

Model Changes for 2021-22

Administrators and a group of faculty with diverse roles worked together in April and May to identify changes to our instructional model for next school year based on:

- feedback from students, families, and staff;
- evolving guidance on health and safety measures;
- constraints and opportunities stemming from our staffing, space, and /or budget.

In 2021-22 most components of our pre-COVID instructional model will return; but we have embraced this process as an opportunity to also identify specific elements that worked well in our COVID model that we want to maintain, as well as reflect on and change aspects of our pre-COVID model that could be improved. Below is some important information about the model that we wanted to share with faculty, staff, and families:

Changes for the district

- Our daily schedule will return to 8:00am-2:50pm.
- We will follow state guidelines in the fall, which indicate that we will not require distancing between students but will maintain all individuals wearing masks while indoors. We will monitor and respond to guidance from the state as it evolves through the summer.
- Some grade levels will eat lunch in larger dining commons areas, others will utilize classrooms and hub spaces, depending on the physical layout of their school.
- There will be no need for separate cohorts, or primary and secondary learning coach roles next year; literacy and math specialists, instructional technology specialists, and specials teachers will refocus on their unique roles, rather than lead individual classrooms.
- Students can mix across classrooms at recess and can be pulled for services or interventions across classrooms in small groups.
- We acknowledge that we do not know what final state guidance will be on certain musical areas like wind and brass instruments or choral ensembles, but we will plan for these opportunities to be available and adjust as needed based on evolving data and guidance.
- Maintain a ~30-minute Connections block each morning M-F (not on Wednesdays for grades 6-8).
- Continued focus on AIDE (antiracism, inclusion, diversity, and equity) and deeper learning for all grade levels.

Preschool

- Specials will be in-person with the music and art teachers.

Elementary Grades

- We will return to having the full amount of instructional minutes for each content area.
- We will not have a specific “Boost Block” in the coming year, but some amount of Academic Flex time will be built into the schedule for each classroom teacher to determine what their students need on any given day.

Middle Grades

- All classes will be taught live, in-person by content-area teachers.
- Students will move throughout the day to attend classes with their content-area teachers and will mix across cohorts. If COVID spikes occur and, for safety reasons, we feel we have to re-cohort students into stable cohorts like this year for a period of time, we will have students maintain their Connections team as their core group. The more students are vaccinated, the less likely this scenario will be necessary.
- We are shifting to more delineated 6, 7, and 8 grade-level teams of faculty at HMS.
- Office Hours will be incorporated into the weekly schedule for students to receive individualized coaching and support.

Specials

- Classes will be taught in-person, in specials rooms.
- 6-8 will continue the quarterly specials rotation from prior years.
- K-5 specials will adopt a ~10-day rotation, with students always having at least 1 wellness class a week.

Elementary World Language

- We will return to the instructional minutes for our grades 3-5 world language program (3rd grade = 20 min, 4th grade = 25 min, 5th grade = 30 min; all 3x per week).
- Elementary world language will occur during the school day. At each school, a world language teacher will lead the grade level in shared group learning three days a week with live instruction via video, with each class getting additional classroom-based face-to-face time with their world language teacher on a regular schedule.

Schedules

- We have been working on draft schedules with a team of administrators and faculty, and will share these drafts with faculty on Monday 6/7.
- Faculty should go to their principals with questions throughout the process.