

FAQ - Harding Elementary

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Absences

Questions

1. What do I need to do if my child is absent for a non-COVID reason?
Notify your teacher and the front office. Bring
2. What do I need to do if my child is absent for a COVID reason?
See district COVID [guidelines](#)
3. If a student needs to miss due to potential symptoms, will there be a way to keep the kids up on classwork from home on their tablets?
To a certain extent - kids are taught in units and online programs are utilized and supportive of small group instruction models. SeeSaw and Google Classroom will still be helping keep student unit work organized.
4. If my child(ren) has COVID, when can they return?
See district COVID [guidelines](#)

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Air Quality/ Smoke

Important Links

[WCCUSD Air Quality Guidelines](#)

Questions

1. How does the HVAC system work on smoke/poor air quality days?
See WCCUSD air quality [guidelines](#)
2. Would the purchase and installation of CO2 monitors be helpful?
With operable windows and doors and a ventilation system that filters and circulates in the fresh air, we are not installing CO2 monitors at this time.
3. Will kids eat lunch/snacks in the classroom if it is raining?
Yes - eating in the classroom with windows open.
4. Will the ventilation system also work for fires/smoke/poor air quality?
The ventilation system should work for smoke days

5. Will kids do distance learning on fire smoke days?

That is not planned at this time. The district has built-in three extra days if needed. Distance learning takes completely different planning and delivery and is not an easy or instant option.

6. Can you describe ventilation in classrooms?

All classrooms have been upgraded. The building has an upgraded HVAC and the building has great natural ventilation. This was completed by the district last winter. Each classroom has its own forced-air heating and ventilation system. The units are controlled both centrally and locally through a thermostat in the classroom. The units draw in a mixture of room and outside air circulated within the classroom and filtered through a MERV 13 air filter. The units have been programmed to operate continuously while occupied to bring in the fresh air and to continuously filter the room.

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Before/ Aftercare

Important Links

[2021-22 School-Year Youth Programs | El Cerrito, CA - Official Website](#)

Questions

1. What aftercare programs are available?

Aftercare is provided by the city of El Cerrito. Details can be found here:

<http://www.el-cerrito.org/childcare>

2. What before care programs are available?

Before care is not currently available due to staffing/lack of interest. Only aftercare is available.

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COVID

Important Links

[Covid-19 Students and Families Health and Safety Guide](#)

[Attestation for Uninsured Patients](#)

[Weekly Testing Links](#)

[Covid Hold Harmless Form](#)

Questions

1. Is your custodial staff on site all day? Will they be doing frequent cleaning of high-touch areas? (Toilet handles, doorknobs, staircase handrails, sink handles, etc.?)

Yes

2. Can you explain how the cohorts will work?

They have designated areas, specific recess, and individualization of all materials. Outside cohorts stay separate- we may use colored bracelets to track cohorts so they don't intermix on the yard and will hopefully get family volunteers to help with play options and monitoring.

3. Can you help clarify COVID testing?

There is free testing on campus as needed upon request or suspicion of illness. Kids are tested on Mondays. Testing is being set up through the district in partnership with Predicine. To register online, click [here](#).

4. Can you talk about the school/district plan when a student or staff member tests positive for Covid?

Contact tracing, onsite testing, transmission within the cohort will trigger isolation/quarantine and other rapid response procedures as outlined in the [district plan](#).

5. If there is a Covid outbreak in a cohort, will the entire cohort have to quarantine? If so, what does the quarantine protocol look like? Will learning continue virtually?

Please refer to the most recent [district policy](#) on COVID. Initially- if a student comes to school sick, they are immediately isolated and tested. if there is more than one case, then whole cohort quarantines (5 days?) any quarantine/cohort closure has to go through the superintendent, and the safety through-line is quick to respond and report. They trace/investigate. The big picture is to stay open unless the spread grows. No word on learning during a quarantine - different learning formats are not an easy instant switch but I am sure we will figure something out

6. Will parents be notified when your staff members experience outbreaks or positive Covid test results? I know that with HIPPA you can't say who the teacher is, but if a teacher tests positive, their cohorts will need to quarantine as well, right?

Communication is part of the response to suspected illness plan and conducted by the district response team. It worked as planned in Spring and Summer.

7. What communication will be provided to families if there is a positive test: in the school? In a cohort?
8. Will there be a district-provided page that keeps track of Covid cases that will be shared with families?
Please refer to the WCCUSD COVID 19 [dashboard](#)
9. How will social distancing work at lunchtimes with eating?
3ft, eating outside, adult monitoring
10. What is the protocol for when families travel during the school year?
If you travel outside the Bay Area, it is strongly recommended that you self-quarantine for 10 days after your return if your activities while traveling put you at higher risk of getting COVID-19. Please refer to the most recent [district policy](#) on travel.
11. How long is the isolation/quarantine period, and is it required for close contacts?
Please refer to the most recent [district policy](#) on COVID
12. Can parents chip in to help purchase easy-ups or other kinds of tent/shade for eating outside on light rain days? I see lots of other schoolyards in the east bay with such open tents on their yards. Good for shade during hot days too!
PTA has some shade structures, we can see what shape they are in and use them for the yard this year. We will request shade structure installation but they are expensive and all district offices and sites are understaffed.
13. How will speech therapy work?
Per district rules, kids can be in up to 3 cohorts. They will be moved to a larger room with HVAC and windows.
14. For kids in pull-out groups (speech, OT), are each of their small groups considered a cohort?
Individual supplies for each student and doubled supplies for each student-cohorts need to be kept together- like in 4-6 but service providers are going to loop in and determine best practice for supply management and cleaning protocols.

15. My child wears glasses and masks are hard to put on him even for us. He also has fine motor skills challenges and still needs help getting a mask on. We are working on it with him, but it is a struggle. What will his options be?

One of the district options for folk who have physical difficulty, based on a medical exemption with masks, is a face shield. This may be the option that works for your child due to their need. It's worth investigating whether they qualify for this exemption and whether it meets the needs of your child and their safety. Refer to page 22 of the [return to school doc](#).

16. Have we considered outdoor instruction - they did it in NYC in the winter during the Spanish Flu, and that's what they're doing at many private schools in the area
- Planning outdoor instruction is not feasible due to limited outdoor space, number of students, and scheduled use for recess and PE with the requirement to keep cohorts (classes) separate from each other when they are outside

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Classroom

Important Links

Questions

1. Will the 4th/5th/6th graders switch between teachers during the day or stay with one teacher? If switching teachers, do the teachers change classrooms or do the kids change classrooms?

The kids move rooms, there is a quick cleaning routine/room break. It's going to be a duplication of all supplies in the rooms. rather than 60 pouches- it's 120 pouches. Budget bloat but minimizes frustration to students/teachers.

2. What are the class sizes?

TK-3rd: 22 kids per class, 4th-6th: 30 kids per class.

3. How many classes per grade?

TK: 1, K: 3, 4 1st: 4, 2nd: 3, 3rd: 3, 4th-6th: 2

4. Will band be offered this year?

YEP! And there is a new teacher coming in. doesn't start till after labor day.

5. Where can we find the return to school videos?

<https://sites.google.com/wccusd.net/hardingelementaryschoolwebsite/our-school>

6. Can we donate supplies for our classes?

That is a great thing to ask your teacher and they will put out wishlists! Your room parent will help coordinate and if you are interested in coordinating/ room parenting, please email vp@hardingpta.org

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Communication

Important Links

[Peachjar](#)

Questions

1. What forms of communication are available for parents/ guardians/ caregivers?

There are several forms of communication available:

1. eNews: [Sign up for eNews](#) When you go to the Harding PTA website, a popup will show up within about 15 seconds asking you to sign up for enews no matter where you are in the website.
2. Signup for your classroom contact list via [this form](#) and share\
3. Slack - Harding PTA and Grade level channels. Email Ted Lam for invite president@hardingpta.org
4. Sign up for Peachjar for district-wide emailed flyers. Or see them [here](#)
5. Sign up for [Remind](#) with your student(s)' teacher(s)

2. Will Remind be mandatory for Teachers?

It has been mandatory, and we will continue to use it

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Forms

Important Links

[Return to School forms: Lunch, and PowerSchool](#)

Questions

1. Question

Answer

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Drop off / Pickup

Important Links

Questions

1. Where is drop off and pickup?

Kindergarten: ??

Grades 1-3: Ashbury (rainbow) gate

Grades 4-6 Fairmont gate.

2. When do gates open?

8:20 AM

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Lunch/ Snack

Important Links

[Menus](#)

Questions

1. Does my child have to have school lunches? Can we still send lunch?

No. You can send lunch. Just make sure they can open it- all of it! *The only assistance that can be offered by the school is the use of scissors on packets without touching.*

2. How will the school maintain the cohorts during recess and lunch?

This is a great place for badged volunteers to be able to come in and help keep cohorts busy/together/supported. If you can volunteer in your child's class even just for their recess/lunch, and you have a volunteer badge- we need you!

3. How will the kids be socially distanced during lunch and snack time?

3ft, sitting by cohort/class, and eating outside

4. Do we need to do anything for our kids to get school lunch, or do they just show up and it's provided?

Breakfast and lunch are provided for all kids

5. Typically the nut allergy rules vary from class to class... when will we know for our specific classes if we can pack nuts with snacks/lunches?

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Volunteering

Important Links

[Volunteers / Volunteer Services Home](#)

Questions

1. How do I sign up to be a volunteer?

Sign up for a volunteer badge and get fingerprinted- lasts all years your child(ren) are in school: [Volunteers / Volunteer Services Home](#)

2. Will proof of vaccination be required for volunteers?

It is not currently required- that is probably changing based on current trends. The good news is that according to the Contra Costa Health Services website, El Cerrito adults are 90% vaccinated.

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Other Topics

Other Important Links

[Harding Elementary School](#)

[Harding PTA](#)

[WCCUSD](#)

[WCCUSD return to school checklist](#)

[WCCUSD Board Meeting Agendas](#)

Questions

1. What is the Cchool Site Council?

A committee that is run by the principal, teachers, and parents to provide oversight on the school plan, parent education, community building, and funding of programs.

2. What is the deadline for the usual vaccinations? Our pediatrician has pushed us out to October at this point

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