

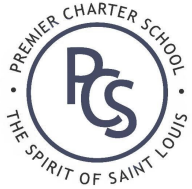
October 2, 2020

Dear PCS Families,

It is hard to believe that we have already been in school for almost 6 weeks. This has definitely been a start to a school year unlike anything any of us have ever experienced. While we can't wait to get all of our students back in the building every day, it has been another great start to another wonderful year of fun and learning at PCS.

As you know, this year students are attending school either fully virtually or in person, either daily for PK through 2nd grade students or 2 days per week for 3rd through 8th grade students. Now that we are almost 6 weeks in, several attendance and grading questions have come up that we wanted to answer:

- All students are being graded this year and student grades will be used to monitor student progress and to inform decisions such as promotion.
- For virtual students, completing all required assignments and assessments each semester **will also be used to calculate attendance**. Virtual students **must complete all** required assignments and assessments in a semester for us to consider that student as having attended for that semester.
- We calculate attendance for in-person students based on actual attendance in the school building. This means that in-person students cannot pick and choose if they attend virtually or in person on a given day. We think there might be some confusion around this point. If a student is scheduled to attend on a given day, he or she cannot choose to attend virtually rather than in-person on that day. Doing so would result in that student being marked absent for the day, even if he or she participated in virtual learning. In order to be marked present, in-person students must attend school each day they are scheduled to attend.
- If an in-person student is ill on a scheduled in-person attendance day, that student should stay home in accordance with our attendance guidelines. He or she can absolutely participate in virtual learning that day if well enough to do so. However, that student would be marked absent for attendance purposes just like in previous years.
- Students who must remain home because of quarantine will not be marked absent as long as they complete all requirements during the quarantine period.
- Students cannot temporarily move from in-person to virtual attendance during the semester.
- If a student permanently moves from in-person attendance to virtual attendance for the remainder of a semester, as long as that student completes all required coursework, he or she will be counted as having attended for that semester.
- All virtual students will have the opportunity to change to in-person attendance at the end of the first semester. First semester ends January 8th. In-person students can permanently change to virtual attendance at any point during the semester.



Hybrid attendance models such as the one we are currently using can be confusing to all involved. The information provided above is based on current guidance that we have received from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. If guidance changes, we will make sure to provide those updates immediately.

Ultimately, we know attendance is going to look different this year, particularly as we encourage all students to remain home if they are ill. We absolutely encourage that and are glad that students who stay home because of illness can still engage in virtual learning that day. However, we wanted to make sure we addressed some of the questions that have been coming up regarding how attendance, grading and course completion would be determined this year. If you have any questions about any of these topics, you can contact me at 314-645-9600 x 602 or mschrimpf@premiercharterschool.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Schrimpf
Assistant Head of School