



Dear TCPS Families,

We hope you are having a safe and healthy summer. As we approach the first day of school on September 8th, we know that many of you have questions about on-campus and remote learning options. While the pandemic situation remains fluid, we promised to share updates as new information is available.

Throughout the summer, TCPS has focused efforts and resources towards a safe return to campus while also planning for remote and hybrid learning scenarios.

- Staff has been monitoring local health conditions and public agency guidelines to develop a comprehensive, safe re-opening plan with detailed safety protocols and quarantine procedures modified as updates are issued by public health agencies.
- We have been working in close consultation with our Covid Advisory Committee and continuously communicating with our Board of Directors, staying abreast of the most current data and recommendations.
- We purchased individual student desks to allow for recommended physical distancing.
- We purchased large tents to set up outdoor class spaces similar in dimension to our largest classrooms.
- We have consulted with a mechanical engineering service to inspect our HVAC systems and implement improvements to ventilation and filtration.
- We modified our master schedule to facilitate both on-campus and remote instruction.

Since July 17, San Diego County has been on the state watch list which means that school campuses are not allowed to re-open due to the number of positive cases in the county. Their guidelines for re-opening would require that the county have a reduced number of positive cases for 14 consecutive days and that the reduced number of cases continue for a second 14 day cycle after that. It is unlikely that the county will be removed from the watch list and that schools will be allowed to re-open campuses by the start of our school year. **Given this situation, and in order to give our families and our staff a level of certainty to prepare for the start of the school year, we will move forward with 100% remote learning for the first 6 weeks.** We are optimistic that health conditions will continue to improve over the next several weeks, which would allow the county to make the decision to re-open campuses when safe for the community.

We acknowledge that this decision to commit to starting the first 6 weeks remotely will impact different members of our community in different ways. This was a decision that was not made lightly. We recognize that this news will be challenging to families and we empathize with the implications this may have. Please know that this decision is based on the strong likelihood that campuses will not be allowed to re-open by September 8 and keeping in mind the concern for the well-being of our entire school community. TCPS is a tight knit community that is very much like a family, and the health and safety of our school family is paramount.



Balancing safety and learning priorities, each of the instructional scenarios that we have been preparing comes with its own set of challenges and difficulties. TCPS will rise up to meet these challenges, remaining true to our mission to provide the best education we can, no matter the format or setting.

Our Advisory Committee will continue to monitor evolving data and health conditions as we continue to assess when to safely re-open our campus. Starting the year with a comprehensive robust remote learning plan allows us to wait for local health conditions to improve for a safer on-campus experience.

FAQs

Why did the school choose to commit to remote learning for 6 weeks?

The uncertainty and the possibility of changing health conditions that may require frequent switching between learning scenarios has been difficult for everyone in our community. This initial 6 week time frame allows stakeholders certainty to make the necessary preparations to provide consistency for the start of the school year.

There is a school waiver exemption that may allow for campuses to re-open while the county remains on the watch list, is the school pursuing this?

The public health order mandates remote learning while under the watch list. We have been in contact with the county about the waiver since it was announced. While we will continue to monitor health conditions and continue to gather information about the waiver process, we will not pursue the waiver exemption to re-open campus for the start of the school year based on the current health conditions within our county, coupled with our desire to start focused preparations for the start to the year.

What will remote learning look like this year?

Last March, we met the challenges of remote instruction by proactively providing multiple live interactions and classroom sessions with teachers on a daily basis. By making the decision to start remote now, we are able to fully develop an even more effective remote learning environment. We are planning a more expansive schedule that will resemble more of a traditional school day. There will be additional opportunities for more interactivity, use of manipulatives and hands-on materials, and more opportunities for 1-on-1 time or small group time with teachers.

Is there a plan for integrating new students into the classroom in a remote setting?

We are planning a virtual Visiting Day for our new students to meet their teachers and their new classmates (scheduled for Sept 2 and 3). We are confident that our small class sizes will allow for our teachers to build effective relationships with our students quickly and our staff is very mindful of the importance of integrating new students successfully into the classroom.



What type of technology is needed for the students in a remote setting?

For 3rd - 8th grade, students will be provided with a school chromebook if requested. For K-2nd grade, students will be provided with a school tablet if requested. Families may choose to utilize their own personal device for their child instead. More information will follow regarding the distribution of technology, textbooks, and other class materials during the week of August 31.

Will there be a Town Hall meeting to ask questions?

You are invited to our [TCPS Town Hall on August 19 at 5:30pm](#) where TCPS administration and Advisory Committee members will answer questions received from parents and share updates and details about our enhanced remote learning plan and campus re-opening plan. We will send an invitation to this Town Hall webinar at a later date.

We want to make sure that we answer the most pressing questions for the TCPS Town Hall and you can input your questions in advance here: <https://tinyurl.com/tcpsquestions>

Please type: **C168** in the Event Code box to reach the Questions Page. You may see questions already posted by others and can give them a thumbs up if you have the same question or feel free to add your own. We plan to address as many questions as we can.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and shared concern for our TCPS community.

Sincerely,

Donny Kim

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