



Kensington Woods Schools Return to School - Instructional Plan

Updated 8/7/2020

The Learning Environment - Phases 4-6

Kensington Woods Schools families will have the choice of one of two learning environments during Phases 4 and 5 of the Safe Start Plan.

Regardless of what environment is chosen, students will be enrolled in the same Kensington Woods courses taught by a Kensington Woods teacher, following the same schedule.

These options were designed to support students and their learning as well as with a focus on creating a safe learning environment for all.

Option #1: In-Person Learning Environment

Students will attend school in-person four days a week, with Friday being a remote learning day.

In the morning, students will attend 3 of their 6 classes in a block schedule format (providing longer class times and less transitions) and will see all of their classes two times per week, including their Grade Level Advisory for social emotional learning.

In the afternoon, students will attend a flexible Learning Lab that will offer different supervised, scheduled offerings. The schedule will vary by day and will offer multiple options, including:

- Supervised work time with teachers
- Teacher Office Hours for additional support
- Small Group work times with teachers
- Support Lab (students, especially Middle School students, will be able to get support in study skills and time management)
- Scheduled Enrichment Activities
- Teacher Prep Time

A student's Learning Lab schedule may change weekly depending on what their current needs are.





Students may opt-out of the in-person afternoon Learning Lab, choosing instead to attend Learning Lab from home and leaving the building at 12:15pm prior to the start of lunch.

Students who attend the full day will be in the building from 8am-3pm, Monday-Thursday. Students who opt out of the in-person afternoon Learning Lab will be in the building from 8am-12:15pm and will work from home and/or attend Learning Lab sessions remotely in the afternoon.

On Fridays, all students will work remotely from home on assignments given by teachers.

Option #2: Remote Learning Environment

Students will work fully remotely and will not attend classes in-person. Instead students will log in live to their classes (synchronously) via Google Meet or Zoom, following the same bell schedule as the in-person students. They will be expected to attend every class session; attendance will be taken.

Remote students will attend remote classes from 8am until 12:05pm, Monday-Thursday and will have work time and the opportunity to attend Learning Lab sessions remotely in the afternoons (see above for Learning Lab details).

On Fridays, students will have mandatory small group remote meetings from 8am-12:05pm with all of their teachers, to check-in and have any questions answered.

Please note, if the State of Michigan or Central Michigan University mandates in-person state assessments, Remote students will be expected to attend. We will make the situation as safe as we possibly can should there be mandated in-person assessments.

[Link to Bell Schedule](#)

Information for all learning environments:

- Students enrolled in a class will all take the same class, with the same teacher, with the same learning outcomes. The only difference is how they experience the class (remote via video conferencing or in-person). For example, a student enrolled in English 10 in the in-person learning environment would attend each class session in-person and a student enrolled in the remote environment would attend the same class session live via Google Meet or Zoom. The students would receive the same assignments, would be assessed on the same material and have the same learning outcomes.





- All students will follow the same bell schedule (linked above)
- Google Classroom will be the home base for all courses. Regardless of chosen learning environment, students will be able to access course materials, receive and turn in assignments via Google Classroom. Grades will remain being recorded in MiStar.
- Class sessions will be recorded and posted to Google Classroom, so all students can access them later to review or if they missed a class. Remote learners are still expected to attend live via Google Meet or Zoom.
- Teachers will still offer after school support to students on a sign-up basis. That could be in-person or remote. There may even be opportunities for students to sign up for remote after school support later in the evening, depending on teacher and student availability.
- All students and parents will be provided with detailed orientations on how to use the technology we will be utilizing so they are comfortable and informed, as well as information on expectations of student use of technology. More information about orientations will be shared later in August.
- Attendance will be taken in each class each day and students are expected to attend every class unless they are ill or are excused absent for another reason.
- Students with IEPs and 504s will continue to be supported fully by teachers and through their accommodations. IEPs and 504s will also be evaluated at the start of the year to make sure any changes are not needed to address learning loss and/or new learning environments.
- Any student enrolled at Kensington Woods will be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity that Kensington Woods offers, regardless of learning environment chosen. When possible, remote options will be offered.

Why this schedule and these options

As we determined the best course of action for this fall regarding the learning environment, we considered many options and different bell schedules.

We considered the best learning environments for our students and student needs, what teachers needed to be able to support our students best, best teaching practice and the survey data provided by our parents, which indicated a strong desire for full-time, hybrid and remote learning options. [Click here for a link to the full July survey data.](#)





We came to consensus on our instructional plan because this plan:

- Gives flexibility to meet the unique needs of our families.
- Allows us to prioritize curriculum on the most important content and skills, but still have high learning expectations for students, meeting graduation requirements and content expectations.
- Gives students ample opportunity for extra support when needed, supporting current needs and giving opportunity to support past learning loss.
- Allows us to prioritize social-emotional learning for students, supporting their needs and teaching skills.
- Gives enrichment opportunities that might not be available normally or in this new situation.
- Provides consistency for students and teachers.
- Provides a smooth transition should the school or a student have to move to a remote learning situation.

The block schedule in the morning gives teachers a longer block of time with students to allow for deeper dives into content. It also allows for less transitions, minimizing the risk and need for cleaning associated with transitions. A block schedule is much more like a college schedule, while still providing focused time for social-emotional learning in Grade Level Advisory. It also offers less direct screen time for remote learners.

The afternoon Learning Labs gives flexibility to have students work on assignments and projects, get focused support from teachers, enrichment opportunities for students who want them or work from home when preferred. It also reduces the number of students at lunch and in the building in the afternoon. Middle Schoolers and other students who desire it, will be given added support as to how to handle their time, learning valuable time management and study skills. All Learning Lab sessions will be scheduled in advance and supervised by teachers.

We want to be clear that regardless of the learning environment chosen, students will be assigned relevant and quality coursework and will be expected to work on that coursework in the afternoons/daily. Regardless of the afternoon learning environment chosen (Learning Lab in person or remote), students will need to work on every class every day; it is not a half day of school. **The learning experience in the fall will be more rigorous than our emergency learning situation in the spring, as expected by the State of Michigan, but will provide ample support to students, both academically and socially-emotionally, regardless of their chosen learning environment. Students will earn letter grades at the end of each semester.**





This plan and schedule will be re-evaluated each marking period depending on the current status of the virus.

Commitment

Families will be asked to commit to their learning environment choice in advance (remote or in-person), by marking period to allow for planning and consistency. Families will choose their environment in the Back to School Survey (<https://forms.gle/EHSAMg5MUxc7ZFD78>). **This survey is due by Sunday, August 23.**

In-person families can elect to opt out of the in-person learning lab on a weekly basis. We will send more information about this later in August as we refine the scheduling of this option.

The Learning Environment – Phases 1-3 or building closure for any reason

If the building were to be closed to in-person learning for any reason, our learning plan allows a smooth transition to a remote-only environment with consistency in expectations for students and teachers. Students would remain enrolled in the same classes with the same teachers and expectations. Students would follow the same bell schedule as Phases 4-5, with morning block classes and afternoon Learning Lab. In addition, if an individual student needs to quarantine, this schedule allows them to attend their classes remotely as needed and not get behind.

Technology

Because of the fact that ALL students will be working remotely at least once per week (Fridays) and we will have an increased reliance on devices within the in-person classroom, all students will need to have a device that they can use at school and at home (Chromebook, laptop or tablet with keyboard). Therefore, the school will be purchasing additional Chromebooks for student use. Wi-Fi hotspots will also be provided for students who need internet access at home.





Students who do not have their own devices will be checked out school provided Chromebooks for use at school and home for the year. You will be able to share your anticipated technology needs in the [Back to School survey](#) so that we can plan accordingly.

We encourage students who have their own device already to use their own device to both reduce the need to purchase new devices as well as to hold true to our philosophy that students should be in charge of using the devices that work best for their needs. However, if a student needs a device, they will be provided a device.

