



FAQ for IB Families - Fall 2020

Communication Planning Document

We are looking forward to the start of the school year and can't wait to learn and grow with our IB students and families! We know a virtual return to school, following a spring school closure, means you might have questions specific to IB. Below are some frequently asked questions for middle school then high school families to help as we all move forward together.

Middle School - Virtual Model

Instructional Delivery: What will IB teaching and learning look like?

- **Frequency** - Daily, per course.

The IB program focuses on teaching and learning through rigorous student-centered strategies that encourage inquiry, global perspectives, and development of the whole child. These practices are the foundation of each unit, and students will engage with IB learning throughout each virtual class daily.

- **Delivery of Curriculum** - Virtually, through Schoology - the HCPS divisional learning management system for the design, delivery, and assessment of the curriculum.

FAQ for Middle School Parents - Virtual Model

(A dedicated section for high school FAQs are available following this middle school section.)

Format: **Question** **Answer**

Will my child have the same experiences and opportunities as they would if they were attending classes in person?

New virtual learning allows us to bring all of the features of the IB program to our students. Through new and traditional strategies, we will learn together with rigor, inquiry, collaboration, and compassion. While we will continue to adhere to the most rigorous health and safety guidelines, we look forward to offering the IB you have come to know and expect!

What supports are available if we start to feel uncomfortable or aren't doing well with the virtual



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model, and how would we access them?

Each HCPS IB World School has a network of support for the students, including teachers, the Innovative Learning Coach, an onsite IB coordinator, teachers, school counselors, and administrators who are available to support students. Students can reach out to them through Schoology or during 1:1 class time. Families can reach out by email or phone for assistance. The county is also developing supports such as a Family Schoology course to assist families with online resources.

If I decide to homeschool my child or enroll in private school this year, will my child be allowed to rejoin the IB program in the future?

Sixth grade and seventh grade students who withdraw from HCPS IB but want to return to the IB program in the future must reapply during the fall application window along with other students throughout the county. The application would be for a potential return at the start of the following school year. The number of acceptances to grades seven and eight is based on seats available at each grade level and is not based on prior acceptance or participation in the IB program.

How will you ensure the teachers have the appropriate preparation to teach virtually?

HCPS has developed a robust set of professional learning (PL) opportunities to prepare teachers for virtual instruction over the summer. In support of this training, the school board approved a change in teacher's schedules to provide three full PL days for them this summer before school begins. Additional PL will be provided throughout the school year.

How will teachers provide an IB education when they are not with the students every day?

The IB programs are designed around student-centered instruction. Teachers will engage students in rigorous, inquiry-based, collaborative and compassionate learning experiences through new and traditional strategies on the online platform.

How will virtual school this school year be different from the virtual learning last spring?

Virtual learning this fall will move learning forward with new content and skills taught and learned through newly designed, structured experiences that are rich, structured, robust, and developmentally appropriate. It will include attendance, teacher interaction, assignments and grades.

Will my child participate synchronously or asynchronously during virtual learning?

Students will engage in both synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning. This does not mean students and teachers must be in front of their screens all day, every day. We're responsible for teaching certain subjects, but this can take on different forms such as independent work, or creating a non-digital project.

How will students make up for last year's missed content?

Where appropriate, pacing is adjusted to incorporate missed content into the current curriculum.



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Will students still take the full set of IB subject areas, including electives?

Yes, IB students will take the same courses required by the International Baccalaureate Organization and the Virginia Department of Education.

Will the students be in classes with their own school's teachers and classmates or with teachers and students from other IB schools?

Students will be scheduled with teachers and classmates from their own IB school.

How much time should I expect my child to have direct contact with the teacher?

Virtual learning does not mean students and teachers have to be in front of their screens all day, every day. This can take on different forms such as independent work, or a project. Teachers will be available throughout each class period to provide instruction, support, and feedback.

Will my child be challenged through rigorous lessons, projects, and assessments?

New virtual learning allows us to bring all of the features of the IB program to our students. Through new and traditional strategies, we will learn together through rigor, inquiry, collaboration, and compassion. This includes daily activities, hands-on projects, challenging HCPS and IB assessments, community involvement, and more. The IB Organization has not altered its philosophy or standards. We will continue to adhere to their highest academic, social, physical, and socio-emotional expectations.

How will my child be able to collaborate with classmates or participate in hands-on learning activities like science labs, music class, Teen Living, and art?

Schoology and online meetings through Microsoft Teams allow for collaborative spaces.

What will the IB community service expectations be?

Commitments and requirements are currently under review and information will be provided once it is available.

Will my child be able to participate in clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities while learning virtually?

We continue to explore various avenues to engage students in clubs and extracurricular activities in a virtual environment. The [Virginia High School League](#) has released an anticipated return to sports schedule for high school students.

How will my children get help from their teachers?

Teachers will be available for students throughout the full class period and during other school-determined windows. Students can also contact teachers with questions, concerns, and ideas through Schoology's message feature.



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How will I be able to meet with the teachers?

Each school will plan a virtual back to school event. In addition, parents and teachers can request phone appointments and virtual meetings.

What supplies will my child need if learning from home?

Please check with your child's school for a standard supply list for return to school virtually. Upon the start of school each teacher may have additional course-specific supply requests as well.

How will my child's teachers know him/her well enough to write a recommendation for HCPS specialty centers, Maggie Walker Governor's School, or gifted identification?

Within site-based guidelines the high school applications traditionally have encouraged students to select the middle school teachers who will complete the recommendation. When appropriate, students would be able to request recommendations from seventh or eighth grade teachers.

Parent Resources

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High School - Virtual Model

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How will my child be able to collaborate with classmates or participate in hands-on learning activities like science labs, theater, and visual art?

Schoology and online meetings through Microsoft Teams and Google Meet allow for collaborative spaces. Each subject area is determining best practices for hands-on learning in a virtual setting.

What will the IB Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) expectations be?

Creativity, Activity, Service commitments and requirements are currently under review and information will be provided once it is available.

Will my child be able to participate in clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities while learning virtually?

We continue to explore various avenues to engage students in clubs and extracurricular activities in a virtual environment. The [Virginia High School League](#) has released an anticipated return to sports schedule for high school students.

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What supplies will my child need if learning from home?

Please check with your child's school for a standard supply list for returning to school virtually. Upon the start of school each teacher may have additional course-specific supply requests as well.

How will my child's teachers know him/her well enough to write a recommendation for college, scholarships, or other application-based activities. Even virtually, faculty members will continue to build and maintain positive relationships with and among our students, as relationships are a cornerstone of HCPS's vision. When appropriate, students are encouraged to request the teachers who they feel will be able to complete the recommendations.

What is the process for completing and presenting the Personal Project?

In the spring, your IB coordinator and the Personal Project coordinator shared with students an adjusted timeline for completing the Personal Project that takes into consideration the extended closure, health and safety requirements, and the welfare of the students. Additional information will continue to be shared with students and families through Schoology, ManageBac, or emails.

Will IB have Diploma Program (IBDP) exams this May or will they use the internal assessments, portfolios, and predicted grades to determine Diploma achievement as they did this past spring?

Currently, the IB Organization intends to administer the May exams for 11th and 12th graders as expected. Additional IBDP assessments will also continue like normal. Students are encouraged to do their best on all assessments. IB will continue to monitor the impact of Covid 19 on schools and students and will provide updates on IB assessments, exams, and expectations at <https://www.ibo.org/covid-19-support/>.

Will my child have the opportunities to complete the full curriculum in each subject area in order to be prepared for the IBDP exams in May?

HCPS IB World Schools will adhere to the IBO's guidelines and expectations for completing the required curriculum.

How will the teachers help the students learn the material and complete the IB assessments they missed last spring?

Teachers have been working since spring to adjust pacing to include missed content, skills, and assessments as a result of the spring 2020 extended closure.



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How will teachers provide the in-person IBDP assessments, like language orals and the Group 4 project for students if they are not in school physically?

The HCPS IB program schools will follow IBO-issued guidelines for administering the language orals and other assessments virtually and with integrity.

Will students take Theory of Knowledge (TOK)?

Yes, IBDP candidates will take TOK.

How will the students take IB Seminar?

Seminar will be provided virtually like all other courses.

What are the requirements for DP Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)?

These expectations are currently under review. Your IB coordinator will communicate them to you as soon as details are available.

What supports will be in place for students to complete the Extended Essay? How will they access resources?

In the spring, your IB coordinator and the Extended Essay coordinator(s) shared with students an adjusted timeline for completing the Personal Project that takes into consideration the extended closure, health and safety requirements, and the welfare of the students. Additional information will continue to be shared with students and families through Schoology, ManageBac, or emails.

How will IB teachers ensure students complete their work with integrity and in accordance with the Code of Academic Honesty?

Academic honesty is an expectation for all HCPS students. The [HCPS Code of Conduct](#) defines and prohibits cheating, plagiarizing, falsification, unauthorized use of technology, and false accusations. The IBO places further emphasis on its requirements and the consequences of dishonesty. The IB faculty at each school will provide additional details for students on the serious nature and consequences of integrity violations, which can include removal from the program and/or loss of opportunity to submit work toward the IB Diploma. HCPS's virtual testing platforms provide security for certain types of assessments, and the IB team is working to format assessments in ways that discourage cheating, plagiarism, and malpractice.

How will science students complete the Group 4 project and labs?

The IB science teachers are developing strategies to implement the Group 4 project and labs safely.

How will teachers and school counselors be able to support students with college applications and recommendations or other unique programs?

Even virtually, faculty members will continue to build and maintain positive relationships with and among our students, as relationships are a cornerstone of HCPS's vision.



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Middle School Model

A Day in the Life: Middle School Predominantly Virtual Sample Schedule			
Below represents a sample bell schedule for middle schools. In this sample, the school day for grades 6-8 begins at 8:30 a.m. and generally ends by 3 p.m. Your student's learning activities may vary. Building administrators will be responsible for constructing a master schedule that meets the needs of their students. Individual teachers will maintain consistent amounts of time in each content area, but instructional delivery will differ by class. Middle schools will release their master schedules and teacher assignments after 4 p.m. on Friday Aug. 28.			
TL=Teacher-Led BR=Break ID=Independent			
TIME	CONTENT	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	
8:30 - 9:05 a.m.	Advisory/Hall	TL	Social-emotional learning, intervention, enrichment (30 min.)
9:05 - 9:30 a.m.	Transition/Break	BR	Use the restroom, get water, get supplies (5 min.)
9:30 - 10:25 a.m.	Period 1/5	ID	Attendance/warmup (10 min.)
		TL	Whole-group instruction (20 min.)
		TL/ID	Small-group and independent practice (35-40 min.)
		TL/ID	Review/exit activity (5-10 min.)
10:25 - 10:35 a.m.	Transition/Break	BR	Use the restroom, get water, get supplies (10 min.)
10:35 - 11:50 a.m.	Period 2/6	ID	Attendance/warmup (10 min.)
		TL	Whole-group instruction (20 min.)
		TL/ID	Small-group and independent practice (35-40 min.)
		TL/ID	Review/exit activity (5-10 min.)
11:50 - 12:20 p.m.	Lunch	BR	Lunch (30 min.)
12:20 - 1:35 p.m.	Period 3/7	ID	Attendance/warmup (10 min.)
		TL	Whole-group instruction (20 min.)
		TL/ID	Small-group and independent practice (35-40 min.)
		TL/ID	Review/exit activity (5-10 min.)
1:35 - 1:45 p.m.	Transition/Break	BR	Use the restroom, get water, get supplies (10 min.)
1:45 - 3 p.m.	Period 4/8	ID	Attendance/warmup (10 min.)
		TL	Whole-group instruction (20 min.)
		TL/ID	Small-group and independent practice (35-40 min.)
		TL/ID	Review/exit activity (5-10 min.)
3 - 3:15 p.m.	Extended Services	TL	Instructional support (15 min.)
APPROXIMATE MINUTES PER DAY			
Synchronous	Asynchronous	Break	
278-310	100-126	60	
Total: 465 minutes (6 hours, 45 minutes)			

High School Model

A Day in the Life: High School Predominantly Virtual Sample Schedule			
Below represents a sample bell schedule for high schools. In this sample, the school day for grades 9-12 begins at 9 a.m. (8 a.m. for early bird) and generally ends by 3:55 p.m. Your student's learning activities may vary. Building administrators will be responsible for constructing a master schedule that meets the needs of their students. Individual teachers will maintain consistent amounts of time in each content area, but instructional delivery will differ by class. High schools will release their master schedules and teacher assignments after 4 p.m. on Friday Aug. 28.			
TL=Teacher-Led BR=Break ID=Independent			
TIME	CONTENT	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	
8 - 8:55 a.m.	Early Bird Classes (depending on course selection)	ID	Warmup (5 min.)
		TL	Whole-group instruction/review previous learning (20 min.)
		TL	Small/whole-group practice (10 min.)
		ID	Independent practice (15 min.)
		TL	Review/exit activity (5 min.)
9 - 10 a.m.	1st Period	ID	Warmup (5 min.)
		TL/ID	Whole-group instruction/independent work (flexible by day) (20 min.)
		ID	Small/whole-group/independent practice (flexible by day) (10 min.)
		ID	Independent practice (20 min.)
		TL	Review/exit activity (5 min.)
10 - 10:10 a.m.	Transition/Break	BR	
10:10 - 11:40 a.m.	2nd/3rd Period	ID	Warmup (5 min.)
		TL/ID	Whole-group instruction/independent work (flexible by day) (25 min.)
		TL/ID	Small/whole-group/independent practice (flexible by day) (20 min.)
		ID	Independent practice (20 min.)
		TL	Review/exit activity (10 min.)
11:40 - 11:45 a.m.	Transition/Break	BR	
11:45 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.	Extended Learning	TL	Social-emotional learning
12:10 - 12:40 p.m.	Lunch	BR	Lunch break for all
12:45 - 2:15 p.m.	4th/5th Period	ID	Warmup (5 min.)
		TL/ID	Whole-group instruction/independent work (flexible by day) (25 min.)
		TL/ID	Small/whole-group/independent practice (flexible by day) (20 min.)
		ID	Independent practice (20 min.)
		TL	Review/exit activity (10 min.)
2:15 - 2:25 p.m.	Transition/Break	BR	
2:25 - 3:55 p.m.	6th/7th Period	ID	Warmup (5 min.)
		TL/ID	Whole-group instruction/independent work (flexible by day) (25 min.)
		TL/ID	Small/whole-group/independent practice (flexible by day) (20 min.)
		ID	Independent practice (20 min.)
		TL	Review/exit activity (10 min.)
APPROXIMATE MINUTES PER DAY			
Synchronous	Asynchronous	Break	
270	126	65	
Total: 465 minutes (6 hours, 55 minutes)			

Additional information is available in the [HCPS Learning Handbook 2020-2021](#).