

Elk Hills School District
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Reopening Information

When does the 2020-2021 school year begin?

The 2020-21 school year begins Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

When will school fully reopen?

We are eager to reopen and have your child(ren) back in school! For now we will operate in a distance learning format until further notice. We are working closely with Kern County Public Health and the California Department of Public Health in order to make reopening determinations. We will keep you informed as we begin the new school year.

Distance Learning

What is distance learning?

Distance learning means instruction where the student and the teacher are in different locations under the supervision of a certified teacher. Distance learning at Elk Hills School will include, but will not be limited to the following:

- Daily live interactions, instruction and video conferencing between students and teacher in whole group, small groups and/or one-on-one through the use of a chromebook computer. This is also known as synchronous learning.
- Use of online videos, audio, and materials incorporating assignments; use of recorded lessons and teaching videos. This is also known as asynchronous learning.

How will learning occur in a distance learning format?

Distance learning will follow a regular daily school schedule; there will be daily interaction with teachers using our new online learning platform, Canvas. The daily distance learning schedule will provide a structure similar to that of a normal school schedule. Our distance learning schedule will provide structure and accountability while also supporting a transition back to school when that time comes. Virtual classrooms will be organized the same across grade levels, limiting the number of platforms students access in order to complete assignments. The daily schedule can be found at the end of this FAQ document,

Will there be flexibility with the daily schedule for working parents?

Yes. There will definitely be flexibility for working families. We understand distance learning poses many challenges. All students able to follow the distance learning schedule should do so. Children unable to follow the schedule because of childcare will be able to access the class material and videos at a time convenient for the family. Materials will be recorded and accessible on Canvas at any time.

What subjects will be taught using Canvas?

Canvas is an online learning management system. Students will receive instruction in all regularly taught subjects including English Language Arts, math, social studies, science, art, music and social emotional learning.

Will there be Canvas training for both students and parents?

Yes. We will be providing information on Canvas next Thursday and Friday during our distribution days (see computer pick up schedule below). Students and parents will receive a more in-depth Canvas orientation during the first week of school with their teachers starting August 11.

How will attendance be taken each day?

Attendance will be taken each day on Canvas. It will be important for each child to log into Canvas every single day in order for the system to count him/her as present and engaged in school. Procedures for how to log on will be provided during the Canvas orientation during the first week of school.

Will students with an IEP be accommodated?

Accommodations for students with special needs will be made in accordance with each students' Individual Educational Plan (IEP) and/or 504 Plan to the extent practicable. All IEP meetings will be held virtually and our resource teacher and support staff will continue working closely with your child and your child's teacher to remain in close alignment with their accommodations.

Technology

Will my child be issued a school computer?

Yes. We are moving to a one-to-one model this coming school year where each child will be issued a chromebook. For families with more than one child you can rest assured that each child will have his/her own computer.

Where can I pick up a computer?

Students who were issued a computer in the spring will keep their computer into the new school year. If your computer needs special attention or repair please email Cassandra McGowan, Community Coordinator, at camcgowan@elkhills.org.

All students who have not been issued a computer can pick up a computer next week on Thursday, 8/6 and Friday, 8/7. We will be distributing computers by **alpha order** drive-thru style using the schedule below.

Thursday, August 6, 2020

A – M: 8:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Friday, August 7, 2020

N – Z: 8:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Will my child be issued an internet connectivity device?

Similar to the spring semester, any family needing internet connectivity will receive an internet hotspot. Please email Cassandra McGowan if you will need a device at camcgowan@elkhills.org. Internet devices can be picked up with a computer during the day/time scheduled above.

My child does best with hard copy packets. Will my child have the option for a packet instead of working online?

Supplementary packets will be issued in grades K-2. These packets are supplementary only and will align with their Canvas online learning. All children K-8 will be expected to use Canvas as facilitated by their teacher. Primary learning resources, tools, and live teaching videos will occur and be available through Canvas. In addition, Canvas will be the primary method to track daily attendance.

Meals

Will school meals be provided?

Yes. Similar to the spring semester, breakfast and lunch will be provided during the school day. Meals will be grab-n-go and drive-thru style Monday through Friday between 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Campus Visitors

Will parents, volunteers, vendors and other community members be allowed on the school campus?

Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, nonessential visitors to campuses will be limited. All visitors should call the office before visiting and make an appointment. All visitors will be required to wear a mask while on campus and follow district health and safety protocols.

Supporting A Learning Environment At Home

How can parents support their child's learning?

There are several ways that parents can support their child's learning:

- Be sure to pick up student materials and a chromebook during our distribution days and times listed above.
- Determine a structured space at home for your student to work distraction free.
- Engage your children in conversations regarding their distance learning schedule and assignments.
- Monitor time spent engaging in online and offline learning.
- Support your children's emotional balance by providing time for physical activity and play.