



Manatee Elementary

Frequently Asked Questions July 16, 2020

Manatee e-Learning

- Is e-Learning similar to what we did in the spring? No, we like to refer to what we did in the spring as “emergency learning”. Manatee e-Learning will have the students engaging in live instruction from their teacher during the school day. It will mirror the lessons and activities that are taking place on campus. Teachers will continue to collaboratively plan with their grade level team to ensure consistency and pacing.
- If we decide to participate in e-Learning, are we committed for the entire school year? No, you may return to the brick and mortar setting. Families are strongly encouraged to only make changes at the end of each nine weeks to help us maintain a balanced staffing plan and class size.
- How many different grade levels will the e-Learning teacher have in their class? This will be decided by enrollment numbers. The intention is only one grade level, but not more than two.
- How long will kids be on the computer each day? The e-Learning model has students interacting with the teacher through live video. The teacher might begin the day with the whole group Reading lesson. Some students may log off to complete paper/pencil assignments while the teacher pulls a few students for differentiated, small group instruction using live video. The other subjects would follow a similar model, the teacher giving whole group instruction and then breaking away for independent work. The independent work would vary from paper/pencil assignments to tasks on the computer. Students will be scheduled a 30 minute lunch and a 30 minute recess. In addition, the student will have a 40 minute activity time to complete the lessons for that class. The e-Learning day would take place from 8:00 am-2:30 pm, just as our day on campus runs.
- Will e-Learning in 5th and 6th grade be departmentalized? Our goal is that e-Learning will be a mirror of what takes place on campus; so we hope so. We have to finalize our e-Learning enrollment numbers before we can make a staffing plan. Please complete the survey by July 20th so we can begin to finalize our plans.
- If we begin with e-Learning and then return to campus, will my child be with the same teacher? It is not likely we would be able to do that. If an entire class of e-Learners returned to the building at the same time, we may be able to keep them all together in one class with the same teacher. As students return to campus, it is likely they will be placed in the open seats in our brick and mortar classrooms.
- Once we answer the survey, are we committed to e-Learning? Anytime before July 20th you can change your mind. Just fill out the survey again and we will use your most recent submission. Once we close the survey, we will contact you. If you have already completed your registration forms (most families have) then you need to sign an e-Learning agreement which outlines the expectations for students and parents. The e-Learning agreement can be submitted electronically; this will be the final step to enroll in e-Learning.

- If the school has an emergency shutdown, it goes into Distant Learning mode, what happens to e-Learning? Since those students are not on campus, they will not be effected by the shutdown, they will continue with e-Learning with no interruption.

Manatee Brick and Mortar Campus

- Will there be temperature checks on campus? Parents are expected to temperature check their children at home. Not all students will be temperature checked on campus.
- Do students have to wear masks? When social distancing cannot be adhered to, it is expected that students and staff wear a face covering. With some creative movement of furniture, we believe we can achieve social distancing with student desks and cafeteria tables (a big thank you to our office and custodial teams for working on this task. We have just a few rooms to finish and the plan will be finalized).
- How will lunch work on campus? At this time, we have separated all our cafeteria tables and all students will face one direction. We have been able to spread out to create 6 feet of social distancing while students are seated for lunch. In addition to the cafeteria, we have placed tables on the stage and in the lobby. To accommodate only 2 students sitting per bench, we will only have 8 classes in the cafeteria at a time (traditionally we seat 14 classes at a time during lunch).
- Will students have recess? Absolutely! We are working on safety protocols. At Manatee we firmly believe in the importance of students having time for outdoor, physical exercise each day.
- Will fifth and sixth grade teachers still departmentalize on campus? Keeping our students and staff safe is our first priority. So, we are working on different ideas which would allow the teachers to continue to departmentalize without moving students from room to room. At this time, we have not made an official decision on departmentalization.
- Will you have aftercare? We know many parents depend on our aftercare program, but no decision on aftercare has been made yet. We will communicate updates on aftercare through email and our Facebook page.