



The Public Schools of Brookline

Brookline Town Hall
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
617.730.2401

V. James Marini, Ph.D
Interim Superintendent

Dear PSB Families,

As you are aware, our district will begin transitioning to a [hybrid model of learning](#) tomorrow, Tuesday, October 20. Our staff and I are very excited to welcome more students back to our classrooms, and I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we planned for this return. Please take the time to review these updates from the district and be sure to check your inboxes for information from your school teams as well.

**Important note: All information regarding the hybrid schedule only refers to students in the RemotePlus model. Schedules for students currently enrolled in the K-8 Remote Learning Academy will not change.*

The Hybrid Model Schedule

Under the hybrid model schedule, current grade 1-12 students in RemotePlus will receive in-person services at their home school 2.5 days a week and remote services 2 days a week on a rotating schedule. You can review all changes in the [updated district calendar](#). Please note that all students (including those identified as part of the First to Return cohort) will transition to the hybrid schedule unless noted by the school's principal.

	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Wednesday (Early Release, <u>NO Lunch Served</u>)
BEEP	8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (NO CHANGE)	
K-8th Grade	8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
9th-12th Grade (Brookline High School)	8:20 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	8:20 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

The hybrid model will continue to engage students using synchronous and asynchronous learning. During the time that cohorts are learning remotely, classroom and specialist teachers will build in time for live touch points of learning, individual classwork, and opportunities to build community and relationships with their peers. The district-wide

curriculum has also been adjusted and prioritized to ensure the most essential skills and student outcomes are addressed within this year's challenging constraints. [Click here to access the common learning expectations](#) to be taught between now and the end of December.

Starting tomorrow, October 20, all RemotePlus students in grades 1-8 will follow their new schedule as provided by their home school. In-person start dates are listed in the table below:

Hybrid Schedule Start Dates	
Grades	Date
Grades 1-2	October 20, 2020
Grades 3-9	October 26, 2020
Grades 10-12	November 9, 2020

Over the past few days, you should have received additional details on expectations and other procedures from your school leader to ensure that you and your child are comfortable and ready to return. If you have not yet received your child's schedule, or have questions about the return process, please reach out to your child's teacher and/or school leaders.

WEEK 1					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday (12:00pm Dismissal)	Thursday	Friday
COHORT A	In-person	In-person	In-person	Remote	Remote
COHORT B	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-person	In-person
WEEK 2					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday (12:00pm Dismissal)	Thursday	Friday
COHORT A	In-person	In-person	Remote	Remote	Remote
COHORT B	Remote	Remote	In-person	In-person	In-person

Call for Volunteers

As we bring more students back into school buildings, we are also asking for parent volunteers to help supervise periods such as lunch and recess blocks during the school day. Volunteers will need to complete a CORI form and attend a virtual safety training. Please reach out to your school's principal if you can offer to volunteer!

Update from School Health Services

Our students, staff, and community's health and safety remain our top priority. I am pleased to announce that the Town of Brookline will be opening a COVID-19 testing site, accessible for all PSB students and staff. The site will operate from October through December, five days a week, for eight hours per day. PSB will keep you updated as we receive more information from the Town.

You will be [notified by school leaders and nurses](#) if there is a positive case in your child's classroom or your child's school. I encourage you to review the information developed by our [health services team](#) to understand the resources and materials we have to support you during this transition. As a reminder, all school buildings, including playgrounds, are reserved for students at school buildings during school hours. This helps ensure distancing requirements and assists school nurse teams if contact tracing is necessary.

If you haven't already, please complete the [health attestation form](#) and verify that your child's [immunizations are accurate and current](#). **Please note that your child needs to be compliant with immunization requirements.**

Each and every one of us has worked hard to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines and procedures to keep one another safe since the pandemic began. We must continue to remain proactive and vigilant in these measures. You can review all health updates, including recommended home supplies, risk mitigation strategies, and notification procedures [here](#) or at the [student health services website](#).

Other Reminders

Last week, the Office of Registration and Enrollment began sending out **residency verification** forms for all families within the district. We ask that you complete a brief electronic Affidavit of Residency to verify that you and your family are living in Brookline for the 2020-21 school year. Please complete this form by Tuesday, October 27. You can access this by visiting www.brookline.k12.ma.us/verifyresidency.

On Monday, November 2, **families may decide to switch their child's learning model** from Hybrid/RemotePlus to our Remote Learning Academy (RLA), and vice versa. Consistent with our initial planning, we ask that families commit to at least one semester in their selected model before they decide to switch. Any students impacted by this change will begin their placement on Monday, November 16 and must remain in their current classroom until this date. Early changes cannot be accommodated as schools need time for planning and preparation for enrollment changes. Students may always access material provided by teachers to all students through their Learning Management System, but your

child will be marked absent if they do not attend class in the learning model they are currently enrolled in between now and November 16.

More information about this choice will be shared during the week of October 26. You may also continue to find updates and other information on our [reopening hub](#).

Upcoming Dates

- **Tuesday, October 20** - All RemotePlus students in grades 1 through 2 begin returning to school buildings for in-person services under the hybrid model schedule
- **Monday, October 26** - All RemotePlus students in grades 3 through 9 begin returning to school buildings for in-person services under the hybrid model schedule
- **Tuesday, October 27** - Affidavits of Residency due
- **Monday, November 2 through Friday, November 6** - All students may elect to enroll in a different learning model (Hybrid/RemotePlus or RLA)
- **Monday, November 9** - All RemotePlus students in grades 10 through 12 begin returning to school buildings for in-person services under the hybrid model schedule

As we make final preparations to bring students back to school I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible work that has been done by our school leaders and educators over the last several weeks. The demands on them have been enormous and each and every one of them has worked harder than ever before, all while ensuring that the needs of our students remained at the forefront of our planning efforts. We are living in unusual times, and the unique features of the hybrid model will bring new challenges and opportunities. There will be growing pains and frustrations as we navigate through this transition. However, I am confident that we will overcome them together as we strive for a successful year of teaching and learning.

Sincerely,



V. James Marini

Interim Superintendent