



Pine Grove Area School District

Frequently Asked Questions

~Updated August 21, 2020

Overview

Q:	How is our district reopening school?																						
A:	<p>Pine Grove Area School District has 2 options for reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year with health and safety precautions in place. The first option is to return to school in a blended model, balancing in-person instruction and remote virtual instruction. This model splits our student population into 2 teams, allowing for greater social distancing. The Red Team will attend school in person on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the Gray Team will attend Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Fridays, in-person instruction will alternate between Red and Gray Teams.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="256 846 1953 1131"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><i>Monday</i></th> <th><i>Tuesday</i></th> <th><i>Wednesday</i></th> <th><i>Thursday</i></th> <th><i>Friday</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Red Team</i></td> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td rowspan="2"><i>In-School Alternating Fridays for Red and Grey Teams</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Gray Team</i></td> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The second option is Cardinal Virtual Campus, our fully online format. This format provides a flexible option for students while providing a variety of supports to help students experience success in the virtual campus. <i>(You can learn more about Cardinal Virtual Campus FAQs under that heading.)</i></p>							<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Red Team</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-School Alternating Fridays for Red and Grey Teams</i>	<i>Gray Team</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>
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Q:	When is the first day of school?																						
A:	<p>The first day of school for Gray Team Members is Thursday, August 27, 2020. The first day of school for Red Team Members is Friday, August 28, 2020. A calendar of days for Red and Gray teams can be found here.</p>																						

	The first day of school for Cardinal Virtual Campus is Thursday, August 27, 2020.
Q:	Will our school remain in a blended format throughout the school year?
A:	We plan to begin the school year in a blended format, but our School Reopening Health and Safety Plan outlines 3 formats for content delivery - Full Reopen, Blended, and Virtual instruction. The level of viral transmission during the school year within our region and within our schools will determine what format of instruction our district continues to instruct. We plan to work with local health officials and our Health and Safety Pandemic Team to review data often. It is important that students, parents, and teachers are prepared if the district needs to pivot to a different format based on current data.
Q:	Will there be Back to School Nights or Open Houses?
A:	Each building will communicate their plans in the near future.
Q:	Is September 4th still a half day?
A:	No. It is now a full day of instruction.
Q:	Can students use lockers and locker rooms?
A:	Yes, but they may be limited to certain times.
Q:	Are water bottles allowed in school?
A:	Yes. Per our health and safety plan, water fountains have been turned off. Students may use water bottle fillers in each building. Students may bring their own water bottle to fill when necessary.

Cafeteria

Q:	Will breakfast and lunch be provided?
A:	Yes, the cafeteria will continue to provide both breakfast and lunch options to students. Meals will be individually plated or boxed.
Q:	How will students social distance in the cafeteria?
A:	Students will eat lunch either in the cafeteria, gymnasium, or in their classrooms. Seating in the cafeteria will be arranged to stagger arrangements to avoid "across-the-table" seating and to maintain social distancing. Students will maintain social distancing while waiting in line and will be required to sanitize or wash their hands before and after eating.
Q:	Is my child required to wear a face covering in the cafeteria?
A:	Students will be required to wear a face covering while walking to the cafeteria, standing in line, and walking to their seats. While eating and drinking, students may remove their face coverings.
Q:	How will my child purchase a meal?
A:	Students in all buildings will walk through the line keeping a 6 foot distance from the student in front of them. They will verbalize all of their choices and tell the cashier their ID number. Cashier will slide the tray to the student. It is recommended that families deposit money to their account during homeroom or online on their MySchoolBucks account.
Q:	Can students use reusable lunch bags?
A:	Yes.
Q:	Will meals be available for my student that is enrolled in Cardinal Virtual Campus?
A:	Yes, there will be information on the school website for ordering and meal pick-up in the near future.

Cardinal Virtual Campus

Q: What is Cardinal Virtual Campus?	
A:	<p>Pine Grove Area School District has been educating students effectively for many years and recognizes that all students learn differently. With a partnership with Virtual Learning Network, Cardinal Virtual Campus offers flexible asynchronous instruction paired with comprehensive support to ensure students are equipped to achieve their educational goals. Parents/guardians are also provided with a robust suite of tools and reports to enable them to fully support their students' education.</p> <p>Students who choose Cardinal Virtual Campus must have a high level of motivation and independence to ensure success. Parental support is also critical to student success. Our program offers parents tools to easily monitor their student's attendance and academic progress. Cardinal Virtual Campus students receive a student device and textbooks to supplement their online coursework.</p>
Q: What materials will my student receive in Cardinal Virtual Campus?	
A:	<p>Each student will receive books and printed materials prior to the start of school. If a student is in need of a device, the District will provide a Chromebook or laptop.</p>
Q: What is asynchronous instruction?	
A:	<p>Asynchronous instruction does not incorporate live lessons into the teaching format. Lessons are available for students to review at any time and activities are self-paced and may be completed at a time that is most convenient for students and families.</p>
Q: Does Cardinal Virtual Campus use the same curriculum as Pine Grove Area School District?	
A:	<p>No. The curriculum utilized in Cardinal Virtual Campus does address the Academic Standards as outlined by the PA Department of Education. It does not align with the scope and sequence of Pine Grove Area School District or utilize the same resources.</p>
Q: Can my child still participate in extracurricular activities?	
A:	<p>Yes, Cardinal Virtual Campus students may participate in extracurricular activities and remain enrolled as Pine Grove Area students.</p>

Q:	Can my child take AP courses or weighted classes through Cardinal Virtual Campus?
A:	Courses taken through CVC are not weighted unless previously approved by the building principal.
Q:	Can my child still do Vo-Tech if in Cardinal Virtual Campus? ~Added August 21, 2020
A:	Yes, we will schedule them in classes for the semester they are not in Vo-Tech.

Technology

~Updated August 21, 2020

Q:	Will every child have access to a device?
A:	<p>We are in the process of acquiring individual student devices for all students in grades 3 through 12 in our Blended or Full Reopen Format. At this point, we do not anticipate that they will arrive for the start of school, but expect them in the fall of 2020. We will notify families when they become available.</p> <p>Students who choose Cardinal Virtual Campus and are in need of a device will be assigned one prior to the start of school.</p>
Q:	If my child does not have a device, how will they access material when they are not at school?
A:	Assignments will be posted to our online platforms, but can also be available as printed assignments, as needed. Students can use individual devices to access learning platforms or utilize printed assignments that will be distributed the prior day.
Q:	We do not have internet access at our home. What can we do? ~Updated August 21, 2020
A:	If a family does not have internet access, the District can assist families in developing a plan to access internet services. The District can assist in low cost internet access resources or issue a District-owned hotspot that can be used for remote learning. If you are in need of internet access, please fill out this form or call 570-345-2731 x339.
Q:	My child is having an issue with a District-issued device, who do I contact?

A:	The School District will have several methods available for supporting students. On-site support will be provided daily for students who are in the buildings. Support requests can be submitted to ITSupport@pgasd.com and the help desk phone number is 570-345-2731 x339.
Q:	Who should I contact if my child is having problems with accessing their learning platform (Google Classroom and Schoology)?
A:	Please notify your child's teacher immediately. If the issue cannot be resolved, an IT support request can be submitted by the teacher or family.

Transportation

Q:	Will bus transportation be provided?
A:	Yes, Pine Grove Area School District will be providing bus transportation for students who are attending school in person. Parents are encouraged to transport their child(ren) when possible to allow for fewer students on the buses, which will increase social distance between students. Pick up and drop off times have been mailed out.
Q:	How will students socially distance on the bus?
A:	The District has worked closely with Newhurst Transportation to develop a plan that allows for as much social distancing as possible on all busses. Vehicle rosters have been adjusted to allow for the placement of no more than two students per seat. Members of the same family who ride the same bus may be seated together in order to limit the number of contacts. Students will be reminded to go directly to their assigned seats. In addition, windows will be kept open as weather permits. Parents are encouraged to transport their child(ren) when possible.
Q:	My child rides a van to school. Will there be any changes in van transportation?
A:	Van transportation will be similar in plan to other vehicles. There will be a maximum of two children per row, unless there are special circumstances or needs.

Q:	Is my child required to wear a face covering on the bus?
A:	Yes, face coverings must be worn by students and drivers in accordance with the Secretary of Health's Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings issued July 1, 2020. Students must have a face covering on, in order to board the bus unless medical documentation has been filed.
Q:	How will vehicles be disinfected?
A:	All busses and vans will be disinfected on a daily basis. Busses will be disinfected after each morning and afternoon run.
Q:	I'm not comfortable with my child riding a school bus. May I drive my student to school instead?
A:	Yes.
Q:	My child plays a sport, how will they get back to school for practice?
A:	Due to the academic schedule, the District will not schedule a bus to bring students to campus for practices on days they are learning virtually.
Q:	Will the Vo-Tech students be attending STC everyday?
A:	The Vo-Tech students will follow the instructional model outlined in the Schuylkill Technology Center's Health and Safety Plan. The District will provide transportation accordingly.

Face Coverings

~Updated August 21, 2020

Q:	What is a face covering?
A:	According to the PA Department of Health, a face covering is a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. The covering can be made of synthetic or natural fabrics and can be factory-made, sewn by hand, or include items such as scarves and bandanas. Plastic face shields that cover the nose and mouth are considered face coverings.
Q:	Who needs to wear a face covering?
A:	All individuals, including students, staff, and visitors must wear a face covering on school property, including during student drop-off and pick-up. Individuals who have a documented medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering are excluded from this requirement.
Q:	When must a face covering be worn? ~Updated August 21, 2020
A:	<p>On August 17, 2020, the PA Department of Education released updated guidance on the wearing of facial coverings, which changed the original guidance that permitted masks to be removed when students were seated 6 feet apart at their desks. Based on this updated guidance, students may remove their face coverings when eating or drinking and spaced at least 6 feet apart; when at least 6 feet apart during “face covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes; and when wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition.</p> <p>We will work hard to build multiple face covering breaks into students’ schedules. Teachers are recommended to provide face covering breaks when students are working independently at their desks. The recommendation for elementary and secondary classes is to have a minimum of one break per hour, when possible. We do not envision students wearing face coverings for an entire school day.</p>
Q:	Will face coverings be provided by the District?
A:	Students are responsible for providing their own face covering. The District will provide face coverings for students who are unable to provide their own.

Q:	What if my child will not wear a face covering?
A:	<p>There are many kinds of face coverings available and we suggest that you try several until you find one that works best for your child. Practice wearing the face covering for short periods of time, slowly increasing the time worn. Remember that there will be times during the day that your child has a break from wearing the face covering.</p> <p>If a student intentionally refuses to wear a face covering without medical documentation, the student will be excluded from in-person instruction and may be placed into Cardinal Virtual Campus.</p>

Blended Learning Format

Q:	How will I know if my child is on the red and gray team?																	
A:	Elementary and Middle School teaming information has been mailed. All K-12 student information will be accessible through the Sapphire Community Portal .																	
Q:	Will all of my children be on the same team?																	
A:	Yes.																	
Q:	How will I keep track of when my child needs to be in school for in-person instruction?																	
A:	<p>The district calendar has been posted on our District School Reopening page. This calendar indicates what team color should be on-site for in-person instruction.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="380 1273 1833 1531"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><i>Monday</i></th> <th><i>Tuesday</i></th> <th><i>Wednesday</i></th> <th><i>Thursday</i></th> <th><i>Friday</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th><i>Red Team</i></th> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td rowspan="2"><i>In-School Alternating Fridays for Red and Grey Teams</i></td> </tr> <tr> <th><i>Gray Team</i></th> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> <td><i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i></td> <td><i>In-Person Instruction</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Red Team</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-School Alternating Fridays for Red and Grey Teams</i>	<i>Gray Team</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>	<i>Virtual Asynchronous Instruction</i>	<i>In-Person Instruction</i>
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Special Education

~Added August 21, 2020

Q:	Are students with IEPs able to choose Cardinal Virtual Campus?
A:	Students with IEPs can choose Cardinal Virtual Campus or our Full Reopen/Blended approach. Either of these options can be chosen but it is strongly encouraged to reach out to your child's special education teacher to request an IEP meeting to discuss either learning option in conjunction with your child's individual needs and services. Your child's IEP team can review the IEP and make any revisions necessary to ensure your child has the necessary support to be successful in the chosen option.
Q:	Who should I contact if I would like to discuss what learning option might be best for my child who receives special services?
A:	The first point of contact would be to your child's special education teacher.
Q:	Who would be my child's special education teacher if my child enrolls in Cardinal Virtual Campus?
A:	Your child's IEP will continue to be managed by the same special education teacher he/she would have if they were attending classes in the school building. If you are not sure who that teacher might be, you can contact the special education office and request that information by calling 570-345-2731 x326 or email lthompson@pgasd.com . There is also an additional special education teacher available in the resource room during online Cardinal Virtual Campus office hours.
Q:	Will my child still receive special education services in our virtual format or in Cardinal Virtual Campus?

A:	Yes, special education services will continue to be provided to the greatest extent possible. The way in which those services are provided may be different, but the district's goal will be to provide the support necessary for a child to make progress in the general education curriculum and IEP goals.
Q:	How will my child's related services be provided in our virtual format or in Cardinal Virtual Campus?
A:	The goal of the district is to provide related services virtually to the greatest extent possible for students who are participating in our virtual format or in Cardinal Virtual Campus. However, some related services are not able to be provided effectively in a virtual session. More informative details about the provision of related services can be provided by contacting your child's related service provider (i.e. speech therapist, occupational therapist, etc.) or special education teacher.
Q:	What if my child will not or cannot wear a face covering?
A:	There are many kinds of face coverings available and we suggest that you try several until you find the one that works best for your child. Practice wearing the face covering for short periods of time, slowly increasing the time worn. Remember that there will be times during the day that your child has a break from wearing the face covering. If your child has a disability for which they receive special education services, please reach out to your child's special education teacher to discuss these concerns. If your child has a disability for which they do not receive special education services, a medical concern, or a health condition that prevents the use of a face covering, please provide documentation from a medical professional to the school nurse.
Q:	Can my child's IEP team meeting be held virtually?
A:	Yes, the standard operation in the district will be to hold all IEP team meetings virtually via Zoom. Should you require a different option in order to be able to participate in the meeting, please contact your child's special education teacher.

Health Screening

~Added August 21, 2020

Q:	How do I screen for COVID-19?
A:	Prior to getting on a school bus or coming on school property, each student with the help of a parent will use the PGA COVID-19 Daily Screening Checklist . If your family has traveled to a state where there are high amounts of COVID-19 or answer "YES" to any of the questions, the student should not come to school or get on a school bus.
Q:	Will the school be conducting a COVID-19 screening of every student and staff member?
A:	Each student and staff member is expected to complete a COVID-19 symptom screening prior to arriving at school each day. You can find the symptom screening tool HERE . The school may conduct daily temperature checks of students and staff members, as needed.
Q:	My child suffers from allergies & may have symptoms listed, must they stay home?
A:	If your child has an ongoing allergy or other health condition that involves symptoms that are included on the COVID-19 symptom screening, please reach out and talk to the nurse in your child's building to discuss the symptoms your child is having so that a decision can be made regarding attendance.
Q:	Will there be a nurse available to discuss whether my child can be sent to school if I am unsure?
A:	Yes, do not hesitate to reach out to the nurse in your child's building to discuss any symptoms or concerns that you have regarding sending your child to school. If you are questioning whether your child should go to school due to symptoms, it is always best to err on the side of caution and keep your child home.
Q:	How will the District manage healthcare privacy?
A:	The District will abide by the regulations set forth by the PA Department of Health.

Quarantining

~Added August 21, 2020

Q:	What happens if a student or staff member has symptoms of COVID 19?
A:	Refer to Return to School Protocols .
Q:	My child has tested positive for COVID-19, what do I do now?
A:	If your child tests positive for COVID-19 it is likely that the PA Department of Health has already notified the District as part of their contact tracing procedures. However, we would appreciate a notification from the parent as well so that we can discuss the option of your child continuing to attend classes via Zoom, an approximate return date (if they are attending school in person), etc.
Q:	My child has been directly exposed to someone who has positive COVID-19, do they have to quarantine?
A:	If your child was in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes) to an individual outside of the household they must quarantine for 14 days after their last contact with the COVID-19 positive person. If the person your child has been exposed to is a household member (parent, sibling, etc.) your child will need to quarantine for 14 days after the household member is released from isolation.
Q:	If my child is required to quarantine will they receive instruction during that time?
A:	Students who must quarantine for a period of time will have the opportunity to participate in instruction.
Q:	If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19, will all students in that classroom need to quarantine?
A:	Should a teacher (or student) in your child's classroom test positive for COVID-19, the District will collaborate closely with the PA Department of Health (DoH) to make decisions regarding who will be required to quarantine. Communication to staff and parents about a positive COVID-19 case will be made as per guidance from the PA Department of Health. It is our top priority to provide the appropriate individuals with the information that they need while also maintaining student and staff confidentiality.

Q:	I am a healthcare worker, if I am exposed to someone who has COVID does my child need to quarantine?
A:	No, if you are not ill and your child is not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they do not need to quarantine. Should you, or another household member, test positive for COVID-19 your child must quarantine for 14 days AFTER you have been released from isolation. Please see the Return to School Protocols.
Q:	Is a negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school after a quarantine or isolation?
A:	No, the District will not require a negative test. Students and staff are expected to follow the guidance provided by their Primary Care Provider and the PA Department of Health.
Q:	How will the District manage healthcare privacy?
A:	The District will abide by the regulations set forth by the PA Department of Health.