Back to School FAQ

This document will contain Frequently Asked Questions that we have received from Overton families. It will be updated regularly as new information becomes available. Information that is new to a previous version will be highlighted using red writing. If you do not see the answer to your question listed, refer to the Contacts section of this document for the most appropriate person to contact or contact Deirdre.Demana@mnps.org for general communication.

Metro Nashville Public Schools has district specific information available at www.mnps.org/backtoschool and a similar FAQ document

## Schedules

### When will school start?

The first day of school is August 4, 2020. Students will attend school virtually and will not report to the school building. We will continue to follow the MNPS District Schedule.

### Will there still be Orientations/ Meet the Teacher opportunities before classes begin virtually?

Absolutely! It is important to us that we maintain our culture and community regardless of the learning style. Specifics about how these virtual meetings will occur will be available soon.
**When will we get to go into the school building?**

We will be working virtually until at least September 7, 2020. Metro Schools will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in consultation with the Metro Health Department to determine when it is safe for in-person schools, following the Mayor’s roadmap for reopening when possible. Key factors will include the rate of community spread, with the goal of being at or below an Ro of 1. Decisions will be communicated at least two weeks prior to a shift back to in-person classes so that students and staff can appropriately prepare.

**Will we be given the choice or returning to school or remaining virtual?**

MNPS has stated that families will have the opportunity to choose between virtual and in-person classes. Specific instructions on how to make that choice will be provided by the district at a later date.

*If a student chooses the virtual option for the semester, will they be able to change their mind?*

No, once a student has made the choice of virtual or in-person, their choice will be for the semester. This will allow us to have appropriate staffing for each learning platform.

**What will Schedules look like at Overton this year?**

All zoned high schools (like Overton) will follow a 4x4 schedule. Instead of having the A/B schedule that we are used to, students will now have 4 classes each semester that they will attend all five days. This would be like taking all their A classes in the Fall and all of their B classes in the Spring. For example, a student would have English, Art, Chemistry, and PE in the Fall and would attend all five days. During the second semester, the student would take Math, History, Computer Apps, and CTE.

Students will complete one full year of learning in one semester. **There will be semester exams at the end of every 9 weeks.**

Our goal is to balance the schedules so that students do not have all their heavy academic courses in the same semester.

**How will my classes be arranged in the 4x4 design?**

Our goal is to balance the student schedules so that a student does not have all their academic requirements in one semester and electives in another.
If a student has a main class (like Math) in the first semester of the 4x4 schedule, how can we ensure that they are prepared for the next level of the course a year later?

Students who would like additional enrichment in a specific subject can request that subject as their PLT.

Will Freshman who are double blocked for English and Math have those courses in both semesters?

Yes. If a student is double blocked for a subject they will have it for the entire school year.

When will we get our schedules?

Schools are working to redesign their Master Schedule to reflect the 4x4 design. As we have the schedules designed and balanced they will be loaded to Infinite Campus so that families will have the ability to access them.

What if there is a problem with my schedule?

Students will all be assigned a Navigator who will be a main point of contact for any issues that they may face. The student who has a schedule issue will work with the Navigator who will work with the counselor to make sure that schedule issues are resolved as quickly as possible.

How will I know who to ask when I have questions?

Each student at Overton will be assigned a Navigator. The Navigator will help the student directly when possible and will also act as a resource for connecting the student with district level assistance when necessary.
Why has Metro Schools adopted a standardized curriculum for learning?
MNPS will be utilizing the Florida Virtual School Curriculum as a standardized basis of learning for all students. The purpose of this is to ensure that all students, regardless of learning platform, have parity and consistency in their offerings. Schools have the opportunity to enhance this curriculum.

What about Cambridge, AP, Dual Enrollment, and Dual Credit?
All our advanced academic classes will take place as previously offered. MNPS is working with our partners at Nashville State.

What if I am taking a semester long class (like Government/Economics)?
Classes that were initially scheduled to be a semester long will now take place over 9 weeks.

What about courses like Band and Theater that would like to meet for the entire school year?
These courses will meet for credit one semester of the year. Students who would like to continue their experience in a course may have opportunities during their PLT and/or after school activities.

What platform will I use to access the online learning?
High School students will access their learning through Schoology

Will attendance be taken?
Yes. Overton will monitor that students have logged in to the system DAILY (M-F), and standard truancy rules will apply.

While we are learning virtually, will I get to talk to a live teacher?
All classes will have both synchronous (together live) and asynchronous (by yourself) learning times. The specifics of this are still in process, but there will be designated times where students can work live with the instructor and/or their classmates to enhance or clarify their learning. We will work to stage the classes so that the live portion is staggered over a day which would allow students to touch base with every teacher every day if they need to do that.
How long will the school day be? How long will I have to sit in the class?

Teachers will have set hours that they are teaching synchronously that students can attend. This learning will also be recorded so that students could attend virtually (asynchronously) later. The amount of time that a student spends virtually “in class” with a teacher will depend upon their need for the synchronous/asynchronous learning.

What about Semester Exams?

Semester exams will take place at the end of the first 9 weeks in a course.

If the class has an assessment at the end (like an EOC, Cambridge, or AP test), when will the test be given?

Tests will still take place and will be given at the end of the course where possible. Students who can not take the exam close to the end of their course will be offered PLT time to connect with their teacher to reinforce learning.

How will IEP/504 Plans be handled in a virtual environment?

All students will have equitable access to core content provided by teachers. There are teams working to provide materials and supports that are differentiated and focused on meeting each student’s need.

For students with an IEP or a 504 plan, we are developing a COVID-19 Continuous Learning Individualized Plan (CLIP) that you should receive by August 4. The CLIP will identify how MNPS intends to implement the services and supports outlined in your child’s IEP or Section 504 Plan when we are in a virtual setting. It is our goal that students are learning the first day of school (August 4) and that students are being assessed for any regression that has occurred during school closures. Teachers and related service providers will begin supporting access to core content and interventions as well as related services at the start of the school year. School staff will establish a schedule of ongoing check-ins and expectations for parent communication. School teams will continue to collect data and monitor your child’s progress to determine if their needs are being met. For students engaged in transition activities, school staff will explain how employment and community-based instruction will be addressed as a result of the Metro Health Department’s order that mandates what phase the city is in.

Additional information can be found in the MNPS Back to School FAQ.
How will English Learners services be provided with online instruction?

EL services will continue to occur daily from certified EL teachers in the virtual setting. EL services align with grade-level standards and curriculum. Schools select service models from district service model options based on each student's English proficiency level and Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The service model selected in a regular setting carries over to the virtual setting. ELs with more than one WIDA ACCESS domain score below 3.5 shall receive one hour per day of virtual ELs service from an EL teacher (sheltered ELD/ELA class, co-teaching, or services during PLT). Students scoring 3.5 or above on WIDA ACCESS composite, reading, writing, and one (1) other domain on the WIDA ACCESS and ELs in kindergarten scoring between 20 and 27 on all domains of the W-APT may have services tailored to their needs, including fewer hours of virtual EL direct instruction based on their ILP, skills-based interventions, and other services that are differentiated for each EL.

What do I do if I need to recover a credit?

Overton has a Graduation Advisor, Dr. Bissing, who will work with students who need to recover credit via Edgenuity.
How will I get a MNPS provided computer or hotspot?

MNPS will provide computers and internet hotspots to families who need them. However, there are limited supplies on hand for the start of school and delivery is anticipated in late September. Specific information about how to request these technologies will be available soon.

Will there be training on how to use the technology to access our classes?

MNPS will offer training sessions to help students and families learn how to use the devices that will be issued to families that need them. The training sessions will be translated in the primary languages spoken in MNPS. Additionally, we are expanding the help desk to better support students and families using technology.

What about technology training for parents?

Definitely! As we receive more information from the district, we will work to ensure that families are prepared for both the virtual and in-person learning environment.

Will there be a way that parents can oversee the student learning without having to sit beside them?

Yes. Specific information and training on how parents can oversee Schoology will be available soon.

What do I do if I am having trouble with the technology?

Students should begin by working with Overton staff, but additional technology support will be offered through the MNPS Help Desk at (615) 269-5956.

How do I get access to the MNPS Parent Portal?

You can access the portal on the internet or by app. If you do not have your activation key, contact Deirdre Demana and provide your name and the name of the students in your household. In most cases, you will be able to access all of the students from one household with a single login once your account is activated.
**Will meals still be offered at no cost for students who are learning virtually?**

Overton will offer no cost breakfasts; however, families will need to apply to receive free or reduced lunches. You can apply here to [https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application](https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application)

**What if someone in my family needs crisis or emotional support?**

The Social-Emotional well being of our families is very important to us. Our school and our district have a variety of supports available for virtual intervention. If you need assistance, please let your Academy Counselor, Academy Principal, or a Teacher know and they will help direct you to assistance with any needs.
What do we know about the availability of activities/clubs?

Activity sponsors are working with the state and national organizations to determine the availability of their programs. When school resumes in-person, all school clubs and activities will be available to students regardless of their decision to attend live or virtually. Specific information regarding each club and activity will be provided as it becomes available.

Will we have sports this year?

Overton will follow the guidelines determined by the TSSAA regarding all athletic programs. When we return to in-person classes, additional tryouts will be held. Any student that would like to participate in athletics will need a valid Sports Physical form. A physical is valid for one calendar year. [CLICK HERE FOR THE PHYSICAL FORM]

Many of the Summer/Fall sports have already begun to practice following the social distancing guidelines outlined by TSSAA. [A list of the Summer/Fall Sports and the contact information] for their specific coaches & current practice information is available. For general information about athletics you can contact [Coach Kim Gaines], our Athletic Director.

What are we doing about Senior start of year activities like Senior Shirts and Senior Pictures?

Senior Pictures and Senior Shirts will still take place. We are currently working with our vendors to make sure that we have a safe and efficient method to take care of these. As more information is available, we will update the FAQ, Newsletter, and Social Media.
Overton Contact List

Executive Principal: Dr. Jill Pittman
Principal of Curriculum & Instruction: Matthew Earls

Engineering Academy Principal: Alec Woodhull
Engineering Academy Counselor: Verena Owsley
MEP Counselor: Carol Chaparro
Engineering Academy Dean of Students: Priscilla Puente

Freshman Academy Principal: Kevin Aigbe
Freshman Academy Counselor: Kristie Hutchinson
Freshman Academy Counselor: Carol Chaparro
Freshman Academy Dean of Students: Tocarra Cecil

Health Science Academy Principal: Nikki Miller-Licht
Health Science Academy Counselor: Amber Nelson
Health Science Academy Dean of Students: Ben Simmons

IT Academy Principal: Jacob Vaughn
IT Academy Counselor: Elizabeth McClurg
IT Academy Dean of Students: Ben Simmons
Academy of Interdisciplinary Research Principal: Dr. Emily Workman
Academy of Interdisciplinary Research Counselor: Steve Van Driest
Academy of Interdisciplinary Research Dean of Students: Kim Gaines

Family Engagement Specialist (General Questions): Deirdre Demana
Academy Coach: Sally Spear
Youth Development Specialist: Samuel Montoya
Lead Exceptional Education Instructor: Dr. Susan Hale
Graduation Advisor: Dr. Kurt Bissinger
Athletic Director/Athletic Business Director: Kim Gaines