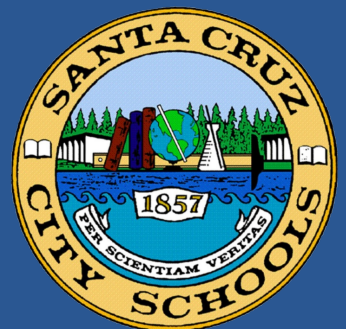


# Hybrid Learning Frequently Asked Questions

---

Elementary & Secondary  
March 2021



# Schedules & Cohort Assignments Elementary

**Q** What is the **daily schedule** for Hybrid Instruction (TK-5th)? How many hours will students be indoors per in-person day?

**A** The number of hours students are inside will depend on the teacher and what the plans are for the day. Teachers will take students outside to work and to play as much as possible. All students will have a mid-morning break and there will be outdoor lunch and lunch recess.

Hybrid students will be on campus **two days a week**, divided into A & B groups.



TK/K	9am	12:30pm
1st-3rd	9am	1:45pm
4th-5th	9am	2pm

**Q** When will we learn of our **child's cohort assignment** (A group or B group)? What criteria are used to create a cohort? If a family is unable to make their assigned days due to prior commitments (work/childcare) what options do they have?

**A** Cohort A/B day assignments were distributed on March 3rd via email. Students that have siblings in elementary and secondary schools were assigned to Thursday and Friday as that is the two days in the week those schedules have in common. If you need to change your day, please contact your site principal. Please understand that it may not be possible to make changes.

**Q** Will there be **after-school care** offered on the days the students are on campus? Some families will need to pick kids up and drop them off to alternate childcare for the afternoons (causing more possible exposure)

**A** We're working on providing opportunities for childcare after school. At this time, we don't have any specifics that we can share with parents, but will update as soon as we do.

**Q** Can the A & B cohorts **alternate** having **in person** instruction on **Wednesdays**? Why or why not

**A** Wednesday has been reserved for both teacher preparation and for vital cleaning & sanitizing between Groups. Wednesdays will be online for the remainder of this year.

**Q** Where can I confirm my program choice (Hybrid or Online Academy)?

**A** Contact Shannon Calden at [shannoncalden@sccs.net](mailto:shannoncalden@sccs.net) or your school office.

# Schedules & Group Assignments Middle & High

## Hybrid Schedule

Students **on campus 2 days a week**, divided into **A & B groups for in person** group C is **100% distance learning**.

\*Harbor, Soquel, Mission Hill & Branciforte

**Mon**

**Group A, B & C online**

7:40 – 8:20	0 Period
8:30 – 9:10	1st Period
9:20 – 10:00	2nd Period
10:10 – 10:50	3rd Period
11:00 – 11:40	4th Period
11:40 – 12:10	Lunch
12:15 – 12:55	5th Period
1:05 – 1:45	6th Period
1:55 – 2:50	See T-F Schedule

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Group A in class / B & C online**

7:40 – 8:20	0 Period	0 Period
8:30 – 9:50	1st Period	4th Period
10:00 – 11:20	2nd Period	5th Period
11:20 – 11:35	Break	
11:40 – 1:00	3rd Period	6th Period
1:00 – 1:30	Lunch (grab & go)	
1:35 – 2:50	*PLCs, Meetings, Collaboration, Professional Development, Trainings, IEP/504 Meetings	

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Group B in class / A & C online**

7:40 – 8:20	0 Period	0 Period
8:30 – 9:50	1st Period	4th Period
10:00 – 11:20	2nd Period	5th Period
11:20 – 11:35	Break	
11:40 – 1:00	3rd Period	6th Period
1:00 – 1:30	Lunch (grab & go)	
1:35 – 2:50	*PLCs, Meetings, Collaboration, Professional Development, Trainings, IEP/504 Meetings	

## Hybrid Schedule (SCHS)

**Mon**

**Group A & B Online**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Group A in class  
B online**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Group B in class  
A online**

7:40 – 8:20	0 Period	0 Period	0 Period
8:30 – 9:30	1st Period	1st Period	1st Period
9:40 – 10:40	2nd Period	2nd Period	2nd Period
10:40 – 10:50	Break	Break	Break
10:55 – 11:55	3rd Period	3rd Period	3rd Period
11:55 – 12:25	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:35 – 1:35	4th Period	4th Period	4th Period
1:45 – 3:15	<b>Teachers:</b> PLC, Department Meetings, PrepTime, Office Hours, Student Support, IEPs/504s, SSTs <b>Students:</b> Interventions, Supports, Meetings, Asynchronous Work		

**Q**

Will Elementary & Secondary School **siblings** have the same hybrid days?

**A**

Yes, they will both be in **Group B**, Thursday and Friday.

# Schedules & Group Assignments Middle & High

**Q** How are stable middle and high school groups being established?

**A** Their group (A or B) will be “stable”, meaning the same students are on campus those days, but students will be with different groups in each class that they attend. Social distancing and other protocols will support safety.

**Q** Can you speak more generally about the differences between Groups A/B and Groups C?

**A** **Cohort A** is on campus on Tues/Wed. **Cohort B** is on campus on Thurs/Fri. And, **Cohort C** is at home 100% for online learning.

# Online Academy Elementary

**Q** Do you know how the online academy schedule is going to be? Does the online academy follow a **similar schedule** as we've been using this year or is it more rigorous?

**A** Families can expect daily live lessons for up to **75 minutes** for TK/K, **100 minutes** for 2nd and 3rd, and **120 minutes** for 4th and 5th. Teachers have discretion on whether they want to use live time for small groups or whole group and for direct instruction or follow-up instruction. Your teacher will notify you of the schedule the week of March 8th.

**Q** When will we know who is the Online Academy teacher? Are online academy teachers part of the Santa Cruz School district? If we do Online Academy, will my child be put into a class with kids from his/her same school or will it be a mixing pot of kids from different schools? Will the Online Academy be a mix of grade levels?

**A** **Online Academy teachers are from our district schools.** Students will be mixing with students from other schools. Classes may be combination classes, but never more than two grades in one class.

**Q** If you choose to go back in person and find it is not a good fit can you then sign up for the Online Academy?

**A** Changes can only be made on a space available basis. We want to work with families to support your needs, but we have to follow class size regulations.

# Distance Learning Only (Group C) Middle & High

**Q** Will secondary students who choose to stay with distant learning still be at their schools or sent to an online academy?

**A** Secondary students who choose to stay remote will Zoom into their classes.

**Q** How will PE work for the C distance learning group?

**A** They will have **asynchronous assignments**, meaning they will be given an assignment to complete on their own. This will be a combination of physical activity as well as written assignments/logs.

**Q** When middle and high school students Zoom into class (group C, online only), will they be observing and listening to the classroom, or will there be instruction addressed to them directly? How will they participate in group discussions with their classmates?

**A** Students in group C will get at least 30 mins of live interaction with their teacher for each period (except PE). Any collaboration between group C and a cohort at school will happen via Zoom.

## Instruction

**Q** How often will my child interact with their teacher during the two days of remote learning? (Elementary)

**A** Teachers will have **two live meetings with students on their remote days**. The teachers will provide you with those schedules. The remote days will also be where RSP and intervention are delivered, so there is a possibility that your child may have more live time with other adults during their remote day.

**Q** Will students who go back to school for Hybrid Instruction have the same teacher they have had online these past months? If a student has a teacher that cannot return to school for in person instruction due to medical reasons what will happen with their classes? (Elementary)

**A** **Most students who return to school will keep their same teacher**, though there could be a few class changes to support social distancing and the number of students in one classroom, or changes in teacher staffing. If a teacher needs to leave due to medical reasons, their position will be filled by an appropriate long-term substitute.

# Instruction

---

**Q** What efforts were made to create outdoor learning environments for classes to spend more time learning outside?

**A** We have been able to have Small Cohorts learning outside since October. We were able to install outside WiFi access points as well as create supply bags and other items needed to be outside. We will be encouraging teachers to have instruction outside at times if it is appropriate, but we will be mainly indoors and socially distanced when we open in Hybrid.

---

**Q** Will PE once again be taking place outside?

**A** **Yes, PE will take place outdoors** on the whole. If in the gym, we will follow the Red Tier gym guidance which states gyms can only operate at 10% its maximum capacity. Only low exertion and low contact activities would be done in the gym.

---

**Q** Secondary Students: Will the in-person students be viewing the same zoom instruction as their distant-learning peers? ie. Will students receive the same instruction in the classroom as at home, or will instruction in the classroom be different from what they would get at home?

**A** **It will be the same.** Teachers will be holding zoom sessions at the same time they are teaching students physically present.

---

**Q** If a student has a free period, will there be study halls open?

**A** **Yes.** They will have an assigned location for the open period.

---

**Q** Are the students going to be on zoom while in the classroom?

**A** **This depends on the teacher.** It is an option that allows for students in the class to be partnered with those at home as well.

---

**Q** How will student questions be answered when they are remote?

**A** Students may ask questions in chat via Zoom or by speaking up through zoom. If the work is asynchronous, then they may have to email the teacher.

---

# Instruction

---

**Q** How many children will be in each class in person?

**A** It depends on the size of the room. It will depend on how many students can fit in the space and have 6 ft of distance from others. In most classes, it is about **16 students/room**.

**Q** Will all assignments be managed through google classroom or will they be physically turning in assignments?

**A** It will be both, but most likely Google Classroom will continue to be the main mode, and definitely will be the mode for students who are 100% distance learning.

**Q** Will students have the same teachers that they currently have for their on campus days and for their distance learning days?

**A** Students participating in Hybrid will have the same teacher for their person and remote days.

# Intervention & Support Services

---

**Q** What is the current data regarding **learning loss & child mental health** for Santa Cruz elementary students and how is this being addressed?

**A** Learning loss and the impact of the pandemic are still being assessed. Currently, we have feedback from our social emotional health survey, ThoughtExchange feedback & LCAP student survey (4/5th grades). Across the country, students' learning was interrupted, and math has been identified as the subject where we will see some gaps in learning. Currently, we have designed a rigorous intervention program for elementary that includes the expansion of in-person, small group tutoring, summer programs, and embedded as well as after school interventions for the 21-22 school year. Mental-health wise, we know that many students are feeling isolated and disconnected from school, and most want to return. Increased behavioral supports both inside and outside the classroom are also planned.

# Intervention & Support Services

**Q** Can you provide information for students who receive other services (speech, OT, interventions)? How will these services be delivered when we transition to Hybrid? Will they resume in person or stay online?

**A** Special Education services will be delivered based on a consideration of student need and access to general education support. While some students may continue to receive services virtually, others may be best supported through in-person service delivery. You can expect to hear from your child's case manager and related service provider regarding schedule changes. Please know that there may be a period of asynchronous service delivery while new schedules are being created based on the hybrid instructional model.

## Ventilation

**Q** What upgrades and modifications have been made to the district's ventilation system?

**A** Please see [this video](#) with information about the district's ventilation system.

**Q** Why aren't HEPA filters being installed in every classroom?

**A** Hepa filters will only be installed in areas that do not meet ventilation standards. All areas of each school site have been assessed by **mechanical engineering experts Geo H. Wilson** and upgrades have been completed. A report will be published on our website for our community before the beginning of Hybrid instruction.

**Q** Will the ventilation systems be tested or have checks to see if the full room is being filtered?

**A** Geo H. Wilson has conducted an assessment of all areas at each school site and adjustments & modifications have been made so that the HVAC in each space is working at maximum capacity.



# Facilities Preparations

---

**Q** Where is **plexiglass** being installed on campus? Will student's workspaces in the classroom have plexiglass barriers?

**A** Plexiglass is only installed in areas where social distancing is not possible and in specific situations where there is close contact and limited space. In a classroom, social distancing and other measures are more successful.

---

**Q** How do you plan to manage use of **bathrooms** - is there a max capacity that will be monitored?

**A** **This is a school specific question.** Different schools have different numbers of restrooms and capacities. In general, schools will ask students to enter one at a time as much as possible. We are evaluating staff and student restroom ratios and reassigning some to provide as many restrooms for students as possible.

---

# School Activities

---

**Q** Are the lunches only available for those that are eligible?

**A** **Lunches will be available for any student** who wants one whether or not they are eligible for free/reduced lunch. **No one will be charged** for breakfast or lunch.

---

**Q** In the event of rain, what is the plan for snack / lunch break while on campus?

**A** We have covered areas on campus that will be used.

**Q** Will clubs be meeting in person?

**A** **Clubs will be able to meet in person and virtually.** Clubs that meet in person will do so with safety precautions in place, such as social distancing and wearing masks.

---

**Q** What are the rules around break? Will kids be allowed to play together (sports, etc.) or will they be required to follow social distancing outside? Are they allowed to eat a snack at break?

**A** Students can take off masks to eat/drink outside and will be expected to keep 6ft of distance from others even during break.

# School Activities

---

**Q** **What is band going to look like?** Will the students in band be able to practice in person as a group?

**A** **For now, band and choir need to be outside.** Students can practice in person. They have to be socially distanced, have bell covers for their instruments and also wear special masks. All of this has been ordered and our music teachers are very excited about being able to do music live!

---

**Q** Are there any plans for prom and graduation?

**A** **We are exploring options for graduation.** It will depend on the health guidance but we are planning various scenarios. **It is not likely that we will be able to host a prom.**

---

**Q** Will bike cages be open?

**A** **Yes.** Students will have access to the bike cages. They should plan to arrive early enough to get their bike secured and also go through the healthy child screening and get to class on time.

---

**Q** **What recess activities will be available?** If so, what activities are available for students? How will schools manage high touch areas such as playgrounds? Are there sanitizing protocols in place for shared equipment, such as basketballs, etc? Will students interact with other classes during recess?

**A** All school play areas including fields, playgrounds and blacktops ( 4-square) will be divided into zones. Each cohort will play in a specific zone for that day with their cohort only. Each cohort will also have a bag of play equipment that is unique to the cohort. Each day the playgrounds and play equipment will be sanitized. Students will wash hands prior to entering the play zones and wash hands/ sanitize when they exit the play zones.

Staff will facilitate social distancing games and activities on the yard using the newly published playworks games specific for social distancing and physical fitness.

---

**Q** Are there plans for 5th grade science camp, modified or other?

**A** Currently, no field trips are permissible under state guidance. Guidance from the state will determine whether or not 5th grade science camp is a possibility next year.

---

# Quarantine Requirements

---

**Q** If a child is in hybrid and must quarantine and stay home, how can they participate in school during the in-person days? Similarly, if a child has symptoms that shouldn't go to school but are capable of learning on their school day, what is the plan?

**A** In that case, a student is absent from class due to illness, and it will be managed in the same way illness was managed pre-COVID. If the child is well enough the daily zoom meetings for the at home learners, and the teacher will work with the family to make sure that they have assignments to complete in their absence. We have required teachers to use Google Classroom or SeeSaw for these reasons. If a student is not well enough to complete work, they will complete the work when they are better.

---

**Q** If there is a positive test in a family, do all the classes with siblings from that family go into quarantine?

**A** All students entering our campuses are asked COVID-19 health screening questions. One of the screening questions asks if a student has been in close contact with a person in isolation for COVID-19 or in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. Students answering "yes" to any of our screening questions will not be allowed on campus. Classes do not go into quarantine unless a student in the class has tested positive for COVID-19.

---

**Q** If there is a positive case in Group A, will only Group A be quarantined? or both Group A and Group B and the teacher?

**A** If Group A has a positive case, Group A and the teacher would have to go into quarantine (teachers who are vaccinated do not need to go into quarantine). If the teacher needs to quarantine, Group B would remain in Hybrid with a substitute teacher.

---

**Q** What happens to a class if it is closed due to a positive Covid case? How will instruction be delivered?

**A** The class will switch to Distance Learning during that time.

---

**Q** If a sibling is in a cohort/class with a positive COVID case, would the other sibling's cohort/class be closed down?

**A** Per Health Guidelines, classes do not go into quarantine unless a student in the class has tested positive for COVID-19.

---

**Q** If there is a 2 week quarantine, would the kids be expected to learn 100% remote for those 2 weeks?

**A** If a student is well and able to learn, they will be learning remotely during the quarantine.

---

# Contact Tracing

---

**Q** Can you provide more information about how the **contact tracing** process works?

**A** Santa Cruz City Schools will provide the county public health department with a line list of students and staff members who have been direct/close contacts to a positive case, and public health will follow up with families and provide contact tracing. Santa Cruz City Schools will follow public health guidelines to quarantine any cohorts and close contacts that may have been exposed to COVID, according to county public health guidelines.

---

**Q** Has there been any spread or positive cases of COVID in schools so far?

**A** **We have had positive cases come to schools, but no spread on campus.** We did have some students and adults who tested positive for COVID in our Small Cohorts. It's important to note that these cases were found to have happened off-campus. We had no on-campus spread because of safety measures that were in place. A dashboard of COVID cases that have reached campus can be found linked to the main page of our website.

---

**Q** If a member of a child's household is ill, is the child still allowed at school if they are asymptotic?

**A** If the family member who is ill tested positive for COVID, then the child cannot be at school.

---

# COVID Screening

---

**Q** Will students be required to stay home if they have **seasonal allergies**? Some allergy symptoms are similar to COVID symptoms? Will schools be trained in noticing the differences? Will students with allergies be required to get tested?

**A** Only students who have **symptoms consistent with COVID-19** will not be allowed to participate in Hybrid learning for 14 days. Since every child is different with different conditions, each case will be closely and carefully assessed to determine if a child may be suffering from COVID-19. A student with seasonal allergies should provide a doctor's note to the school site.

---

**Q** If a student has symptoms consistent with COVID, will they be required to be tested before returning to school? What if families are unable to access testing?

**A** **SCCS cannot require testing for students.** Students with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be sent home & advised to contact their healthcare provider & consider COVID-19 testing. Families will be asked to share test results with school administration as soon as possible. If students have tested positive, they must isolate for 10 days before returning to school. If students are not tested, they must stay home to quarantine for 14 days. Site administrators & school nurses will help families access testing. The County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency has a listing of all testing centers in the county. [Here is the link.](#)

---

# COVID Screening

**Q** How much earlier should students get to school since they all must be screened?

**A** Please allow for **at least 20 extra minutes** for screening when arriving at school.

# COVID Testing & Vaccines

**Q** Will teachers & staff be vaccinated?

**A** Yes, staff will have all had access to vaccinations.

**Q** Will students be required to have a negative COVID test before Hybrid Instruction starts? Is this a requirement for students to return to campus?

**A** SCCS cannot require testing for students. All students entering our campuses are screened for **COVID-19 symptoms**.

**Q** If the teacher is vaccinated and getting tested, how would you know if Covid was circulating among the children?

**A** **All students entering our campuses are screened for COVID-19 symptoms.** Students who have any COVID-19 symptom(s) will be sent home immediately and advised to contact their healthcare provider to request a COVID-19 test. Students will also be sent home if they have been a close contact to a person in isolation for COVID-19 or been a close contact to a person who has a confirmed positive COVID-19 test. Students cannot return to school unless they show a negative COVID-19 test result, they are feeling better, and it has been at least 24 hours with no fever, without taking medicines to lower a fever.

# Safety / Health Protocols

**Q** How regularly will staff encourage students to wash/sanitize their hands?

**A** Students will be encouraged to wash/sanitize their hands when entering & exiting their classroom, before & after recess, before eating, when using the restroom & between class activities.

# Safety / Health Protocols

**Q** What happens when students don't do the required precautions?

**A** We will be **explicitly teaching students the required safety protocols**. We have developed a process to support students, and, while we will be kind and firm, if students continuously refuse to comply with safety protocols, they must return to distance learning.

# Future Planning

**Q** Do you anticipate that 5 day in-person instruction will be possible in the fall?

**A** We are **hopeful** that we will be able to offer five days a week in-person instruction in the fall. Schools must comply with California Department of Public Health mandates. As soon as it is possible, we will transition to daily in-person instruction.

**Q** If a child is in the TWI program and chooses the distance learning only, will they be able to go back into the Spanish program in the fall?

**A** Yes, if you choose to stay in distance learning for the remainder of this school year, you will be allowed to return to the TWI program in the fall.

**Q** If the county goes back to Purple Tier, do we immediately return to full distance learning?

**A** No, the **schools will stay in Hybrid**. Once schools re-open, they will only have to close when 5% of a school population is positive or when directed to do so by County Health.

**Thank you. And we  
can't wait to be  
back together.**

