

Hilldale Public School

Return to Learn



2023-2024

Updated 1/1/2024

After successfully returning to learn in a traditional in-person format during the 2020-2021 school year, Hilldale Public School has remained open for in-person learning. In an effort for ALL students to learn from our Hilldale Public Schools Staff, we will be offering on-site testing for COVID in order to help stop the spread of this virus. Each enrolled student will participate in traditional in-person learning or participate in virtual learning if they have completed the virtual application and have been approved as a positive candidate for Hilldale Virtual Academy.

Hilldale Public School will continue to monitor community health and adjust our district plan accordingly. As we navigate through these ever-changing times following the direction of the CDC and Muskogee County Health Department, we are very appreciative of the patience and support of our students, staff, and families.

Coordination with State and Local health officials: The Muskogee County Health Department, Oklahoma Department of Health, and Cherokee Nation Health Center continue to support Hilldale Schools with information about outbreaks, COVID screening tests and vaccination clinics. Hilldale Schools remain in close contact with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma Department of Health, and the Oklahoma State Epidemiologist Office concerning the level of outbreaks and safety protocols enacted in our state and local area.

After the district’s return to learn meeting on August 3, 2022, Hilldale Public School will continue to operate under the Phase III guidelines when classes resume August 18, 2022. If we are required to move back to Phase I or Phase II parents and students will be notified. Please watch our website and social media for updates throughout the school year.

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
*All parts of the Re-Opening plan will be followed in Phase I Highlights: *Temperatures will be taken every day before entry of the building for all staff, students, and visitors. *Staff, students, and/or any persons entering the school sites will be required to wear masks in the hallways and other areas marked as mask zones. *Students riding buses to or from school, to or from ICTC, or any school activity or trip will be required to wear a mask. *Cleaning protocols will be strictly followed and all hand sanitizers and other safeguards will be available to all students.	Highlights: *Temperatures will not be taken every day. *Masks will be encouraged but not required. *Students will remain spread out at lunches and separated recesses. *Students will be encouraged to wear masks on the buses. *Cleaning protocols will still be followed to ensure a safe environment. ***** Our school will stay in this phase until number of cases of COVID-19 decrease and our school can move to Phase III or there is an increase in cases which will move our school back to Phase I.	Highlights: *Masks will be an option but will be a student choice. *Students will be permitted to combine for recesses. *Masks on buses will be by student choice. *Cleaning will remain vigilant! ***** School as usual will be in effect unless required or recommended by the State Department of Health to move back to Phase I or Phase II.



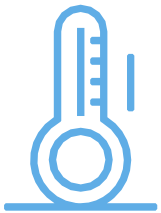
Hilldale Public School is committed to offering quality educational opportunities for PK-12 students that are aligned with Oklahoma Academic Standards. We at HPS are committed to our three pillars of High Expectations, Academic Growth, & Personal Integrity.



HPS will conduct normal in-person school operations when LOW cases of COVID exist in the school community. HPS will activate remote learning for students when there is an established community spread. The Superintendent will decide to activate remote learning for classrooms, buildings, or the district.



HPS plans to resume traditional transportation. Buses will be sanitized daily. When possible, windows will be down for air circulation. Masks are highly recommended for all students while riding the bus due to the proximity of students. Masks may be required based on community spread.



It is essential that all families partner with us in monitoring the health of your students and families. We ask that temperatures be taken on a daily basis at home. No student with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher may enter any of Hilldale Public School facilities. It is imperative for the health and safety of all students and staff that students remotely learn on days they have a fever or any symptoms of illness. Remote learning will not count against attendance if the student completes their online lessons in the allotted time frame.



HPS will make every effort to promote healthy practices and protocols. Physical Distancing will be implemented when possible. Masks are highly recommended for all students and staff who are not immunized. HPS strongly recommends the wearing of masks on the school bus and in highly populated areas. Masks may be required based on community spread. Our staff will monitor reportable illnesses. Oklahoma Health Department guidance will be utilized for any quarantine. Parents will be notified of any exposures. HPS will follow city, county, and state mandates. Requirements and recommendations are subject to change.

The Social-Emotional well-being of our students is as important as their academic learning. Our counselors will be prepared and available to help our students and families.



HPS has increased its cleaning and preparation of facilities in an effort to protect our staff and students. Frequent hand-washing and other healthy protocols will be implemented and practiced. Efforts will be made to have hand sanitizer and hand sanitizer stations available. Upon notification of a positive COVID case on campus, the area will be thoroughly cleaned.

Enrollment Options 2023-2024

Option 1: Traditional – (Remote Learning only at designation of district)

On-Campus Instruction

- All courses/classes taken at regularly assigned school site
- In-person instruction
- Traditional academic school day with Google Classroom Management System (LMS) to be used in coordination with on-campus instruction
- Transition as needed between in-class and remote learning*

Remote Learning Days (only if school is closed or mandatory quarantine)

- Determined by the district, city, or state in the event of a COVID outbreak or other need *
- With school approval, it can be utilized by individual families in the event of student exposure/illness resulting in quarantine
- Counts as a school day (not a traditional absence if the student completes online lessons within the allotted time)
- Virtual coursework via Google Classroom Students continue to learn new material with teacher support
- Opportunities for students to collaborate and learn by interacting virtually with peers/teachers
- May include pre-recorded or live lessons/tutorials
- Regular support and contact from HPS teachers until on-campus class can resume

Option 2:

Virtual School

- Grades 6-12
- Requires semester commitment with the student taking all courses online off HPS campus
- Student learning plans are directed by Hilldale Public School virtual teacher
- Classes do not require regular on- campus attendance
- Extracurricular courses offered, i.e., sports/band/robotics/STEM
- Application process required – Must go through the Virtual Principal Mrs. Amber Horn

* In addition to potential school closures due to COVID-19, these three options may be used as remote learning days. In the event of cancellations including, but not limited to, inclement weather or other unforeseen factors.

****All Hilldale Public School students must participate in required on-site state testing***

Our Commitment to the Continuity of Excellence

RETURN to LEARN Plan - Hilldale Public School will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, all ethnicities, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

Setting the Table to Support All Students with Extra Measures for MVPs

MVPs = Most Vulnerable Populations

MVPs	Academic Needs	Social Needs	Emotional Needs	Mental Health Needs
All Students	Implement evidence-based Tier 1 instruction. Provide Tier 2 evidence-based supports for unfinished learning. Provide Tier 3 tutoring as needed.	Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities for "belonging" to MVPs. Engage families in the school's programs of academics and activities. Establish opportunities for the diversity of cultures to be highlighted, celebrated, and respected.	Infuse the SEL Social Emotional Learning Curriculum throughout the school programs. Implement a Handle with Care – teachers who commit to intentionally follow the MVPs to identify needs and times of possible crisis.	Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs. Refer to professional support through agencies and the Cherokee and Creek Nation.
Students of Low-Socioeconomics	Provide devices and connectivity for virtual learning as needed. Implement evidence-based Tier 1 instruction. Provide Tier 2 supports for unfinished learning. Provide Tier 3 tutoring as needed.	Assess food security and provide added nutrition as needed through donations. Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities for "belonging" to MVPs. Engage families in the school's programs of academics and activities.	Infuse the SEL Curriculum throughout the school programs. Implement the Handle with Care – teachers who commit to intentionally follow the MVPs to identify needs and times of possible crisis.	Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs. Refer to professional support through agencies and the Cherokee and Creek Nation.

English Learners	Implement evidence-based Tier 1 instruction. Provide Tier 2 supports for unfinished learning. Provide Tier 3 tutoring as needed.	Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities for "belonging" to MVPs. Engage families in the school's programs of academics and activities. Provide translation services for school's communications and documents through Apps, translators, and online services. Establish opportunities for the diversity of cultures to be highlighted, celebrated, and respected.	Infuse the Habitudes Curriculum throughout the school programs. Implement a Cadre of Care – teachers who commit to intentionally follow the MVPs to identify needs and times of possible crisis.	Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs. Refer to professional support through agencies and the Chickasaw Nation.
Students with Disabilities	Implement evidence-based Tier 1 instruction. Provide Tier 2 supports for unfinished learning. Provide Tier 3 tutoring as needed. Provide adaptive technology to close the Homework Gap for Student with Disabilities. Provide in-person learning for SWDs during Remote Learning days as possible.	Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities for "belonging" to MVPs. Assess barriers to participation in clubs, activities, and organizations. Outline plans to remove barriers for inclusion of students with disabilities in the school's culture and activities. Engage families in the school's programs of academics and activities. Intentionally seek ways to be awarded for accomplishments. Celebrate successes with equal enthusiasm, such as Special Olympics send-offs and celebrations.	Infuse the Habitudes Curriculum throughout the school programs. Implement a Cadre of Care – teachers who commit to intentionally follow the MVPs to identify needs and times of possible crisis.	Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs. Refer to professional support through agencies and the Chickasaw Nation.

Students Experiencing Homelessness	Implement evidence-based Tier 1 instruction. Provide Tier 2 supports for unfinished learning. Provide Tier 3 tutoring as needed. The district will make every effort to receive school records from previous schools. Full or partial credit will be awarded to students for coursework completed before enrollment. Online coursework will be used to recover credits.	Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities for "belonging" to MVPs. Assess barriers to participation in clubs, activities, and organizations. Outline plans to remove barriers for inclusion of homeless students in the school's culture and activities. Engage families and significant adults in the school's programs of academics and activities.	Infuse the SEL Curriculum throughout the school programs. Implement the Handle with Care – teachers who commit to intentionally follow the MVPs to identify needs and times of possible crisis.	Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs. Refer to professional support through agencies and the Cherokee and Creek Nation.
Children in Foster Care	Implement evidence-based Tier 1 instruction. Provide Tier 2 supports for unfinished learning. Provide Tier 3 tutoring as needed.	Assess food security and provide added nutrition as needed through donations. Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities for "belonging" to MVPs.	Infuse the SEL Curriculum throughout the school programs. Implement the Handle with Care – teachers who commit to intentionally follow the MVPs to identify needs and times of possible crisis.	Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs. Refer to professional support through agencies and the Cherokee and Creek Nation.
Migratory Students NA as of 6-30-21	Identify any migratory students at the point of enrollment. Assess for learning targets. Implement Tier I, II, and III Instruction as needed.	Assess food security and provide added nutrition as needed through donations. Assess schools' clubs and activities to open new opportunities for "belonging" to MVPs.	Infuse the SEL Curriculum throughout the school programs. Implement the Handle with Care – teachers who commit to follow the MVPs to identify needs and times of possible crisis.	Provide school counseling program to meet emergent needs. Refer to professional support through agencies and the Cherokee and Creek Nation.

Hilldale Public School Return to Learn FAQs

How will communication be shared?

HPS will deliver communication through emails, text, and phone directly to parents and students. Parent and student contact information MUST BE ACCURATE! Each student will be provided a google email account. The district will utilize the REMIND APP and school messenger to streamline communication between the classroom and our families. The district will continue to use its website based alert system and social media accounts to distribute district-level information. Our district website will be updated regularly. www.hilldale.k12.ok.us. We are committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance please reach out to your site principals.

What about Grades & Attendance?

Students will receive instruction that is aligned to state standards. Grades will be taken regularly, and progress will be monitored for Academic Growth. Students will be counted absent if not in attendance. To be in attendance, a student must be in class or participating remotely with school permission. This includes students enrolled virtually.

What is Virtual Learning?

A Virtual Learning Program means the student takes all of his/her courses in a virtual setting away from the school. An HPS teacher directs the instruction. Tutoring, assistance, and assessments will be provided, but no classes require physical attendance. The Virtual Learning option is a minimum of a one-semester commitment. Virtual learning is offered for 6-12. There is an application process, and program acceptance is required.

Do I have to declare which enrollment pathway I want my child(ren) to participate in?

No – All students will participate in traditional in-person learning unless the virtual application and intake process are completed and finalized. For virtual, contact Virtual School Principal Mrs. Horn at ahorn@hilldaleps.org.

When will we use Remote Learning?

Remote learning will be used when school is closed due to COVID, inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. Remote learning days count as a day of attendance for students who login and participate in their assigned google classroom.

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a learning management system/portal where students will access their assignments, communication, and grades. The system streamlines all the digital tools and contents that teachers and students use for a more straightforward, more connected learning experience.

What about 504 & Special Education Needs?

All 504 and IEP Plans will be followed. Any modification to service due to health concerns will be documented and agreed upon utilizing normal meeting processes. All IEP/504 team meetings will be held in person unless a request is made for a phone conference. For more information about IEP and or 504 plans, contact Mrs. Battles at cbattles@hilldaleps.org.

Will all athletics, electives, and fine arts classes continue to be offered at all current levels, and will there be any restrictions?

Depending on the level of community spread, all athletics and activities will continue as planned with extra measures taken to ensure the safety of students and staff. Additional measures may be implemented as needed. Procedures for Athletics, Band, and other Extracurricular Activities will follow recommendations and guidelines provided by the Oklahoma Secondary Activities Association. Specific information about practices, events, and precautions will be distributed by activities coach/sponsor and the district athletic director.

Will the school district calendar change during the pandemic?

It is our goal for the calendar dates to stay the same; however, the district may schedule remote learning days within the school dates that already exist if the need arises.

Why will temperatures not be taken upon entering the school building?

Entering the school building is not the first contact for many students. A student's first contact may be at the bus stops, early morning activities, carpools, before school daycare, parking lots, etc. Temperatures can be an indicator of a variety of illnesses and are not necessarily the first indicator of COVID. HPS has always asked that students remain home if they have a fever of 100 or higher. We need our parents to partner with us to keep all children and staff safe by self-regulating symptoms and temperature checks. We do have touchless digital thermometers and will take suspected staff and student temperatures and act accordingly.

When masks are in the "recommendation" phase, will there be times our student(s) would be "required" to wear a mask?

At this time masks are a recommendation. But - YES – Depending on the level of community spread, schools may implement Mask Zones and Mask Free Zones. There may be individual students or staff members who are considered in the vulnerable population. The teacher or school site may ask the students in a particular location to wear masks to allow that student or staff member the ability to come to school and learn/teach as well as keep that student or staff member as safe as possible. We ask that all staff and students bring a mask daily. We will have masks available for those who need one.

Will we have Devices to take home for remote learning?

HPS has made significant strides over the last few years to grow its ability to provide students access to devices. At this time students at the middle school and high school will be checked out devices at the beginning of the school year. 1st – 5th grades students will have chrome books in the classroom that may be checked out if the need arises. PK and Kindergarten have iPads that may also be checked out to students if the need arises.

What can you as a parent do to help?

- Donations of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, masks, no-touch thermometers, and additional school supplies would be helpful at each site.
- Take your child's temperature daily in times of outbreak or suspected illness prior to them leaving the house.
- Keep students at home if they exhibit any symptoms of any illness. Inform the school of positive tests for COVID-19 by calling school site principal.
- Keep students quarantined as instructed by the Oklahoma Health Department if they have had any exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID.
- Prepare your home and child with internet access, supplies, and devices for remote learning if possible and feasible.
- **Complete a Free & Reduced Meal/ Income Eligibility Form. This process significantly affects school funding. Let your child's teacher or school know if you need assistance with meals.**
- Understand it is a choice to wear a mask. Openly communicating any concerns directly with your child's teacher or school site principal.
- Working with the school site to follow visitor protocols and the check-in/check-out processes as warranted. It is important that we still reduce the number of people in our buildings.

Additional practices to be implemented:

- We are requesting that students use their own school supplies and share as little as possible.
- Students should plan to bring their own water bottle and not use water fountains in a traditional way. Water fountains will be available for bottle refills.
- Parents are discouraged from visiting classrooms and hallways to limit student exposure. We ask that you visit the school by appointment only.
- We have added classes to assist in providing lower class sizes.

Please note: The Return to Learn Plan and the FAQs will be updated as more or new information becomes available. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your building principal.

Ms. Bilyard – Elementary Principal – pbilyard@hilldaleps.org

Mr. Riddle – Middle School Principal – driddle@hilldaleps.org

Mr. Nixon – High School Principal – jnixon@hilldaleps.org

