

**Purpose of Document:** This plan outlines Peoria Academy's approach to a possible return to distance learning during the 2020-2021 school year. It details a number of potential scenarios. These include temporary distance learning for select grade levels, school or division-wide distance learning schedules should Peoria County return to Phase 3 (recovery), and distance learning schedules should Peoria County return to Phase 1 or 2 of the Restore Illinois Plan.

**Distance Learning for Select Grade Levels:** Peoria Academy is utilizing cohorts this year to minimize interactions between grade levels. Should a community member have contact with a Covid positive individual, or should a community member contract the virus, we will work with the Health Department to determine appropriate next steps. One potential course of action might be a return to distance learning for a select cohort for a prescribed time period, such as a 10 or 14 day quarantine.

In the event that a single elementary school classroom suspends on-site learning, that class will adopt the elementary school distance learning schedule detailed below. Should a single middle school grade or a number of grades return temporarily to distance learning and faculty remain able to teach on site, the affected class will follow its regular schedule and will be live-streamed into the classroom via Zoom. Please note that this approach to live streaming may not always be possible for all classes and subject matter depending on lesson content. Please also note that if needed due to operational constraints, the school may adopt the schedule below designed for a school or division-wide closure at its discretion.

### **School or Division-Wide Distance Learning**

Should Peoria Academy return to distance learning at a whole school or divisional basis, the faculty will plan a robust mix of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (on demand) classes.

Synchronous online learning will take place four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). Wednesdays will be screen-free or screen-light. The Wednesday schedule has three primary purposes:

- 1) To offer students a break from screen time.
- 2) To provide project-based, meaningful enrichment and extension opportunities that supplement the school's core curriculum.

Please note that so long as Peoria County is in Phase 3 or 4, and local health officials permit the school to do so, faculty will plan limited in-person, small group (10 participants or fewer) activities to be held outside on Peoria Academy grounds or in the community. Details regarding these activities will be affected by the ongoing Covid situation, but sample in-person activities might include:

- Meeting at a local waterway to test water quality.
- Engaging in a calisthenics routine designed in PE class at a community park.

These activities are supplementary in nature. As such, they are neither graded nor required for course completion. Further logistical details - including sign up procedures - will be shared in the event that Peoria Academy transitions to school or division-wide distance learning while small gatherings remain permitted and safe.

In addition to in-person small group activities when possible, faculty will provide self-paced enrichment activities to ensure continued student engagement on Wednesdays.

- 3) To allow faculty sufficient meeting and planning time to create virtual and small-group in person course content and to collaborate on best practices with their colleagues.

#### Lower School -

Virtual Learning (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays) in the elementary school will follow the structure for whole group, small group and individual learning detailed below. Please note the following:

- 1) The prescribed times outlined below are designed to strike a balance between having sufficient instructional time to keep students engaged, while at the same time being manageable for students, teachers and families.
- 2) Peoria Academy will work to balance the need for ongoing instruction with research that supports limiting screen and media time for young learners (For a sample of such research please see [The American Academy of Pediatrics on screen and media time](#)). For this reason, the amount of synchronous instruction increases as students mature.

- 3) In the event of an extended shift to distance learning, the school may design and implement additional enrichment and extension activities to supplement the structure outlined below.
  
- 4) Individual homeroom teachers will reach out to families with an exact timetable based in the event that an extended school closure is announced. This communication will include details regarding the scheduling of whole group, small group and individual instructional time.

<u>Pre-Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten</u>	<u>Kindergarten-Grade 2</u>	<u>Grades 3 and 4</u>
<u>Daily:</u> 30-45 minutes of whole group instruction with classroom teacher  30 minutes with specialist teachers  Additional small group meeting time at teacher's discretion	<u>Daily:</u> 45-60 minutes of whole group instruction with classroom teacher  30-45 minutes specialist teachers  Additional small group meeting time at teacher's discretion	<u>Daily:</u> 60-90 minutes of whole group instruction with classroom teacher  30-60 minutes with specialist teachers  Additional small group instruction at teacher's discretion
<u>Weekly:</u> Individual check-in with classroom teacher	<u>Weekly:</u> Individual check-in with classroom teacher	<u>Weekly:</u> Individual check-in with classroom teacher
<u>Ongoing:</u> Enrichment and extension activities to supplement live instruction	<u>Ongoing:</u> Enrichment and extension activities to supplement live instruction	<u>Ongoing:</u> Enrichment and extension activities to supplement live instruction

Middle School -

Middle school will use the schedule below. Please note that while teachers will be available during their whole class for questions, the full class session may not be held synchronously. For example, a teacher may begin with a period of direct instruction followed by individual or small group work time before ending the period by gathering back together for a review session.

## Middle School Schedule

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
8:20 - 8:30	Log in/Attendance
8:30 - 8:45	Homeroom (Social and Emotional Learning, Advisory, Check-in time)
9:00 - 9:50	Core Class 1
10:00 - 10:50	Specials
11:00-11:50	Core Class 2
11:50 - 1:00	Lunch, break, and fresh air
1:00 - 1:50	Class or Study Hall / Faculty Office Hours
2:00 - 2:30	Class (study skills, civics, health)
2:40: - 3:10	Homeroom (Mondays and Thursday) Faculty Office Hours (Tuesdays and Fridays)

### Expectations for Distance Learning

Please note these are the same expectations we currently have for our distance learners:

1. Be on time
2. Wear your uniform
3. Work in an appropriate space (table or desk)
4. Turn your camera on
5. Participate actively
6. Adhere to assigned due dates
7. Join all required classes including specials and study hall

\*We understand that if there is a return to a fully distance model for all Peoria Academy students, individual family needs may interfere with scheduled class times. We look forward to working with your family under those circumstances to deliver the best possible program.

## Communication

Should Peoria Academy need to move to distance learning the school administration will inform families as soon as possible of the timeline and next steps for beginning distance learning. Homeroom teachers will then follow up directly with grade-level specific information and schedules.