



Parent Guide to the 2021 School Year

School Options

What are my options for school this year?

Parents have the following options available for the 2020-2021 school year.

Option 1:

Traditional School

Students return to school full time, five days a week in the traditional face-to-face classroom setting with increased health and safety measures in place to include the following:

- Each student will be asked to wear a mask or face covering.
- Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
- Increased number of hand sanitization stations and hand washing breaks.
- Increased social distancing where possible.
- Controlled movement where possible.
- Limited mass gatherings and field trips.

Option 2:

MySchool On-line

Students return to their own school in an online setting and must follow their daily class schedule. Importation features of this learning environment include:

- Real time scheduled lessons on-line through TEAMS and CANVAS.
- High expectations for attendance, work completion and participation.
- Students remain enrolled at their home school.
- Students/Teachers follow the same curriculum sequence as their peers in school and can easily return to school when comfortable. This temporary option will be reevaluated every nine weeks.
- Parents must provide adult supervision and support for young children to help them navigate the on-line environment.
- Students will receive a computer if they do not have one. (One per student).

Option 3:

Mosaic Digital Academy

Students may seek a transfer to Mosaic Digital Academy; our full-time FLVS Franchise. This choice requires a one-year commitment during this time due to the challenges of transferring between regular brick and mortar schools and this curriculum. Parents must provide adult supervision and support for young children to help them navigate the on-line environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Traditional School

Will there be an Open House at my school?

All open houses will be conducted virtually. Your school will contact you with more information.

Will after school programs like the Boys and Girls Club still be offered?

After school programs like Boys and Girls Club will still be offered in SLPS. The programs will be required to follow the required universal safety precautions in schools (such as practicing social distancing, wearing a mask when students cannot socially distance, frequent hand washing and sanitizing, etc).

Will there be recess?

Elementary schools will continue to provide recess. Students will be taught the expectation for social distancing at recess. High touch activities like "Duck, Duck, Goose" will be prohibited. Students must wash their hands or sanitize their hands before and after recess.

How will schools be cleaned?

SLPS Custodial Services is committed to upholding high standards for cleanliness and safety. With enhanced cleaning protocols put in place because of COVID-19, we are following current local health, government, and CDC guidelines. SLPS is cleaning and using a hospital grade and EPA approved disinfectant on all touchpoints with an increased frequency of disinfecting high touch surfaces:

- Doorknobs
- Light switches
- Restrooms and Restroom fixtures
- Desk and counter tops
- Keyboards and mouse (with access after students are dismissed for the day)
- Front Office and lobby areas
- Copiers/printers
- Elevator buttons
- Break and common areas
- Keyboards and mice

Deep cleaning will also take place before the start of school, and during major holidays. Deep Cleaning with an electrostatic sprayer provides greater efficiency and effectiveness. We use an EPA approved disinfecting and sanitizing solution to treat per CDC guidelines. This spray aggressively adheres to surfaces and objects allowing the applicator to increase coverage significantly. This system uses an electrode to introduce an attractive charge to the chemical and atomizes the solution using an air compressor to generate a liquid flow. It can cover up to 18,000 square feet per hour, even in hard to reach places, including the sides and underside and backside of the surfaces. It distributes the solution in a fine mist that does not require wiping.

Our COVID-19 response team includes the Custodial Area Managers and the Custodial Coordinator, who have been trained on the use of the Electrostatic Sprayers. We used these machines prior to Covid-19 for school outbreak notifications from the health department.

What new procedures will take place on buses?

All students will be taught to socially distance at bus stops- standing six feet apart from others. Students must be wearing masks to enter the bus. Should a student forget a mask, the bus driver will provide a mask. The bus driver will be wearing gloves and a mask. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected between trips when possible (after each route). Buses will be cleaned again at the end of the day. Buses will be aired out when not in use.

What will arrival look like?

We do encourage parents to drop their students off and pick them up at the end of the day. Staff will keep the students moving from the bus loop to designated assigned areas in the morning. Student exhibiting symptoms will receive a temperature check.

Students who walk or get dropped off will need to come to school in a mask or be provided one before they enter school. Walkers, skateboarders, and cyclists will report to a designated area for hand sanitizer as they enter campus.

What if I need to pick my child up from the main office for an appointment?

Parents will follow standard procedures for early pick up. They must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Parents for early pick up must bring ID to the door of the front office. Staff will check ID using Skyward and RAPTOR and send the student outside for early dismissal. If the parent must come in, they must have their temperature taken and be wearing a mask.

What new procedures can I expect when I come into the main office?

Parents will see new procedures:

- Schools will severely limit non-essential visitors and volunteers on campus.
- Parents must wear a mask to enter the building and they must have their temperature taken.
- Schools will limit the number of people entering for a student to one, when possible.
- Parents will not be permitted to have lunch with their student on campus.
- Parent conferences can be conducted virtually. We strongly encourage visits by appointment only.
- Tardy notes and absence notes may be accepted by email instead of handwritten notes.

What will dismissal look like?

All students must wear a mask on the bus. Staff will stagger dismissal so that all students may practice social distancing. Parent pick-up students must stay socially distant (six feet apart) while waiting for their rides. Walkers, skateboarders, cyclists, and student drivers must not linger and must leave immediately.

What about water fountains and bathrooms?

Water fountains will not be available. We encourage students and staff to bring their own water. For bathrooms, there will be custodial cleaning throughout the day. Explicit lessons in healthy habits will be taught to students and staff: handwashing, cough etiquette, use of masks, social distancing and staying home when sick. Staff will organize multiple stall bathrooms so students can wash their hands six feet apart and limit the number of students in the bathrooms. All students will get the opportunity to use the restroom.

What changes are being made to classrooms?

Schools will provide sanitizer or soap before entering a classroom and before leaving a classroom. Staff will post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19. Schools may need to use gyms, media centers and other large spaces to create socially distanced classroom spaces. Teachers will make sure students have as much space as possible so that they may socially distance. It may not be possible and students must wear a mask.

Tables and desks should all face the front of the room as much as possible. Teachers must use a seating chart for contact tracing purposes. Teachers will be asked to avoid clutter. All surfaces should be wipeable and spray-able. Teachers and students will avoid sharing common items – scissors, tape, glue, pens, pencils when possible. When it cannot be avoided, students will use hand sanitizer or hand wash frequently.

What will happen during class transitions?

Students may not congregate in hallways and lunchrooms. Schools will develop one-way traffic patterns and stagger movement of classes to assist with social distancing (controlled transition and traffic patterns).

Will breakfast and lunch still be served?

Breakfast and lunch will be offered at school. The cafeteria staff will be following universal safety precautions for schools. Food will be prepackaged to minimize contact with food items and students will not have to touch a keypad to enter their student ID number. Cafeterias will be arranged to increase social distancing and students may be arranged to eat outside and/or in classrooms to increase social distancing further. Students are prohibited from sharing food or utensils. Students will not have to wear a mask when eating. After each lunch, all cafeteria surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectant.

What will be the healthy habits expectations for students?

Explicit lessons in healthy habits will be taught to students and staff: handwashing, cough etiquette, use of masks, social distancing and staying home when sick.

Will there be reduced numbers of students in classes?

There will not necessarily be a reduced number of students in classes, although some families may be opting for MySchool Online. Masks are required when students cannot socially distance in the classroom.

What is the mask policy? What if my student forgets a mask?

When students board a school bus, they are expected to wear a mask. If they forget their mask, the bus driver will provide a disposable mask. Students who arrive via parent drop-off or who walk or ride their bikes to school will be able to receive a mask as they enter the school, if they have forgotten their mask. All students, staff, visitors and vendors will be required to wear a mask or face covering unless an approved exemption applies or social distancing can be maintained.

The following exemptions apply: people eating or drinking; people for whom a face covering would cause an impairment due to an existing health condition (requires a doctor's note); people observing social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines; people who need to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired and needs to see the person's mouth to communicate; persons participating in recess and physical education classes while maintaining social distancing.

For students with an IEP, appropriate accommodations may be made based on the individualized needs of the students. The mask or face covering requirement applies to co-curricular or extra-curricular activities. If a student loses or damages their face covering, SLPS will provide a disposable face covering for that day while the mask requirement is in place.

Will there be consequences for students who don't wear a mask in locations they are supposed to?

Masks or face coverings are required for all students, staff and visitors unless social distancing can be maintained or if an approved exemption applies. Every attempt will be made to ensure that the student and their family understand the importance of wearing a mask. SLPS will work with families to identify a more appropriate learning path if masks cannot be worn.

What will be the procedure for a student who develops a fever at school?

Students who present with a fever will need to be isolated, away from the main clinic and other rooms. Parents will be contacted and advised to pick up the child from school as quickly as possible.

The school nurse or health paraeducator is the priority staff member in the Isolation Room. When the isolation room must be staffed, back-up personnel will staff the health room.

- Any student with a fever must stay home for a minimum of three days after their fever has subsided and may return with a note from a doctor.
- After any person has entered the clinic or isolation room with a fever, the clinic or isolation room must be wiped down and disinfected.
- The room will be arranged to maintain physical distancing with cots and/or chairs.
- All students and staff must wash hands upon arrival and leaving of health room.
- Isolation rooms must be free from clutter and as sterile as possible. Items in isolation rooms should be easily wipeable with disinfectant.
- The Isolation Room must be stocked with masks, face shields and gloves.
- Disinfectants- keep locked, The Isolation room will need to be cleaned and disinfected after every student.

If a student or staff member tests positive at the school, what will happen?

SLPS will have a COVID-19 Response Team which will review reports of a positive case of COVID-19 within the district and schools. This team will work with the St. Lucie Department of Health to give guidance on next steps for the school.

I have a medically fragile student. What should I consider about the return to school this year?

The American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Special Populations issued the following statement: “Based on current medical knowledge and in collaboration with health care providers, the risks to students with high risk medical conditions, especially mechanical ventilation-dependent children or children with tracheostomies, should inform whether individual students should continue a distance learning program or receive home or hospital instruction even after school opens.”

Students who meet eligibility criteria for hospitalized/homebound instruction would receive instruction through a virtual platform. Students with disabilities may be considered medically vulnerable and unable to attend school with the rest of the general population. All students with disabilities who are medically vulnerable or medically fragile must have an IEP review at the earliest date practicable. School officials must work closely with parents and the child’s physician to determine if the child can participate in the normal classroom routine or if instruction would be best provided through remote learning. Physician statements or physician orders may need to be updated with information related to actual participation in classroom settings during COVID-19.

If IEP teams determine that participation in the brick and mortar setting is not warranted due to the medical vulnerability of the student, the IEP team must determine how instruction can be provided in another setting for the child to receive free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

What will the classroom look like for my student with intellectual disabilities or my student with autism spectrum disorder?

Students will be required to wear masks when in the classroom and at the teacher’s direction. To reinforce this expected behavior, time must be spent with all students teaching appropriate and expected behavior. For many of these students, the use of Social Stories and appropriate social skills lessons must be integrated into the daily schedule. High level reinforcement must be utilized to achieve the expected outcomes from the instruction focusing on social behavior. Other expectations:

- Teachers will post classroom expectations and adhere to district recommended classroom management approach (CHAMPS).
- Specialized daily schedules will be developed with the use of assistive technology or appropriate communication devices, if required, that incorporate handwashing schedules, instruction on proper hygiene, and health and safety techniques.
- Seating arrangements must be made in classrooms to align to required social distancing measures. This may prove difficult with the large number of students in each classroom and the number of adults who provide support for academics, behavior and related services.
- For students who require removal from devices such as wheelchairs used for mobility and placed in positioning equipment, special care must be taken to clean and disinfect these items after each use.
- Therefore, school teams will investigate options for extended learning communities where students can be divided into smaller groups with teachers.

What is the plan for pre-K students with disabilities?

SLPS currently serves students with disabilities beginning at age three (3). Most Pre-K students who enter at age three attend half-day programs and begin a full-day program at age four (4). Due to the age and developmental level of the students, special precautions must be taken to protect the students' health and safety while in the school setting and during transport to school. Due to varying ability levels of the students enrolled in these programs, consideration must be given to teaching expected behaviors such as social distancing, wearing masks, proper hygiene, including appropriate handwashing techniques.

- Classrooms must be kept clean and clutter free to the greatest extent possible.
- Areas should be wiped down frequently as students move from station to station in the classroom for designated learning activities.
- All adults in the classroom wear face masks when interacting with the students during instruction.
- Therapy providers such as speech and language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists must collaborate with the classroom teacher to determine how to best schedule students to participate in these activities and remain physically distanced from each other.
- Classroom environments must be assessed to determine adequate social distancing for the creation of specialized individualized learning spaces.
- Because many of pre-K students will require assistance with daily living activities, such as toileting and feeding, special precautions must be taken to sanitize and disinfect areas where these activities will take place.
- Staff must wear appropriate latex free gloves and appropriate facial coverings or masks and other protective body equipment when assisting students with activities of daily living.
- Handwashing activities must be incorporated into the daily schedule to teach these appropriate skills. Schedules must be established for handwashing at least every two hours.
- For students who require removal from devices such as wheelchairs used for mobility and placed in positioning equipment, special care must be taken to clean and disinfect these items after each use.

What are my choices for VP-K this fall?

SLPS has a *Safe Return to School Plan* with three options available for Kindergarten-12th grade students. Currently, however, legislation does not allow VP-K programs to be administered virtually, although this decision may be subject to change. The current options for VPK are to attend the Traditional School setting or opt not to attend. We acknowledge that Pre-K schools are not designed for social distancing; therefore, we will be putting practical health and safety protocols in place to mitigate risks such as:

- Masks when social distancing is not possible.
- Student lessons on expected behaviors.
- Frequent handwashing/sanitizer.
- Limiting visitors on campus.
- Daily cleaning and disinfection

Will there still be electives or resource classes?

Elective classes and resource classes will still be in place for all students. No electives or resource classes are being eliminated.

Will there be physical education (PE) class?

There will still be physical education class. Physical education classes will follow the universal safety precautions for school. PE activities will avoid high-touch or high contact activities and take place outside as much as possible.

FAQs about MySchool Online

What are the expectations for MySchool Online?

Parents may select a MySchool Online Option for the return to school in the fall if they do not feel ready to send their child back to school. This option allows students to continue to learn virtually following the same curriculum as their school peers and to remain enrolled at their current school. This option allows for students to easily return to their school at the end of the first or second nine weeks if families feel conditions are right for them. If the District or a School must go to intermittent virtual schooling, preparations have been made to allow for that scenario. Long-term virtual schooling is also available through Mosaic Digital Academy/St Lucie Virtual. Please visit their website for application procedures and additional information.

The teachers will:

- Provide daily engaging lessons for students through real-time synchronous lessons and pre-recorded lessons.
- Monitor student progress and deliver small group instruction or one to one tutoring for students needing intervention.
- Utilize tools available to ease work submission for student, increase engagement and provide accommodations.

The parents will:

- Ensure adult support is available for young children to support learning.
- Follow the school schedule to allow children/youth to participate in all class or tutoring sessions.
- Support daily attendance and seek district support if facing technology issues preventing access.
- Understand that expectations for learning are the same as attending school. All work and assessments must be completed and the district grading policies will apply to all students.

The students will:

- Attend all scheduled class sessions.
- Complete assignments provided by the teacher and submit work by following directions provided by the teacher.
- Participate in classroom chats and communicate with the teachers regarding individual progress or needs.

What if I choose the MySchool Online option but would like my child to receive breakfast and lunch?

Students attending MySchool Online will be directed to breakfast and lunch pick up locations in the district and able to receive their items on a schedule.

If my student chooses MySchool or Virtual School, how will I know who their teachers are?

Your student will receive a schedule in Skyward, just as they do in the Traditional School Model. Students will be expected to follow their daily schedule online with the teachers. Your school will provide contact information to families.

If I change my mind, is my child able to switch from MySchool Online or Mosaic Digital Academy to Traditional School, or vice versa?

Parents may select a MySchool Online Option for the return to school in the fall if they do not feel ready to send their child back to school. This option allows students to continue to learn virtually following the same curriculum as their school peers and to remain enrolled at their current school. This option allows for students to easily return to their school at the end of the first or second nine weeks if families feel conditions are right for them. Other families may choose to move from Traditional to MySchool as well.

Mosaic Digital Academy students are expected to stay enrolled for the school year.

If I went to private school last year and want to switch to MySchool or Mosaic Digital Academy do I have to enroll and will my child be able to receive a laptop?

If you wish to move from a private school to attend MySchool or Mosaic Digital Academy, you must enroll your student in SLPS. Your student will be assigned a school for MySchool. To attend Mosaic Digital Academy, you must apply and be accepted. A district laptop can be provided for MySchool students who do not have their own.

Is MySchool Online going to be available all year?

MySchool Online will be available all year. Students may transition back to Traditional School at the end of each nine weeks if they choose. And

students can choose to move to MySchool Online from Traditional School if they choose as well.

What does MySchool Online look like during the teacher's day?

Some teachers may be teaching all MySchool Online classes. Some teachers may be teaching face-to-face certain periods, and certain periods they may have an MySchool Online class. There may be an occasional high school class where a student may have a teacher online from outside their school, in order to allow them to take a special elective or advanced class.

If I am a high school senior and opt for MySchool or Mosaic Digital Academy, will I be able to attend a graduation ceremony?

MySchool seniors will graduate with the high school they are enrolled in. Mosaic Digital Academy students will attend the Mosaic Digital Academy graduation ceremony.

If I am a dual enrollment student, can I still opt for MySchool Online?

Yes, dual enrollment students may attend MySchool Online.

Guidelines for Choosing a Face Mask

Personal face masks must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Must cover the nose and mouth to maintain effectiveness.
- Must be secured to minimize the need to adjust frequently.
- Must be school-appropriate, non-offensive, not considered derogatory or otherwise disrespectful. Logos, graphics, and designs must be professionally appropriate. School dress-code for t-shirts applies to any graphics, logos or designs on masks.
- Do not need to be medical grade.
- Should be worn prior to entering a building and in shared areas of the building when social distancing is not possible.
- Commercially produced or home-made face Coverings are acceptable for compliance. Face coverings should be made of a solid cloth material or other suitable solid material. It may not be made of lace, mesh or other largely porous material. The principal shall have final authority to determine the suitability of any face covering.

reaching the wearer, thus preventing the spread of the disease).

- Must be disposed of in trash can only.

How to Remove a Mask or Face Coverings

- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before touching the mask.
- Avoid touching the front of the mask. Touch only the ear loops. The front of the mask is contaminated.
- Hold both ear loops and gently lift and remove the mask.

