

HIGH SCHOOL FAQ From Parent Virtual Meeting on 8/20/2020

The Overall Distance Learning Model Based Questions/Concerns:

Q: How does practice/application time blocks work? Are students completely on their own?

A: Students will still have access to their teachers during the practice/application time blocks. You will see the adjustment in color coding that was made to the model since the parent meeting to hopefully make it clearer that there are synchronous options during those times for students who need it and/or when teachers see a need in holding small groups.

- *Some teachers will probably have a link to a video conference for all of those class period when they don't already have a small group or 1:1's scheduled, so that students can log in at any time during that hour to get assistance.*
- *Teachers will post recordings of their live instruction and at times other instructional videos on Schoology for students to access as extra support during their practice application time.*

Q: If you see a drop in attendance or work completion, will you discuss having some synchronous for every class period on M, T, Th, and F?

A: Great Question! This is definitely at play. We will be using the formal data from our engagement tracker as well as the informal more open-ended feedback we are getting from teachers to gauge whether or not we might want to issue more required whole class times at the high school level.

- *You will see that one adjustment made after the parent meeting is that we will now go **fully live for the first TWO WEEKS instead of just the first.***
- *We will also go fully live for all four periods on the **first Wednesday school day on 9/9/2020.** All other Wednesdays will be flex time where students can coordinate with teachers, advisor, and counselor to make their own engagement schedule.*
- *Our hope is that, with the support of their classroom teachers and advisor, students will be able to manage their schedules in a way that is conducive to them creating a routine for themselves that includes taking care of themselves, their academics, and their family responsibilities.*

Q: Why 30-minute breaks in between classes?

A: There was no other one thing that both students and teachers agreed on more consistently- in both the feedback I received as well as the research I did- than the need for significant length of transition time between classes. We want to take into consideration the different needs students will have in transitioning from one class to another in a digital format. It is crucial that students and teachers be able to step away from the screen for some time in order to reset and adjust. It is also important for them to have time to prepare materials they may need for the next class. Furthermore, we want students to be able to troubleshoot any technology issues they may have in the five to ten minutes leading up to the start of class so that they don't miss out on class time for that.

Communication/Attendance Questions

Q: How will high school take attendance?

A: We will use a school-wide engagement tracker that allows us to record five elements of engagement each day. (See advisory one pager in high school page). We will record attendance in Powerschool one time each day through their advisory group.

Q: What about attendance for the asynchronous, practice/application class periods?

A:

- *Teachers will be available during 'asynchronous' times. Most will probably still have a link to a live session that students can enter to get assistance on their work. Showing up to these meetings is one way to get attendance for that period.*
- *Teachers might also hold designated small groups or a 1:1 per request during those times that students can get their engagement point for as well.*
- *Grade Level teams/Advisors will collaborate at the end of each week to discuss student engagement in general but will also look closely at **WORK COMPLETION** as it pertains to work that was specifically assigned for those time blocks.*

Q: How will attendance and academic progress be communicated to parents?

*A: **Advisors** will be an extra line of support for our students. They will schedule regular 1:1 check-ins with all of their students (15 max) and at times might hold whole class sessions on Wednesdays or other flex time when necessary. Advisors will use our engagement tracker as means for communicating with parents regularly as well about their students' engagement and will use Schoology to monitor their academic progress.*

- *If a student misses three or more days in a week's time, the advisor will communicate that to our liaison team and one of them will reach out to parents to initiate the tiered reengagement process as required by the state.*

Technology Based Q/A:

Q: Does my student have to be with me when I pick up their device?

A: No, your student does NOT have to be present with you. IT will ask at least one parent to sign the computer use agreement as they pick up. Later, IT will post the student acknowledgement on their lock screen and the student will need to accept it one time before they login.

Q: Can my student use their personal device?

A: Yes. Absolutely!

Q: Are high school students getting laptops or iPads?

A: Laptops. Same as we usually issue.

Class-based Questions

Q: What platforms will be used?

A: Schoology will be used for assignments, posting archived instructional videos, grading, discussion posts, class/school updates, and anything else related to each class.

- *Class Meetings will be held on either Webex or Teams*
- *Microsoft 365 will still be used for email, calendars, and other apps through Microsoft that a teacher might want to utilize.*

Q: Do students need to show themselves on video?

A: Yes, that is preferable. It would be amazing to see them on video- it will be easier to check for understanding during instructional time and be able to have that connection between teacher and student. Teachers will show students how to blur their backgrounds for more privacy.

Q: Is there a dress code?

A: Student will be asked to use good judgment in how they present themselves during any video sessions whether it be whole class, small group, or 1:1. A good rule of thumb is that if you wouldn't show up to campus or the general public wearing it -Don't.

Q: Can students use headphones?

A: YES! Use of headphones are highly encouraged. Especially for students who have to be online at the same time and in the same room as another family member.

Needs-Based Questions

Q: How will meals be provided?

A: All you need to know about meals can be out on our website through the following link:

<https://www.ablecharter.net/school-meals>

Q: What kind of school supplies will my student need for their classes?

A: School supply needs will vary from class to class. During 4th period on the first day of school, teachers will provide students with a link to a 'School Supplies Needs Assessment' form. On this form, students who may not already have and are in need of ABLÉ assistance in providing the expressed supplies required by each of their teachers will have the opportunity to communicate that with us and we will do our best to get all students what they need.

- *Items that ALL high school students will most likely need are:*
 - *One composition notebook per class (3 to 4 total)*
 - *Calculator for math (ABLE will check calculators out for those who need them)*

Co/Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Q: Will there still be a HERO program?

A: The HERO program is ever evolving. We probably won't see the same format for the HERO program through advisory this year. However, I am proud to say that we are making strides in bringing elements of the HERO program into every classroom so that the skills of self-advocacy and social emotional learning can be more accessible to ALL of our ABLE students. Mrs. Smith and I will still serve as mentors to our past HERO students and continue to keep the connection we have with them and their families strong.

Q: Will there be Student Clubs?

A: We plan on using our team of leadership students to generate interest for student clubs. More information on this will be provided to students within the first month of the new school year. We encourage students who may already have an idea for a club they want to start to try and find an advisor and contact Coach P., holly.peterson@ablecharter.com, or Mr. Reyman, josh.reyman@ablecharter.com, for details on the start-up process.

Q: How will community service work this year?

A: Community service will be OPTIONAL this year. There will be information posted as to the guidelines and incentives for participating. If you have questions about this please reach out to sara.breedlove@ablecharter.com.