

## Plainview ISD Online Learning FAQ

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### *Safety and COVID-19*

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#### **Will Plainview ISD students have school in-person (on campus) in August?**

Yes, currently Governor Abbot is allowing schools to begin in-person for the 2020-2021 school year. The PISD School Board and administration support the decision to open our schools in the fall, with some safeguards in place to help protect students, staff, and parents.

#### **What steps are the schools taking to help protect everyone from the spread of the virus?**

PISD is following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) where appropriate. We are taking the following measures to help protect your student and prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Any person (staff, student, parent or visitor) entering any school building will be screened for illness, including having their temperature taken. Persons with temperatures over 100 degrees will not be allowed to enter.
2. All students 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above will be required to wear facemasks (see [Governor Abbott's executive order](#)). PISD staff will wear face coverings. Teachers will wear faceshields or masks in the classroom anytime students or other persons are present.
3. Classrooms and high traffic areas will be disinfected every night through cleaning and also a virus killing spray (for more information on our [Clorox 360 machines, click here](#))
4. Hand sanitizer will be available in the classrooms and throughout the buildings. Students and staff will wash their hands regularly.
5. Where possible, social distancing will be observed throughout the PISD facilities.
6. PISD is purchasing and installing individual shields for cafeterias, so that each student will have his/her own protected area to eat in at the tables. Each area will be cleaned before another student will be allowed to use it.

#### **About the facemasks...do younger kids have to wear them?**

The governor doesn't require students Pk-3<sup>rd</sup> grade to wear them, but Plainview ISD wants our younger students to wear them too. The more students who wear masks in the buildings, the safer the school is for everyone. We hope our parents will help us with this.

#### **Does anything work as a face covering?**

Only a legitimate filtering mask will be allowed. Bandanas and scarves do not count as a face covering. If your student needs a mask, you may purchase one from the school for a small fee. We are selling them for only what it cost us to buy them.

#### **Does my student have to wear a mask in PE?**

The governor has made an exception to wearing face coverings when a person is exercising, so students will not be wearing their masks while they are exercising in PE. However, they will need to wear the mask to the PE class and while returning.

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## ONLINE LEARNING

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### **Is it true that a student will be able to choose an online option for their learning?**

Yes. The governor and education commissioner have required that schools offer a remote option for learning until the COVID-19 crisis has passed. However, the online learning **will look very different** than the online learning did in the Spring. Here are some of differences...

- **Students will be required to log in and complete tasks and assignments every day.**
- Assignments will **graded** and must be turned in on time
- **Only students doing in-person learning** will be allowed to participate in athletics, band, choir, theater, extra-curricular organizations, certain CTE courses, or other in-person activities at the schools.
- The normal attendance laws will apply to online learning. Students who do not log in and complete assignments will be counted with an **unexcused absence** for that day. When the student accumulates 10 unexcused absences the school is required to file truancy with the courts.
- Students will have to receive passing grades in order to advance or gain credit for courses.
- As you make your decision, please keep in mind that best way for your student to learn the material and keep up with the classwork is to take part in the in-person learning at the school. While our teachers will create good lessons for remote learning, research tells us that the best learning happens in-person.

### **How is the remote learning going to be done?**

If a student chooses remote learning, he/she will not be a part of the in-person class (such as a Zoom meeting or other streaming examples). The remote learning student will be learning and doing classwork in an online environment.

We will be using Google Classroom for the online learning. Teachers will post lessons and assignments into the online classrooms and students will submit completed work within the Google system. The lessons could be assigned reading, videos of the teacher going through the material, websites with demonstrations, etc... Assignments could be online quizzes, written reports, posting comments in the discussion area, pictures of projects, etc... Teachers will be available for questions through the Google chat during certain times of the day.

### **What kind of electronic device will my student need to participate in remote learning?**

Yes, a tablet or laptop will be needed. PISD is going to be purchasing devices for all students but many of them won't be available until October. We have a limited supply of devices that we can check out to a

student if one is needed. Also, your student will need a robust and reliable internet connection to access the lessons and turn in the work. PISD will not be able to supply an internet connection for your home.