



Brent Roark, Superintendent

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Harlan County Schools Students,

We will reopen to in-person classes on September 28th. Families have the choice to send their children back to school three days per week or continue virtual instruction using the Odysseyware platform with support from Harlan County teachers.

In-person instruction will occur on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Teachers will provide assignments for Tuesday and Thursday. Staff will be present at school on Tuesday & Thursday and may be contacted for assistance by ALL (both virtual and in-person) students. Tuesday & Thursday will also be used for a more thorough cleaning of schools and buses.

Parents who choose to send their children back to school for in-person instruction should be aware that students and staff will be required to wear a mask at all times except when eating/drinking or when outside and more than 6 feet apart. Multiple outside breaks will be scheduled throughout the day.

Parents should be aware that maintaining a 6 foot social distancing perimeter around each student may not always be possible. Depending on how many students choose the in-person option, some classes may not have the physical space to allow for 6 foot distancing at all times. Desks will be spaced as far away from one another as possible with masks in place at all times in compliance with the *Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools*.

The KY Dept. of Public Health and KY Department of Education recently developed a color coded system called the COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics which determines if each county is allowed to offer in-person instruction. The determination for the safety of in-person instruction must be re-evaluated each Thursday at 8 PM to determine if in-person instruction is permitted the following week. Please be aware that an increase in our county's incidence rate could mandate a closure of in-person classes as we move forward.

Harlan County teachers will be available to help K-5 virtual students each day. ALL teachers will be available to help ALL students on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

If this plan goes well, we hope to be able to offer in-person instruction four days per week at the end of the first nine weeks/trimester.

Brent Roark, Superintendent
Harlan County Public Schools