



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are my options for returning my child to school? There are two options for school re-entry in Mason County. The first is a blended model with students returning to the school buildings two days per week, then completing assignments either on their school-provided Chromebooks or by paper/pencil packets.

The second option is a virtual option where all classes are taught online. To use this option students must have access to the internet. Classes will be taught either through the WV Virtual School or Mason County Teacher-Led Virtual School.

2. Will the lessons provided by teachers in virtual learning be based on WV standards? Yes. All lessons in both virtual platforms (WV Virtual School and Mason County Teacher-Led Virtual School) will be grounded in approved content standards just like lessons taught in the school buildings.

3. Will virtual school lessons be graded? Yes. Unlike last spring, students will be held accountable for all their assignments, not just the ones which can raise their grade. Assignments in virtual school will be treated the same as assignments given students who attend school in the buildings.

4. Why not begin the year with a traditional five-day model? Reports from health departments and national sources recommend easing into the school year. For this reason, Mason County will begin with students attending school two days per week.

5. Other counties are offering their families a five-day traditional model. Why isn't Mason County offering this? News reports stating that Jackson and Lincoln counties are offering five-day per week learning along with blended learning are incorrect. We've contacted both those counties and they are easing into five-day per week attendance, just as Mason County will be doing.

6. When will my student go to school if I choose the blended model? Students whose last name begins with A-K will attend Monday and Tuesday. Students with the last names L-Z will attend Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is reserved for deep cleaning of the school buildings. Students will be engaged in distance learning on Wednesdays, either online or via pencil/paper packets.

7. My student has siblings with different last names. Can they all go to school the same two days? Yes. School administrators will determine which two days families will attend, even if they go to different schools. We will make every attempt to have students from the same family attend school on the same days of the week.

8. Will the blended model stay in effect the entire year? Our goal is to return to five-day per week school attendance. We will review the blended attendance model after three weeks. At that point Mason County Schools will work with the Health Department to see if we are ready to advance to a four-day school week, where students will attend Monday-Thursday with deep cleaning on Friday. This plan will remain for an additional three weeks, then be reviewed again. Virtual students will remain virtual.

9. I want to do virtual learning but we don't have a computer for each student in our house. All students in Mason County are issued Chromebooks which can be used for virtual learning and for distance learning.

10. Why not start the school year with remote learning for all students? Governor Justice is the only one that can put a school, county, or the entire state on total remote learning.

11. We don't have internet access. How will my student learn? Students without internet access will have paper and pencil assignments sent home for their three days of distance learning. Students without internet access will not be able to participate in virtual school.

12. I work an 8-hour day and you are expecting me to teach my child all evening long. What help will you provide? Teachers will record their lessons which will be posted to one of our learning platforms to assist parents with distance learning.

13. How will I communicate with my child's teacher? You can communicate with your child's teacher either by email or by calling your child's school. Mason County Teacher Led Virtual School teachers can be reached by the same two methods.

14. If you have two bus runs in the morning my middle school child is too young to stay at home alone to wait on the bus. The West Virginia Department of Education recommends using social distancing on buses to help keep students safe. Using two bus runs will help to minimize contact between students. We realize that this will mean some students will be leaving home later in the morning and arriving home earlier in the evening, but we must do all we can to help keep our students safe.

15. I expect all students to wear a mask when they go to school not just 9 year olds and up. Mason County Schools will follow guidance from the West Virginia Department of Education and the Mason County Health Department regarding the wearing of face coverings.

16. Will my secondary student be required to wear a mask all day? The Mason County Health Department and the West Virginia Department of Education recommends that masks be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained.

17. If students in elementary school have to stay in the core classroom how will my child with an IEP join them for P.E. and music? Core classrooms will be visiting P.E. and music classes as a core group, so students with IEPs will stay with their class.

