



## FAQ's: Murch In-Person Learning

### What is the start date?

Monday, February 1, 2021 (the start of Term 3)

### What will my student's schedule look like?

Pre-K students will come for half-days two days per week (either a Monday/Tuesday cohort or a Thursday/Friday cohort). K-5 students will come for full days two days per week (either a Monday/Tuesday cohort or a Thursday/Friday cohort). Master schedules for each grade level are available by clicking [HERE](#).

### Which days will my student attend?

Cohorts are posted on our website or you can also contact your child's teacher to confirm (there will be roughly 175 students coming on Monday/Tuesday and roughly 195 students attending on Thursday/Friday). Click [HERE](#) for the cohorts. We appreciate your patience as we looked at the roughly 75 families who are sending siblings back to work to get them on the same days. We are proud that we were able to accommodate about 90% of our families in this regard, but there are a handful of families who will have students going on different days. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience, but it proved impossible to accommodate all families.

### What are the school hours?

School hours per grade/day are below:

Grade-Level	Entry Times	Entry/Exit Door	Instructional Hours (M/Tu/Th/Fri)
Pre-K	Enter by 8:40 if having breakfast; 8:50 if not	Center Recess Door	9:00-12:25
Kindergarten	Enter by 8:25 if having breakfast; 8:50 if not	Center Recess Door	9:00-3:00
1 <sup>st</sup>	Enter by 8:25 if having breakfast; 8:50 if not	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Door	9:00-3:05
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Enter by 8:25 if having breakfast; 8:50 if not	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Door	9:00-3:05
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Enter by 8:10 if having breakfast; 8:25 if not	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Door	8:35-3:15

4 <sup>th</sup>	Enter by 8:10 if having breakfast; 8:25 if not	Center Recess Door	8:35-3:15
5 <sup>th</sup>	Enter by 8:10 if having breakfast; 8:25 if not	Center Recess Door	8:35-3:15
CARE	Same as grade level above	Center Recess Door	Same as grade level above
Self-Contained	Teacher-specific	Main Door (Davenport St)	Teacher-specific

Please click [HERE](#) for the grade-level entry/exit doors.

**What will my child’s schedule look like if they are in a CARE classroom?**

The schedule will be the same as the grade-level in-person classrooms. The only difference is that students will receive all content virtually and students come 4 days per week (Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri).

**Will kids in CARE classrooms get to see their teachers if they are in person those days?**

Unfortunately, no. For contact tracing purposes, we are not allowed to mix cohorts and groups of students.

**Who will be my child’s teacher?**

Most students will stay with their current homeroom teacher. Any teacher switches have been communicated directly with parents via phone or email.

Ms. Bell, a dedicated substitute teacher at Murch (and retired DCPS teacher), will continue to be the monitor for the 2-5 CARE classroom, and we are finalizing the supervisor placement for the K-1 CARE classroom.

**What should my student bring to school?**

On the first day, please bring math workbooks and basic school supplies, including a pencil/notebook. Additional supplies, if needed, will be communicated by your child’s teacher once instruction begins. The math workbooks will need to be carried back and forth to account for in-person days and at-home learning days.

**How will teaching virtually and in-person at the same time take place? What kind of technology will be needed?**

Students will be using technology while in person for interactive lessons, blended learning, and seatwork (writing). In grades 2-5, teachers will broadcast the virtual students via smartboard and the students at home will have a full view of the classroom. While teachers are instructing their entire class, as teachers grow more comfortable with this model, they will interact with students who are in-person and virtual simultaneously. This is new for all of us. For the first two weeks, several of us will observe this model’s effectiveness and make necessary changes after we come back after President’s Day weekend.

### **What about technology?**

If your child was issued a DCPS-device at the beginning of the school year, please plan to have your student bring it, along with the charger, back and forth to Murch each day. This will allow your student to have access to it for any homework and on days when they are learning virtually from home. If you have a home device that your student uses, they are encouraged to bring that device + charger and can use it on the Murch network.

Students in grades Pre-K to Kdg will not need individually assigned devices while at Murch (unless they are in a CARE classroom). If you have a DCPS device and are in grades Pre-K or K, please leave those devices at home for use while doing at-home learning.

Students in grades 1-5 will need a device for in-person instruction (to be used for blended learning and/or some virtual instruction). Teachers/staff will take inventory of needs the first week and if a student does not already have a DCPS device or home (portable) device with them, a device will be assigned to them.

Charging stations/surge protectors will be set up in classrooms.

### **How do I contact the Welcome Center or other Murch staff?**

Weather allowing, we will have an outdoor Welcome Center table set up during the first week of in-person learning from 8:00 AM until 9:00 AM to assist and answer any questions you may have. We will also collect any permission/consent forms or immunization forms at that time. If the weather does not allow us to be outside, we will be stationed inside, just behind the gym door closest to the basketball courts. At any other time, please continue to email Murch staff (this is the preferred way to reach us as we will be assisting throughout the building) or call the main number at 202-282-0130. Staff email addresses are available on the Murch website by clicking [HERE](#).

### **Are visitors or parents allowed?**

Visitors/parents will not be allowed in the building unless they have a scheduled visit that cannot be done virtually. This is to ensure our students and staff have minimal interactions with outside visitors in the event of a positive case.

### **What about mask wearing and distribution?**

DCPS requires all students and staff to wear masks while in the building. Masks can be removed while eating or drinking. Students and staff may wear their own face covering, but we have enough masks for students and staff to be provided with a daily disposable mask at their entry door, if desired.

### **How will social distancing occur?**

Students and staff will follow social distancing guidelines while in the building. Social distancing decals, as well as signage to reinforce health and safety protocols, are in all hallways to remind

students and staff to remain 6 feet apart. Teachers will practice new routines and rules with students during the first week of school.

### **Where should I bring my student each morning?**

We have two student entry points, as we have 2 medical professionals who are trained to check temperatures and screen students. These are at our center (main) recess door, closest to the gym, and our 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade door, closest to the tall playground slides. Please see the chart on page 1 for your assigned entry and exit door or click [HERE](#).

### **What are the arrival procedures?**

As students enter the building, they will go through a sanitizer station, a mask distribution station (if needed), and a health screening station that will be done by a health professional. Students will be asked a series of questions and will have their temperature checked.

### **Will breakfast be provided?**

Breakfast will be provided at a “Grab & Go” table just inside each entrance. Students may pick up a breakfast to take to their classroom. Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom to minimize mixing of cohorts. Students need to enter by the times listed on page 1 to ensure enough time to eat breakfast. Students do not need to take a school-provided breakfast.

### **Will lunch be provided?**

Lunch will be delivered to each classroom for those students who have opted to have school-provided meals. Students may also pack and bring their own lunch. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom with their cohort. Breakfast and lunches are provided by the district at no cost this term. Students do not need to create an account in advance.

### **Can students eat lunch outside?**

Weather depending, we will encourage our teachers to consider lunch outside to increase ventilation while students have their masks removed to eat lunch.

### **How will the cohorts work?**

Students will remain in cohorts of 10-11 students (10 for Pre-K and K and 11 for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>). If the instructional aide is not teaching in-person, we will increase the class size by one student to meet the limit of the class which is 12. Most of the learning will happen in one classroom. We will reduce the amount of transitions that occur throughout the day.

### **What can you tell us about classroom safety?**

Classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and tissues. Student desks are set up in a socially distant manner, with desks and chairs 6 feet apart. Students will use every other cubby for storing materials or the back of their chairs/desk.

### **What happens if a student gets sick?**

After the school day begins, if a student shows signs/symptoms of COVID-19, they will go to the Health Isolation Room, which is a separate health-equipped space at Murch set up to isolate the student from their cohort. Once there, they will be assessed/monitored until a parent can be contacted and the student will be asked to be picked up or until testing has taken place.

### **What about testing?**

Students/parents can opt into asymptomatic testing, which would happen on-site and would be administered by a team from the Department of Health. This would happen routinely every 10 days at Murch for students. Students/parents can also opt into symptomatic testing. This would happen and be administered by the school nurse if a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms. Parents are not required to opt into testing for their students, but Murch and DCPS strongly encourages all parents to opt into testing. Please click [HERE](#) for permission slips needed for asymptomatic testing and symptomatic testing, as well as the Family-School Agreement. These can be returned to the Welcome Center (outdoor) table the first week of school or to your child's teacher. You can also email those to the Welcome Center via [MurchClassPlacement@gmail.com](mailto:MurchClassPlacement@gmail.com).

Murch has the capacity to administer both Rapid and PCR tests. The school nurse makes the determination regarding testing and test protocol for students.

Staff who are reporting in-person receive weekly test kits in the mail. Murch staff who have been working in the building have utilized this free service and report test turnaround times of 36-48 hours. Again, the testing is not required for staff, but all staff are strongly encouraged to utilize this free, at-home service.

### **How will contact tracing happen if a student has symptoms and has opted out of in-school testing?**

The permission slip is just for in-school testing. If the student presents with COVID-19 symptoms, they will need to go home and provide a negative test result before coming back to school (and/or stay home for the required amount of quarantine time). The student will participate in at-home virtual instruction for the duration of their quarantine.

### **What happens if a student tests positive in a cohort?**

The cohort will need to quarantine, and that cohort will return to at-home virtual instruction. Once we have knowledge of a student or teacher testing positive, an incident report is filled out which alerts district personnel who will support the communication of the message to the community.

### **What about anxiety around the nasal swab for students?**

100% of our CARE students have opted into testing and none of our students report any issues or concerns before or after the test is administered. The Department of Health team that comes to Murch every 10 days is very skilled at administering the test, and we haven't

experienced any issues or anticipate any issues with administering tests to students who have opted into this service.

### **What about vaccinations?**

DCPS staff are grateful to have begun receiving invitations to schedule their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, starting the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is the vaccine that is being utilized for DCPS staff, meaning that the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose will be administered 3 weeks later and as early as the week of February 15<sup>th</sup> and then on a continuing basis.

### **What if a student needs to visit the nurse to get regularly administered medications?**

The school nurse will be on site at Murch and will continue to assist with regular health matters such as medication administration. Once your child begins instruction, please speak to a member of the Welcome Center team regarding medication intake.

### **What about regular vaccinations? What if we are not up to date?**

All students need to be up to date on their regular vaccination schedules before attending in person. If you need to check, please contact the school nurse (Nurse Gebre) at [mgebre@childrensnational.org](mailto:mgebre@childrensnational.org). Seats will be held for up to 5 days; after that point, we have the right to release the seat to a student with up-to-date vaccinations.

### **What if a student is traveling or not feeling well (i.e. normal illnesses) ...can they still login virtually from home?**

Yes, students can still attend class virtually. Please make sure you use the [Murch absence link](#) if your in person student cannot attend in person class.

### **Will there be recess?**

Daily recess will take place and each grade level cohort will have a dedicated time on the playground. Masks will be worn while on the playground.

### **How will resource classes happen?**

Resource classes (art and music) will take place virtually in the student's classroom or at home on virtual days. PE will take place outside. We are still determining where or if we will have in-person PE on inclement weather days. If we don't due to CDC regulations, PE on these days will be virtual as well. Please plan to bring a Ziploc bag of your art school-issued art supplies with your child's name on it if you are taking art this Term or your recorder for Music (labeled with student name). These items will stay in students' backpacks and are for individual-use only. The only exception to the resource=virtual rule is PE, which will take place outside, weather allowing.

### **What is the dismissal time?**

Murch will have several dismissal windows on full days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) to limit the number of people on the playground and aid with quick exit:

12:25 PM: Pre-K  
3:00 PM: Kdg  
3:05 PM: 1st & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
3:15 PM: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

### **Where do we pick our student up in the afternoon?**

Each grade level/group will have a designated door for dismissal. This is the same door that your student would enter in the AM except for Pre-K (they will exit out the main door on Davenport Street at dismissal time). Please click [HERE](#) for the grade-level dismissal doors.

### **What if it is raining or snowing in the morning or afternoon?**

In the event of inclement weather, unfortunately, students and parents will need to wait outside until arrival/dismissal time. We will not be able to welcome families into the building as we have in pre-COVID times, so please come prepared with raincoats, umbrellas, etc. Teachers will dismiss your child where they enter/exit (except for Pre-K which will exit out the main door on Davenport Street). Please maintain social distance while waiting and please allow space for classes to exit.

### **What should we do if we arrive late?**

If a student arrives to school after 9:05 AM, they should not report to their entry door, but enter the building (unaccompanied by parents) via the main entrance on Davenport Street. Murch staff will assist with helping students to their classrooms.

### **What do I do if I need to pick my child up early?**

If a student needs to dismiss early, parents should come to the main entrance on Davenport Street and call the Welcome Center at 202-282-0130. While you wait outside, Murch staff will call for your student, and you will sign your student out of the building at the main entrance. Please allow 5-10 minutes for your student to be called and for them to gather their items. Unfortunately, parents, guardians and family will not be permitted to enter the building while waiting for their student.

### **Data Q: How many Murch kids are coming back in person?**

We are at roughly 50% virtual and 50% in-person. On any given day, we will have around 175-200 students in the building.

### **Process Q: How many kids still haven't received an offer for an in-person seat?**

By 1/25, we have reduced this number down to only 3 students who have not yet received an in-person or CARE seat offer. We are aware of who these 3 students are and are discussing internally to try to identify the right solution for them.

We look forward to welcoming your students back for Term 3!