



FAQ's: Murch In-Person Learning (Term 4 Updates)

What is the start date for Term 4?

Monday, April 19th (the start of Term 4)

What will my student's schedule look like?

Pre-K-5 grade students who have opted into in-person learning will come four days per week (Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday) with Wednesday as a deep cleaning day. Master schedules for each grade level are available by clicking [HERE](#).

What are the school hours?

School hours per grade/day are below:

Grade-Level	Entry Time	Entry/Exit Door	Instructional Hours (M/Tu/Th/Fri)	Dismissal Time
Pre-K	Students begin to enter 8:30	Center Recess Door	9:00-2:45	2:45
Kindergarten	Students begin to enter 8:30	Center Recess Door	9:00-3:00	3:05
1 st	Students begin to enter 8:30	1 st /2 nd Grade Door	9:00-3:00	3:05
2 nd	Students begin to enter 8:30	1 st /2 nd Grade Door	9:00-3:00	3:05
3 rd	Students begin to enter 8:15	1 st /2 nd Grade Door	8:30-2:55	2:55
4 th	Students begin to enter 8:15	Center Recess Door	8:30-2:55	2:55
5 th	Students begin to enter 8:15	Center Recess Door	8:30-2:55	2:55

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.

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, they will interact with students who are in-person and virtual simultaneously.

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. 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?

We will have an outdoor Welcome Center table set up during the first week of Term 4 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. 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/guardians 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 socially distanced. 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 off the main playground, as we currently 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 1st/2nd grade door, closest to the tall playground slides. Please see the chart on page 1 for your assigned entry and exit door.

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 have their temperature checked. Parents/guardians should print a [Daily Screening Tracker](#) and complete the tracker daily. The trackers will be reviewed daily at each entrance by health professionals and can then be returned to your child's backpack as they enter the building.

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, if they wish 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 and/or opening their windows to increase ventilation while students have their masks removed to eat lunch.

How will the cohorts work?

Students will remain in classroom cohorts. 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 chairs 3 feet apart.

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/guardian can be contacted and the student will be asked to be picked up or until testing has taken place.

What about testing?

Students (via parents/guardians) can opt into asymptomatic testing, which happens on-site and is administered by the school nurse. A 10% random sample of in-person students is tested once a week.

Students (via parents/guardians) can also opt into symptomatic testing. This testing is administered by the school nurse if a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms. Murch has the capacity to administer both Rapid and PCR tests. The school nurse makes the determination regarding testing and test protocol for students.

Parents/guardians are not required to opt into testing for their students, but Murch and DCPS strongly encourages all parents/guardians 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.

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 for several months 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. On-site testing of staff is also available once per week and is administered by a team from DC Health.

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

The permission slips you return are for in-school testing. If a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms and we do not have a test consent form on file, the student 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 be able to 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 staff member testing positive, an incident report is filled out which alerts district personnel who will support us in our response and communication to the community.

What about anxiety around the nasal swab for students?

Murch's nurse is skilled at administering the test, and we have not experienced any issues with administering tests to students who have opted into this service.

What about vaccinations?

DCPS staff are grateful to have received invitations to schedule their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which started the week of January 25th. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was utilized for DCPS staff, and the 2nd dose was administered as early as the week of February 15th.

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. 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 (weather allowing) or in the gym, if possible, with sufficient spacing between cohorts to allow for air-recirculation.

What is the dismissal time?

Murch will have several dismissal windows to limit the number of people on the playground and aid with quick exit:

2:45 PM: Pre-K (dismissing to Davenport Street/pre-k playground)

2:55 PM: 3rd-5th (dismissing to main playground)

3:05 PM: Kdg, 1st & 2nd (dismissing to main playground)

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).

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

In the event of inclement weather, unfortunately, parents/guardians 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/guardians) via the main entrance on Davenport Street. Murch staff will assist with making sure students receive their health screening and 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/guardians 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 other family members will not be permitted to enter the building while waiting for their student.

Data Q: How many Murch kids are coming back in person for Term 4?

For Term 4, we will be roughly 75% in-person and 25% virtual. We will have approximately 450 students back in the building daily.

We look forward to welcoming your students back for Term 4!