



GAPS 2020-21 Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

As of: 8/31/20 - Newest Questions Listed First

[Health/Safety FAQ Updates](#)

What is Social Emotional Learning and what is the source of the material being taught to students?

8/31/20: Social emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which boys and girls and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for being a healthy adult. This includes problem-solving skills and intergender communication and understanding, as well as teaching kids to embrace diversity and build healthy relationships that will last well into adulthood.

The district uses [Sanford Harmony](#) as its social emotional learning program.

What has the district been doing to update ventilation and adding air purifiers to each classroom?

8/31/20: Wherever possible the district is increasing the outside air ventilation rates (up to 100%) and/or increasing the MERV value of the unit filters to MERV 13. The district is exploring the room filtration options where the first two options are not available.

Will Chromebooks that will be provided to students be compatible for Albany Online? I thought I read on the K12 site that their program doesn't work on Chromebooks.

8/24/20: The K12 program has adapted the courses so that they are now Chromebook compatible, so no app is needed.

For middle school either virtual or albany options, will there be the possibility of honors classes?

8/20/20: We are looking at ways to do this virtually. Albany Online may provide classes that the district does not. Similarly, the district may provide classes that AOL does not.

How will dual immersion work virtually since students will have limited opportunities to strengthen conversational skills and social skills with peers, especially ESL classmates?



8/20/20: Students' schedules are split into half Spanish and half English instruction. They will receive instruction in Reading, Writing, Small Group lessons, and Math in both languages. They will engage in small group discussions, engage in breakout sessions, and participate in activities that will allow students to practice language skills with a classroom teacher, a classroom assistant, and with their peers. All of our teachers are trained in QTEL and will receive additional training to prepare them to provide opportunities for students to practice language in a virtual setting. SEAs will also be scheduled to support small group instruction, giving additional opportunities for students to engage in lessons that will practice language.

How do the schools plan to assist with students meeting their requirements prior to graduation that require additional help?

8/19/20: At South Albany and West Albany high schools, Counselors will meet with students, provide credit assurance forms, junior and senior study skills classes, weekly if necessary (virtual) meetings with families, and graduation will still be the goal.

At Albany Options School, we have the flexibility to assign a student "study skills" as a formal support class. We also have an SEA that is assigned to support individual students as needed. District and AOS leadership will be meeting weekly throughout the year to discuss student needs and supports with senior graduation supports as a prioritized agenda item.

Since smaller outdoor gatherings with appropriate distancing are allowed, would it be possible to take the first few weeks of school to schedule in person meetings of classes on the school playgrounds?

8/19/20: No in person connections with students are to be scheduled at this time. This is a decision that may change as Linn and Benton Counties both return to consistently acceptable numbers for health safety.

Will there be a scheduled lunchtime and other breaks in the at home learning?

8/19/20: Yes, you will receive a schedule for your student(s) that includes breaks and lunchtime.

Will there still be the usual opportunities for students in high school to take college classes at LBCC?

8/19/20: Yes, high schools are planning to offer all classes.

When/how can we get the contents of the new "wheel" class?

8/19/20: Middle Schools are planning to give out schedules next week



Are the teachers we start the school year off with the same ones that we will have in October/when hybrid learning starts?

8/14/20: Yes, this is the plan

Is there any anticipation that programs like bike safety be available to 5th graders in any way? A classroom portion if the actual ride portion is not possible?

8/14/20: No plans for programs such as bike safety will be made until after we return to full time in person learning

We're considering going with a charter school - has the district already reached the 3% cap on this option?

8/14/20: Yes

In the hybrid model, will students be bringing their devices back and forth from school and home?

8/17/20: Students are asked to bring their devices to school as they would a textbook but there will also be some devices available in buildings

Is the virtual program like a zoom meeting?

8/11/20: Students will be engaging with each other through virtual meetings, but the course will be facilitated like a class, including small group work, independent work, computer-based activities, and work with texts, paper, and pencil.

My child has been taking science, math and foreign language classes above his grade level. Will choosing a particular model force him to repeat grade level classes or will he be allowed to take the next class in sequence with any model?

8/11/20: Students in high school will be able to schedule for the classes that are appropriate in their learning continuum.

For middle school students, are they only going to be learning English, math, science and social studies or will they also be enrolled in electives? It looked like only Albany Online had defined electives for these grades.



8/11/20: A middle school model is being developed that has three longer classes, blending English Language Arts and Social Studies as well as Math and Science. The third class will focus on enrichment activities and support.

Will students get to choose electives in the hybrid model or will they be assigned by alphabetic cohort?

8/11/20: High school students will choose their classes as they have in the past based on what electives are being offered. The middle schools are working on how best to offer elective experiences.

Will we be able to request that non-related students be in the same class/cohort?

8/11/20: No, this will not be an option.

What will the expectations be for students when a power/internet outage happens at home?

8/11/20: Students will be excused during the time of the power outage and expected to re-engage when power resumes.

Could you clarify how much "on line" interactive time the student will have with a teacher at the Kindergarten level? Will it be multiple short sessions or longer morning sessions, and will a parent need to be available the entire day to help their learner or will there be set times or sessions?

8/11/20: Kinder students will not have more than two hours of screen time per day. There will be a daily schedule and students will check in throughout the day. Students will have approximately four check-ins per day, roughly 30 minutes per session, and have independent work in addition to the teacher time.

In Virtual GAPS, are they seeing the camera of the teacher in the Hybrid option? Or are there separate teachers for each type?

8/6/20: That depends on the grade level. Elementary will have a separate teacher who will be on their screen with other virtual students. Middle school and high school will see their teachers from their classrooms with their classmates.

What kind of training and prep and support is being provided for teachers teaching a virtual method?



8/6/20: We have several days of training specifically for learning the new platform and additional training for the shifts in teaching methodology in a virtual setting. We will have tutorials also available for parents and students for these platforms.

Are there standards teachers must follow or is teacher going to be making up their own version of their teaching day?

8/6/20: K-12 teachers teams are creating scope and sequence and standards that they must follow, including common expectations for synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Albany Online runs curriculum on a different timeline but can students jump back into GAPS virtual or Hybrid at the semester?

8/6/20: Yes, at the semester. Please note the curriculum is different, so there could be holes or overlap when jumping back and forth.

In Albany Online, where is the teacher to help if needed? If there is something I don't know, how do parents access help?

8/6/20: The teacher has available office hours and checks in with students a few times a week. They are also available by email anytime to set up a time with students to walk through or work through curriculum.

What would recess look like in the Hybrid option?

8/6/20: Smaller groups at recess by grade levels and not multiple grade levels at the same time on the same equipment.transp

In brick and mortar schools, are we expecting that in classrooms children should be six feet apart?

Yes, whenever possible.

How many options do we expect for electives in middle school?

8/6/20: We are currently working out these details. There will be fewer electives but we are working on band/choir, etc.. Of course that will look differently than in years past due to our current situation

How many hours on the computer with virtual classrooms in the fully virtual models vs. the hybrid models?



8/6/20: They should look similar in terms of screen time, and screen time is decreased by grade level. It will likely be between 2-4 four hours a day for most grades and no more than two hours for Kinder. It will not be non-stop screen time but broken up at different times.

Is the brick and mortar school day going to have a revised bell schedule?

8/6/20: Yes, to allow for transportation, lunch in the classroom, and other differences due to limiting student exposure.

Are we going to have to print out stuff for the kids? Will we be sent a workbook?

8/6/20: You will not need to print out things for students. We will not be sending home workbooks but will send home anything that students need to complete their work. You will need to provide basic school supplies, paper, pencils, etc..

What will we do about childcare for working parents?

8/4/20: We are working with our partner agencies, Linn and Benton Counties, and the State of Oregon regarding our need for a networked childcare solution during the pandemic. We are able to be a part of that solution, yet we need collaborative assistance from our state and local communities. We are hopeful that a Childcare Task Force could be established as part of our local counties' Emergency Response Plans related to the pandemic.

What is the difference between the K-12 Interactive at Home Model and Albany Online?

8/4/20: There are many differences between the models, but the general differences are that Albany Online is a self-guided program with regularly scheduled meetings with teachers while the K-12 Interactive At-Home model is the equivalent to a classroom held virtually—work is led by teachers and students can interact with their instructor and peers in real time while also completing some independent learning. More information on the models can be found at <https://bit.ly/GAPSMODELS>.

Why do we have an option for in-person classes if the state says we can't send students to school?

8/4/20: The district is asking families to select their preferred option for the time when we are able to offer all models. The models are designed to be flexible, as even when we are able to meet the metrics to allow in-person instruction, it's entirely possible that cases can rise, forcing students to leave classrooms again. The in-person models learn on pace with the K-12 Interactive at Home model, making it easier for students to transition between the two. And



without a vaccine or proven treatment, having students in classrooms part time, utilizing face coverings, distancing, and proper sanitation is the only way to stem the spread of the virus.

When can students come back to school in the hybrid model?

8/4/20: The earliest date, at this point, is October 19 assuming the state and county meet the necessary metrics. If, for the the three weeks from August 10th through August 30th, both Linn and Benton County are able to maintain a daily lower than 5% Positive Test rate and a case count of fewer than 30 per week per 100,000 population, then District leadership will consider an earlier than October 19th in-person start date for students in grades K-3. We know for sure that we won't be able to have 4-12 in-person instruction until at least October 19.

What are the metrics and how close are we to meeting them?

8/4/20: The state must have a positive test rate of 5% or less for three consecutive weeks for schools to open to all students. If a county has a positive test rate of under 5% and has fewer than 30 new cases a week per 100,000 residents for three consecutive weeks, districts in that county can ask for an exception that would allow K-3 students to return to classrooms. Currently, neither Linn or Benton has met both of these metrics. In the last four weeks, each county's new cases per week has fallen below 10 just once. In Benton County, the most recent data shows 23.3 new cases and in Linn, 19.8.

How will dual immersion kids be able to learn Spanish/English?

8/3/20: A master schedule is being developed to continue student growth in both English and Spanish. This may include additional resources for students to use outside of their classroom time as a way to supplement their language practice and growth. Dual Immersion is not available for the Albany Online Model.

I am wondering if the DI (Dual Immersion) program/ BEP (Bilingual Education Pathways) is being addressed, and how?

8/3/20: The high school BEP program will continue as part of the student's schedule, similar to other classes, meeting on a regular basis per the master schedule.

The middle school schedule provides three longer class periods for students during the day. Specialized classes such as Band, Music, and the BEP program are being discussed as these classes address specific skills different from that of other elective classes.

What plans does the district have in place to check in with students who don't attend the virtual meetings in a consistent manner?



8/3/20: We understand tracking student participation and involvement is extremely important. Principals will be working with their staff to set up a system where teachers share notes about student virtual attendance. If a parent or student does not contact the teacher about their absence then staff will contact them to make sure everything is okay.

I am wondering what the rules surrounding parent volunteers will be. Will volunteers be allowed in the school for the 20-21 school year?

8/3/20: At this time we are not planning to have parent volunteer participation as we have in the past. If/when we are able to implement a hybrid learning model our goal will need to be the continuation of efforts to stop the spread of COVID. This includes limiting the number of people we bring into the classroom setting. As we move forward there may be opportunities to volunteer that do not include specific time at a school. We will keep our GAPS families informed of those activities when we settle on what would be most beneficial.

Are teachers going to prohibit students from closely interacting with each other?

8/3/20: We understand part of our education plan must be helping students learn and practice safe social interactions. We will follow the OHA guidance. If guidance allows for close student contact (example, students working at a table on an activity together) then we will teach and practice safe habits such as using hand sanitizer prior to the activity, making sure the table has properly been cleaned, and possibly washing hands after the activity. Again, using OHA guidance we will continually support students using safe healthy practices in a positive supportive manner.

If I register my student during registration this week, and then circumstances change regarding Covid and we decide the virtual option is better for our family, can we change to the virtual model before school starts?

8/3/20: Yes. If you want to change your selection before in-person instruction begins, you can do so by emailing your school's office manager. When we reach the time when we can offer in-person learning we will communicate a final deadline for any changes parents want to make. After that date we will move forward with our planning and provide parents another opportunity to make a switch in education models at the semester change.

If schools do not reopen will we ever need school supplies that have already been purchased?

8/3/20: Yes, depending on the supplies you have purchased. As lessons are developed teachers will take into account that not all families will have purchased the same supplies.



Schools are currently updating their school supply lists to reflect what students will need for distance learning.

We are curious if our kids will be able to do dual enrollment this year (physical in-person school for electives and activities and Albany Online)?

8/3/20: That is not an education model we currently have available. We ask that parents choose one of the three models provided.

Will there be drive up lunches still?

8/18/20: Our current meal service will run through August 31. We will continue to have meal service through at least September 11 but distribution may have to change. More information will be shared next week.

8/3/20: At this point the federal waivers that allow for community lunch service that has been provided since the beginning of the pandemic expire on August 31st. We anticipate our services being extended and continuing to offer meals as we have been since the spring.

If a cohort in the high school is quarantined, how will that work in reality? Can you really have a group of 100 be totally separate from the rest of the high school (and what portion of the school will be gone)?

8/3/20: If students and/or staff must be quarantined they will move to a distance learning model for a length of time as directed by the OHA.

Will honors English be offered in the Hybrid or Virtual models or only through Albany Online?

8/3/20: The high schools are working on master schedules that provide students the various options of classes that have been provided in the past; this includes honors and AP classes.

Will sixth graders still have the opportunity to test into seventh grade math or algebra for students who select the hybrid model? For those who select the virtual model?

8/3/20: This has not yet been decided.

What subjects will the 3-4 teachers teach in the hybrid model?



8/3/20: The core subject areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts will be the foundation of the schedules created for students. We understand other subject areas are also important. Science and social studies concepts can be woven into the Math and ELA learning. They may also involve separate activities specific to those subjects. Physical movement and Social Emotional Learning are also important subject areas that will be covered. Staff will be using the month of August to work on these details.

Is this reduction in teachers a reduction in the number of subjects students take or are teachers teaching multiple subjects?

8/3/20: Teachers may be asked to teach multiple subjects, which is something that has already occurred in schools.

Will the classes available at forecasting be available in both the hybrid and the virtual models? If not, which should we choose to get the classes that were forecasted?

8/3/20: The goal is to provide all classes both virtually and as part of a hybrid model. That is what we have been working on and will continue to work on through August. Unforeseen circumstances would be the reason for any change to this plan.

Does the school district have the capacity to support all of the additional usage of remote access? Both within the facilities and within the community.

8/3/20: Yes

Do our local internet providers anticipate the additional load that having every single child need access?

8/3/20: We believe so. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the state are working closely with them to ensure capacity.

When services go down for a period of time, will there be some kind of alert or call center for technical difficulties?

8/3/20: Yes, we use SolarWinds to actively monitor our network and send text messages when states in our network, from equipment status, to pipes into schools, to our server farm, go up or down.

My son is considered non-verbal and needs significant support to complete his homework. I do not see the hybrid model or any online model meeting his educational needs. What types of considerations are being made for children like mine?



8/3/20: The Special Programs department is working on options of support for students in need of specialized instruction and specialized support to complete their homework.

Will chromebooks and pads be offered to all Albany Online students?

8/3/20: Yes. Any student in need of a Chromebook will be provided with one.

We will not be sending our children to school until at least Jan. Will there be a virtual option for 2 and 5 graders?

7/27/20: Yes, the K-12 interactive at-home learning model is available for all K-12 students.

If our child/children enroll in the rotation model and it doesn't work well for them/our family, will we have the option to switch to K-12 Interactive At-Home or Albany Online?

8/4/20: If you have already registered and want to change your selection before in-person instruction begins, please email your school's office manager.

7/23/20: Yes! Currently, students who are moving between a K-12 in-person model, including the 3-12 Rotation Model, and the K-12 Interactive At-Home Model will have the opportunity to move between programs. We know the earliest changes in these scenarios would be at the quarter.

Due to the difference in learning paces, students wishing to move between Albany Online and any other model must do so at the semester.

7/15/20: Yes! We are working to establish the greatest level of flexibility possible for students. We will have a process for switching between models when/if students need a different experience.

One of my concerns is protocol if a child is sick? Will temperatures be taken at the school daily?

7/23/20: We will be visually screening all students, staff, and visitors before they enter the building for any visible signs or symptoms of COVID-19. For some students, this will occur when they get on the bus and when they get to school. Anyone exhibiting symptoms will then undergo further screening in a separate isolation room, including taking their temperature and asking a series of questions about their symptoms.



7/15/20: Our lead nurse is working with local and regional health authorities to establish clear protocols for health.

If the child is in the classroom, will masks be required?

7/23/20: Yes, per Governor's directive, starting July 24th, children age 5 and up are required to wear a mask, face shield or face covering. Face coverings are now required when exercising indoors, plus outdoors when you can't physically distance. Students and staff with a disability or medical condition may request accommodation if they cannot wear a mask, face shield or face covering.

If our children are required to wear masks for 6+ hours a day we will pull them out completely, what is the alt plan for that?

7/23/20: We now know that students grades K-12 will be required to wear masks while at school. Though scheduled 'mask breaks' will occur, parents may still wish to pursue one of our two learning options outside of school. [Please see the K-12 Interactive At-Home Learning Model and the Albany Online Model to learn more.](#)

I have 3 kids in 2 different schools, will or can they all be on the same schedule (they have 2 different last names)?

7/23/20: We will be organizing student K-12 in-school attendance days to align with those of the other students living in their home. (The exception to this will be our K-2 students who will be attending four days a week. Thus, there will be two in-school days for them while their older siblings will not be attending school in-person. All other students in the home will be on the same in-person schedule.)

How do you plan on distance learning working for working families where both parents work? Who is supposed to be home with my two elementary age kids to teach them while I'm at work?

7/23/20: COVID-19 has created many challenges for all of us who are working parents, particularly when we have limited child care options available in our community, in general. We recognize that this is a community challenge for us to meet together. Maximizing in-person learning days for our primary grades students not only supports their building blocks of learning but also creates four days each week where child care is not an issue. We continue to partner with agencies such as CAP, the Boys and Girls Club, and the YMCA as they look to fill some of these needs. We are continuing to explore ways to partner with other child care providers.



Why did we go with such random days? Monday and thursday? Tuesday and Friday? Are they sanitizing every day?

7/15/20: The emphasis in this decision was to minimize the number of days students would go without being physically at school for academic and social reasons. If we did a Monday/Tuesday cohort for example, a student would have five days between sessions. In this model, the longest students will not be attending school in person would be three days.

Is there any word about the transition program?

7/27/20: The transition program will operate. We are working on implementation.

There is no mention of the possibility of hiring outside cleaning services to deep clean the school's nightly or over the weekend. Is this an option being considered?

7/23/20: At this time, we are following OHA and ODE guidelines and expectations for the cleanliness of all student and staff spaces. We are able to do this without engaging with an outside cleaning service.

Many Americans are facing reduced schedules and hours with income cuts due to the pandemic. Has the school district considered a reduction in pay for teachers that will only be working 4 days a week instead of 5?

7/23/20: All staff will continue to be working their full five-day work weeks. Due to the nature of the student schedules, during non-student time, teachers will be lesson planning, collaborating with peers to align instructional modules, participating in professional learning, and contacting students or families to ensure ongoing engagement.

If the child is in the classroom, how many hours a day will the child be at school?

7/23/20: It depends on the student's grade level, but most students will be at school for the same length of time they have typically been at school in previous school years.

If the child is in the classroom, will they be allowed to sit and interact with other children in the classroom/playground/cafeteria?

7/23/20: Yes! While practicing social distancing and other health and safety measures, students will be allowed to interact with other students in the classroom and on the playground.

If the child is in the classroom, will there be recess?

7/23/20: Recess will be scheduled for elementary students.



If the child is in the classroom, will they mostly be on screens or working with books and paper?

7/23/20: In the classroom, students will be working with a variety of tools to engage in learning. This will include peer to peer interaction.

If the child is in the classroom, what will be expected of the child on non-classroom days?

7/23/20: On non-classroom days, students will interact with materials and activities carefully selected by their classroom teacher. Some new information will be introduced on these days, and students may be expected to engage in virtual learning experiences, as well.

If the child is at home, will all work and instruction be online?

7/23/20: It is anticipated that student work at home will be diverse, though most will be delivered virtually.

Is it possible to do Interactive At-Home and/or Albany Online and be able to participate in school activities (athletics, band, etc.?)

7/27/20: Yes, students would have access to these programs just like in the past. As of right now we are unsure of what music and athletic programs will look like or what will be available.

If the Interactive at Home Model were selected, to what class/teacher will a student be tied/assigned? Will they be tied to the school where they would otherwise be attending school and grouped with peers from their school or will they be assigned to a class with students across the district, not necessarily tied to their school?

7/27/20: Students will be connected to a teacher at their home school. This is going to be dependent on the number of students who select this method in a building as well as some other aspects that are still being worked on. We are hoping that all students in the virtual model will connect with their home school.

Are the “teacher-led virtual classes,” referenced in the graphic for Interactive at Home Model in real time(live) or are they recorded?

7/27/20: Most lessons will be in real time and some will be asynchronous.

If the hybrid model is selected, and a student is ill or in quarantine, the entire class or cohort were required to quarantine, how would the transition to virtual/interactive at



home model happen? Would an individual student be switched for that time period to a different class/group or would they join their class/group virtually from home?

7/27/20: We want to keep cohorts intact as much as possible. If a student or teacher gets COVID-19 the entire cohort would transition to the virtual model until the isolation period is over. If a student has to isolate due to exposure outside of the school, they would isolate and be virtual until the isolation period is over.

Are there differences in the concepts and material that will be presented to a student in a hybrid model v. Interactive at home model? Will there be a different pace?

7/27/20: The idea is that Hybrid and interactive will be following the same scope and sequence as students will move between the two models if individual students and cohorts need to quarantine and/or state guidelines change

Will students be interacting virtually with the teacher and with students who are sitting in the classroom?

7/27/20: In the hybrid rotation model, if a student becomes ill or needs to quarantine, they will be able to still connect with their class and teacher. In the K-12 virtual at home learning model, they will have interaction with their online classmates and teacher.

What kind of access will my students have to their teacher for questions?

7/27/20: Both live interactions and the ability to ask questions virtually as well as office hours.

The phrasing of the registration question about transportation seemed to imply that you are discouraging students from taking the bus. Is that correct? And why does the question only relate to the first month of school.

7/27/20: We are not trying to encourage or discourage parents from using the bus but are trying to get an accurate picture of who will be riding. This information will be used to balance the cohorts of children and equalize the number of students on Monday/Thursday with the number on Tuesday/Friday. While we are confident we can meet State requirements for transportation at historical levels of ridership, we will not know how close we will be to matching the State recommendations. The ridership reductions from the alternating 3-12 schedule alone will not reduce elementary student loads to the State recommended level.

We have asked families to commit to their choice for one month (and only one month) because we know family needs change over time and we need time for ridership to settle before we begin making changes and adding returning students to the bus. Ultimately, we want all



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families to be able to make an informed choice about placing their student in school and on the bus.

We will not be sending our children to school until at least Jan. Will there be a virtual option for 2 and 5 graders?

7/27/20: Yes, the K-12 interactive at-home learning model is available for all K-12 students.