



Capital Area School for the Arts
Charter School

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Fall 2020 Reopening Plan
Frequently Asked Questions – Handout 3

1. How will CASA decide which educational delivery model to utilize throughout the year?

CASA will consider many factors when making the instructional delivery method determination. The guiding principle for decision-making will be student and staff safety. We will consider the safety measures in place, the potential for contact tracing and containment, and availability of resources. In addition, we will utilize the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education’s recommendations that are based on two standard public health metrics: incidence rate and the percent positivity of diagnostic testing.

The chart below, using measurements from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, identifies thresholds representing low, moderate, or substantial community transmission of COVID-19, and corresponding instructional models recommended by the Departments of Health and Education.

For ease of use, once per week, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will publish a list identifying the level of community transmission in each county over the most recent seven-day reporting period.

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	Percent Positivity Rate (Most Recent 7 Days)	Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Full In-Person Model OR Hybrid Learning Model
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%	Hybrid Learning Model OR Full Remote Learning Model
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model

Transitioning Between Instructional Models

A county's corresponding threshold may change week-by-week as incidence and percent positivity rates rise and fall. In order to confirm stability of county transmission, when the county's corresponding threshold changes, CASA will wait to see the results from the next seven-day reporting period before *considering* a change to the instructional delivery model. To ensure the most effective transition for students, it may be appropriate for CASA to wait even longer, up to a full marking period, to transition to an instructional model that increases in-person instruction. Because CASA is comprised of students from 30 Central Pennsylvania School Districts, CASA will monitor several counties, in addition to Dauphin County. It is important to note that a significant and/or widespread outbreak may require moving to a more remote-based learning model more quickly. The Department of Health will provide proactive consultative assistance to school entities should such an outbreak occur.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx>

2. What if my district of residence is utilizing a different instructional plan than CASA? Whose do I follow? Will there still be district provided transportation?

As you have noticed, districts have chosen many different instructional plans for the upcoming school year. CASA and all of our students will follow our plan. Ours will be unique because we will be monitoring conditions in numerous counties rather than just one district. All districts that provide transportation have been given our plan and have stated that they will provide transportation, if they typically do. This could change if there is an outbreak in their community, within their bus company, etc. Mrs. Chambers will keep you notified of any changes.

3. Will there be open houses this year?

We are going to take this one month at a time. Unfortunately, there will not be an in-person open house for new students on August 27, 2020 as originally planned, but we will have a virtual "Meet the Staff" Zoom meeting for new students on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Zoom link will be emailed to all new families by August 21, 2020. Gallery Walk for September 13, 2020 is TENTATIVE at this point. A decision will be made on August 20, 2020. The Back to School Night on September 17, 2020 will be held, if not in person, it will be held virtually. Stay tuned for more details.

4. How will computers be distributed to students who need them? How will students who are scheduled to be 100% virtual receive a computer?

Computers will be distributed on the first two days of in-person learning. Homeroom teachers will create a list, submit it to Mrs. Rhinehart and Mr. Wendling and the computers will be distributed throughout the day. Students must sign acknowledgement of receipt paperwork. If a student is beginning the school year virtually, they will have the opportunity to pick up a computer at the school between 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. during the first week of school (Monday-Thursday).

5. How will hybrid learners receive their schedules/user names and passwords for virtual learning platforms? How will students who are beginning the school year virtually receive their schedules/user names and passwords?

All students will have access to their “regular, full-time in-person” schedules in PowerSchool the week before school begins so they will be able to see which classes they have. Students will receive their hybrid schedules, along with all other pertinent information during their first two days of live instruction. Students who are beginning the school year virtually will have all of their information emailed to them and will be invited to a Zoom meeting with Mrs. Rhinehart on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the Canvas and CAOLA learning platforms. This meeting will be recorded and can be accessed at a later time, if needed. Students who are learning 100% virtually or when students are learning virtually during the hybrid model are encouraged to follow their schedule so they maintain a sense of routine.

6. Will students participate in Keystone Exam testing this year?

Students who were scheduled to take a Keystone Exam last Spring will take it this Winter. They will have the opportunity to retake the exam in the Spring of 2021, if needed. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has not changed graduation requirements for the class of 2022, so we will proceed with Keystone Exam testing as usual.

7. How will attendance be recorded this year?

Attendance is defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as students' physical exposure to or contact with learning activities. Teachers will record daily attendance in PowerSchool (homeroom) for students when they are present for in-person teaching and learning. Please see the student handbook beginning on page three for more information regarding attendance policies. For virtual learning, attendance will be taken based on assignment completion. Students must sign in to Canvas and CAOLA and complete their assignments, or demonstrate progress if completing a multiple-day assignment, each day that they are participating in virtual learning. If assignments are not attempted/completed and/or a student does not log in to any of their classes, that student will be marked absent for the day. In addition, if assignments are not attempted/completed for more than *three* classes, the student will be marked absent for the entire day. Parents must submit absentee notes for students who are unable to complete virtual assignments on any given day. Teachers will be notified of excused student absences. Students must submit all virtual assignments on the day they are due for full credit. Attendance for virtual learning will be logged weekly by administration. **If the entire school utilizes the virtual teaching and learning model, students will be required to follow a daily schedule, when possible. Details forthcoming.**

Possible Access/Completion Combinations	Confirmation of Access	Timely Submission of Assignment	Attendance Decision
Evidence of Access and Completion	Yes	Yes	Present
Evidence of Completion, but not Access	No	Yes	Present
Evidence of Access, not Completion	Yes	No	Absent
No Evidence of Access or Completion	No	No	Absent



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