ

July 27, 2020

Parents, this document is meant to serve as an important communication tool at this time. It includes the most frequently asked questions as we transition into the new school year. If you have additional questions, please contact Mrs. Lawrence at cheryl.lawrence@ucps.k12.nc.us or you can send a text message to 704-750-0097. Questions and responses that have been updated since the FAQ shared on July 21 are marked with a ▲. This document has been updated based on the availability of the [UCPS Keeping U Safe FAQ](#) document located on the district website.

Health and Safety Questions

▲ **Are students required to wear masks?** Students and staff are required to wear face coverings in school buildings, on buses and school grounds when they are within 6 feet of another person. Students will have scheduled mask breaks through out the day when they are outside or when teachers can ensure they are six feet apart. More details about face coverings can be found in the [UCPS Keeping U Safe FAQ](#) document.

Will the school have a nurse at school every day? Yes, UCPS is committed to having a full-time nurse on every campus for the new school year.

How will social distancing guidelines be followed? Social distancing guidelines will be followed. The building will have signage and floor markings to remind students of the need to maintain a safe distance. Our staff will verbally remind students of the need to social distance for the safety of everyone.

Can my child use water fountains? The water fountains will be available to fill water bottles. Students are strongly encouraged to bring plastic refillable water bottles. We will be installing filling stations at the water fountains. If your child does not have a water bottle, one will be provided.

Will my child share instructional materials? Sharing of instructional materials such as pencils, crayons and markers will be prohibited. Please send in materials in a pencil box/container. Your child's supplies will be used only by your child. Other instructional supplies provided by the school, such as magnetic letters, books and math manipulatives will be managed in a manner to eliminate the spread of germs.

How often will the school be cleaned? Our custodial staff will sanitize high touch areas and restrooms multiple times each day. We will have additional custodial staff present during the school day to ensure this happens.

Will schools continue to provide lunch and breakfast? How will lunch and breakfast be served? We will continue to provide meal options for students. Food service will be designed to eliminate the transmission of germs. Students will not serve themselves as they have in the past. Students will likely eat lunch and breakfast in the classroom to limit exposure to large groups. All supplemental sales such as chips and cookies will be suspended or very limited. All staff will take precaution and make the appropriate arrangements for students with food allergies to provide for a safe environment.

Will my child have recess? Recess will occur daily, however students will not be permitted to use the playground equipment as there is no feasible way to sanitize these large structures between use. Teachers will incorporate

small group games that incorporate social distancing. Students will likely have two smaller recess times to allow for more breaks and fresh air during the day.

Can parents or others visit during the school day? Non-essential visitors will not be permitted to enter the building. This means that parents will not be permitted to walk students to class or eat lunch with their child. All parent meetings will be held virtually. Volunteers will not be permitted in the building. We ask that you work carefully to ensure students arrive with all needed materials for the day as it will be difficult to drop off items during the school day.

Will temperature checks be conducted at school? Everyone who enters the building will undergo a temperature check and symptom screening. Staff members will complete this daily before engaging with students. Students will have temperature checks in the car rider line. Students who ride the bus will be checked in the gym before they report to classrooms. Staff and students are not required to have a COVID-19 screening before attending school.

What happens if my child has a fever? Any student who has a temperature above 100.4 will be checked at least twice before notifying the parents. Symptomatic students will report to the Care Room (a separate room near the health room) until a parent can pick them up from school.

▲ **What happens if my child has been diagnosed with COVID-19?** If a child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. Additional details about guidelines for COVID-19 cases can be found in the [UCPS Keeping U Safe FAQ](#) document

Will I be informed if there are cases of COVID-19 in the school? UCPS is working with Public Health Officials on details regarding communication of COVID-19 positive cases within our school. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Will you continue to provide bus transportation for my child? What safety precautions are being implemented on buses? Transportation will be provided for students. Bus seating will be limited to one student per seat and face coverings are required. Siblings will be permitted to share a seat on the bus. Buses will be cleaned in the morning and afternoon. Parents will be asked to provide an attestation form to confirm that your child does not have any symptoms. This is necessary because students will board the bus before undergoing the temperature check and the symptom screening which will occur at school. Buses may run multiple routes to transport students, due to seating capacity limitations, which could also impact arrival times at school as well as afternoon drop off times. Transportation is offered for all UCPS families. You may opt out for a period of time and then make a new request for transportation. Be aware that an assignment to a bus is not immediate and may take a few days to implement.

Instructional/Plan B/Virtual Academy Questions

Will my middle or high school child attend school on the same day as my child in elementary school? We will coordinate with all of the middle and high schools to make every effort to allow for children in one family to

attend school on the same day. However, if you would like for the children to attend on different days, we will work to accommodate this scenario as well.

Will my child continue to have art, music, and P.E. classes? Your child will have these special area classes. However, they will only have one of these classes for a grading period and rotate after each grading period. On the Plan B model your child will go to either art, music, or P.E. Materials and resources in these classes will be used in a manner to allow for sanitizing in between use. Some materials and resources that students have used in previous years may not be conducive to using while COVID-19 precautions are in place.

Will my child be able to bring home his/her Chromebook? All students in grades 2-5 will be issued a Chromebook. Students will take the Chromebooks home and follow the guidelines and rules for having these devices at home. We have some limited availability of tablets for Kindergarten and 1st grade students to check out on a rotating basis. Also, any homes that do not have internet access can contact the school as the district does have some hotspots available.

Will lessons be live or pre-recorded? Lessons will include a mixture of live and pre-recorded lessons. Teachers on a grade level will work together to deliver the lessons and content to children. This will allow teachers to maximize student learning.

How will you support my child socially and emotionally with the transition back to school in the Plan B model? The school counselor, social worker, and therapist will work with teachers and students to provide support to students and families at school and in the remote setting. Classroom teachers will conduct live class meetings daily to create and develop classroom community among the different groups of students.

Will students be able to check out library books and books for reading? Students will request books through Destiny (the online library system) and the books will be delivered to their classroom. Students in grades K-1 will have a cart of books brought to their classroom to check out books. Per national guidelines books returned will be quarantined for three days, disinfected, and then returned to circulation. Books for small group reading instruction will also be provided. Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will also be able to check out library books.

▲ **If my child has a 504 Plan or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), how will it be followed?** If your child has a 504 plan or an IEP they will continue to be served by qualified service providers. If there is an adjustment in instructional time each week under remote or virtual learning, then services will be adjusted accordingly. It is important to understand that a full virtual/remote option may not be the best choice for students with disabilities or those who have specially designed instruction.

General/Other Questions

▲ **What day of the week will my child attend school? Will siblings be able to attend on the same day? Students will attend school as follows (by last name)** as follows: A-D on Mondays; E-K on Tuesdays; L-Q on Wednesdays, and R-Z on Thursdays. Siblings will be able to attend on the same day. If siblings have different last names parents can contact Mrs. Lawrence to change one of the days so they will attend on the same day.

▲ **Will after school care still be available on the day that my child attends school?** The district will not be able to provide UCPS after school care at this time. You will be informed if there is a change with this decision.

Will we have an Open House? How will my child meet the new teacher? Due to the restrictions on visitors in the building, we will not have a traditional Open House. However, we realize the importance of students having the opportunity to “meet” their teachers. Teachers will send out a virtual introduction of themselves and the classroom. In addition students will be asked to share a short video of themselves to send back to the teachers. Teachers will also have a virtual parent meeting prior to the first day of school to answer questions. Kindergarten students and their families will have a similar experience. Details about this will be shared soon.

Will I be allowed to walk in my kindergarten on the first day of school? Due to the restrictions with visitors in the building parents will not be permitted to walk their children to class on the first day. However, we recognize that our youngest learners may be feeling a little nervous about coming to school. We are working on our plans for kindergarten and will share as soon as possible.

▲ **What if I do not want to commit to the Virtual Academy for half of a year, but I am not ready for my child to return for face-to-face instruction?** If you have concerns about your child returning to school in the Plan B model, please let Mrs. Lawrence know by July 28th. Send her an email at cheryl.lawrence@ucps.k12.nc.us or a text message to 704-750-0097. Our goal is for every family to feel comfortable about their decisions for the new school year.

▲ **What if my child is in kindergarten or first grade and I do not want them to come to school, yet?** If you have concerns about your child returning to school please let Mrs. Lawrence know by Tuesday, July 28th. Send her an email at cheryl.lawrence@ucps.k12.nc.us or a text message to 704-750-0097. Our goal is for every family to feel comfortable about their decisions for the new school year.

How will attendance be monitored this school year? We are currently awaiting direction from UCPS in regards to attendance.

How will the school handle tardies and early dismissals on the days that students attend school? We do ask that you make every effort to be on time and to avoid checking your child out early on the day he/she attends school. We want to maximize student learning. Late arrivals and early dismissals will create disruptions.

What will arrival look like? Car riders will arrive in the same manner in the front of the school. However, staff members will conduct temperature checks at the vehicles. You will need to ensure that you pay close attention to the staff in the car rider line--please do not be on your phones during this time. Bus riders will enter the gym in the morning and will have temperature checks in the gym before they are sent to class. We will create short videos of how this looks for children to share before school begins.

What will dismissal look like? In the afternoon car riders will remain in their rooms and be sent to the car rider line when you arrive. Bus riders and van riders will be dismissed in a similar manner. However, van riders will wait in the gym using social distancing until their vans arrive. We will create short videos of how this looks for children to share before school begins.

▲ **Does the school have supply lists for families?** The [PRES School Supply List](#) has been added to the school website. The lists are also linked on our Facebook page.