

August 17, 2020

Dear Plainwell High School Parents and Students:

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to Plainwell High School for the 2020-2021 school year! Obviously, this year will be unlike any other year that we have had in the 150-year history of PHS. Our teachers have been working hard to create a strong curriculum whether we are in school on campus or completing school through remote learning. It will be a new adventure for all of us.

School Starts September 8th:

As you probably know, the school day will look vastly different from last year. For the month of September, course work will be virtual (online) and completed from your home. There will not be traditional on-campus classes. On October 1st (or possibly later), when the School Board initiates a return to school in a hybrid model of instruction, students will attend on-campus two days of school per week and be virtual the other three days a week. The schedule looks like this:

Instructional Schedule Begins October 1st Pending School Board Approval:

Students have been assigned to either Group A or Group B and will follow the Hybrid learning model weekly schedule below:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Group A	Face to Face	Virtual	Virtual	Face to Face	Virtual
Group B	Virtual	Face to Face	Virtual	Virtual	Face to Face
Tech Center	Tech Center students attend 5 days per week, the same schedule as last year. There will be bussing to and from the High School to the Tech Center; however, you need to find your own ride home on days where you are not scheduled (face to face) to be at the High School.				

You are probably wondering, how do I know which group I am in. Your group assignment will be indicated on your class schedule. Your class schedule will be given to you at orientation if they are ready to release; otherwise, you will receive them through your Infinite Campus portal when they are completed.

A Back to School Expectations Summary can be found [HERE](#). Please use this as your guide to understanding the daily class schedule and everyone's responsibility for a successful school year. Students will receive credit for course work and grades on their transcripts. Students will attend courses at the times listed in the summary, regardless of whether you are in a virtual learning environment or a Hybrid on-campus model.

New This Year!

Introduction to an Online Learning course will be assigned to all students during their THSS class (Techniques and Habits of Successful Students) at the beginning of the school year. This is really important because most of our classes will be delivered using the Brigham Young University (BYU) curriculum and the “Agilix Buzz” technology learning platform. These courses have been aligned to the State and Plainwell common core standards and will be taught by our teachers.

In addition, during the first 3.5 weeks of school, students and teachers will be expected to meet synchronously during the scheduled times listed in the Back to School Expectations Summary.

Students who did not finish their course work from last year, 3rd trimester will also be able to complete it during the THSS time within the first several weeks of the school year.

For students who are fully online for the entire 1st trimester, a separate introductory orientation will be held the week before school starts. Watch for communication on Plainwell social media and school messenger regarding important dates.

PHS is committed to keeping your student safe.

An overview of the Return To Learn plan that was approved by the Board of Education is available [HERE](#).

We are implementing additional cleaning measures and safety protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus. Students will be required to wear masks while in the school building as part of the dress code. We are looking forward to an amazing year. The next few pages will hopefully answer questions about our instructional plans that parents have. As always, If you have any concerns and/or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at our main office (269) 685-9554, ext. 1500 or you can reach me via email at jeremy.wright@plainwellschools.org.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Wright
Principal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between Remote Start and Virtual Start?

<u>Plainwell High School Hybrid Model (Remote)</u>	<u>Plainwell High School Virtual School (Virtual)</u>
Synchronous	Asynchronous
Daily Check-ins/Meetings with Teachers	Weekly Check-ins (Daily Available)
Follows Bell Schedule when Remote	Work at your own pace
Teacher Graded	One trimester minimum
Will transition back to school when allowed.	Only have to attend for proctored tests/finals

I want my student back in school, but my student will not be able to attend each period due to childcare or other issues. What can I do?

You will need to work it out with the teacher and the Principal. We will make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

What expectations do you have of my student?

Students enrolled in the Remote Start will be expected to show up to class daily, prepared and ready to go. We are trying to make this option as similar to regular school as possible. If you do not have internet access, please contact the high school main office.

What are the teachers going to be doing during the day to help my child?

Teachers will be available during the designated bell schedule times.

I don't have the internet, can I do packets?

No, we are not doing packets. Please contact the high school main office if you do not have the internet. We are working on options for families.

My student is doing the Plainwell High School Virtual Academy, will he/she be able to get help during the day?

Yes, students will be able to call the school and get immediate help during the school day. We will offer extended hours as well.

What does the bell schedule look like for the remote start students (Hybrid)?

Remote Start Schedule (September 8th - October 1st)

PHS DAILY SCHEDULE		
<u>1st Period</u>	8:00 - 8:45	(45 Minutes)
<u>2nd Period</u>	8:50 - 9:35	(45 Minutes)
<u>3rd Period</u>	9:40 - 10:25	(45 Minutes)
<u>BREAK</u>	10:25 - 11:00	(35 Minutes)
<u>4th Period</u>	11:00 - 11:45	(45 Minutes)
<u>LUNCH</u>	11:45 - 12:30	(45 Minutes)
<u>5th Period</u>	12:30 - 1:15	(45 Minutes)
<p><u>THSS TIME</u> (Teachers Office Hours)</p> <p>Individual Teachers will be available to help with students who received NCR from 3rd Tri last year.</p> <p>Students will also be able to complete the Introduction to Online Learning Classroom Requirement.</p>	1:20 - 2:25	(55 Minutes)
<p>AM TECH CENTER: Departs PHS: 7:40 AM, Depart Tech Center: 10:25 AM PM TECH CENTER: Departs PHS at 11:15 AM, Departs Tech Center: 2:00 PM</p>		

My student wants to change their schedule, how can he/she do that?

Please know that changes allowed are very limited, most electives are full and there is very little movement that can be made. First students MUST complete the schedule request form, then they need to watch their school email - Counselor may email to ask clarifying questions.

Please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/5FzACpJujFafas28>

My student is attending PHS Virtual School, can he/she do band, choir, Tech Center, and PHS AP Classes?

You will need to work with your student's Counselor. Some electives are allowing students to participate. Students in AP classes will take the class synchronously. Tech Center is an option for fully online students as well but they must show up in-person to the Tech Center.

I am not comfortable with my student going back to school on campus but he/she has an IEP. Can he/she attend virtual schooling?

Yes, all students are available to attend PHS Virtual School (See the difference between PHS Virtual School and PHS Hybrid Remote Start). Each of the Special Education teachers has a period online.

What does the bell schedule look like for online school?

There is no bell schedule for fully online students. Students may work at their own pace. Teachers will be available during normal school hours.

What about the Tech Center? Will there be transportation?

Tech Center starts on August 31, 2020. All students are expected to attend the Tech Center every day. Transportation will be provided from PHS only. Students will need to get a ride to and from PHS each day.

I will be out of town for orientation. What should I do?

You may pick up your Chromebook and Schedule anytime after August 24th. Picture retake day is October 28th. Or you may show up for a different time during the August 20th and 21st orientation days. Please contact Sue Gower to make a reservation. Her email address is sue.gower@plainwellschools.org.