

Topic: "In-Person Q&A"
Host: Chun Ying, MIMS Principal
Moderator: Kelly Opot, PTO President
School: Mandarin Immersion Magnet School (MIMS)
Date: 24 September 2020

Intro

Thank to you all

Apology – Haven't answered all questions directly, but have addressed them in a way to benefit everybody. Please know that faculty has student's best interest in mind.

Q1: Some parents have asked if all schools will be operating the same.

A1: Each school is operating under its own constraints. Not all districts and campuses will be doing everything the same

Video: HISD TV – In-Person Instruction "How will it Look"? (watch on [YouTube](#))

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtL7zzlIB6M&fbclid=IwAR1bWgxRgxsSP_I_tsh8d9sTR-ixjCDJTviWXYD4roedY_m7TFf04nZS4vaU

New Information:

House-keeping:

Each class will have a hand-sanitizer station. HISD will replenish as needed.

HISD is supplying child-size masks. And PPE for faculty per day.

Wipes: HISD will provide wipes, sanitizer, etc.

For PPE/Safety HISD is rolling out:

- Front office will have a Plexi-glass barrier, daily temperature checks
- Wellness station
- Increased cleaning of restrooms and campus

What do we know?

- In-person learning,
 - All children will need to carry device to campus and home, daily for online learning. This will ensure no interruption of instruction in case of campus shut-down.
 - After-school: Working to provide that service and vendor must be approved.
 - Transportation: Currently given to priority populations for HISD: Special Needs, Homeless, economically disadvantaged and then possibly account for others as needed.

What will in-Person Instruction look like?

- Not completely clear and won't be until we know the numbers of virtual vs. in-person/face to face
- Continue to provide Mandarin instruction for each student
- Teachers will not be able to simultaneously do in-person & virtual
- Could be different scenarios, based on numbers but the exact plan and instruction will not be known until they have all of the surveys
- Administration will provide answers as soon as possible
- Principal can do planning but any planning must be approved by HISD

Will there be some form of "Virtual Learning" for in-person students?

- No answer at this time

Limit to In-Person?

- Yes, there is a limit to how many can be on-campus
- Overflow will sent to a different campus
- At this time, over half of students have submitted responses and most students have elected "Virtual" for the next 6 weeks
- Elementary families have a higher rate of "In-Person"

Kinder & 1st Grade

Can parents switch if they don't like "In-Person"?

- Principal Ying requests that parents make a decision and stick with it, and this is the guidance from the district. Campus planning is based on the data through the survey parents are required to complete.
- Guiding principle for reopening: "To provide a safe environment for students & faculty"
- Everything depends on number of students on campus
- Switching will be discouraged by the district

Masks

Can students remove masks recess?

- Children cannot remove masks while in the building
- No answer for removing masks outside, it will depend on the numbers in attendance
- Mr. Ying will advocate for students being able to be mobile and go outside for recess and PE if numbers allow for this. Until we know how many they won't be able to make those determinations

Special Ed & Masks

- Accommodations will be made
- This will include discipline and adhering to the code of conduct

New Class Times?

- Some adjustments will be made but will try to mirror the current schedule
- Middle School: May need to add "Study Period"

- Elementary: Enrichment for in-person may increase from 30 mins to 45 mins to allow teachers to have a planning period
- The plan for drop off will be released after the known attendance for in-person learning

Devices: Will somebody be able to help students to charge their devices?

- Please send devices to school fully charged.
- Charging stations will be available but may not be available for one-on-one students
- Yes, somebody will help student keep their devices charged but there will not be chargers for students. They will have to bring their own
- Mr. Milla & Mrs. Obondo are tracking who still needs electronic devices
- Mr. Milla has Chromebooks on-hand for families requiring assistance – if you need one please reach out to him and request at [mailto: Elmer.Milla@houstonisd.org](mailto:Elmer.Milla@houstonisd.org)

Campus Start

- The plan will be made based on numbers

Is there any plan in placed based on numbers?

- Yes, there will be a plan established and shared once the total numbers are submitted

Why is MIMS not having in-person instruction like other campuses?

- No clear answer at this time. Things change daily

Will students have the same teachers in-person as virtual?

- It is super important for children to have quality instruction
- They will do everything possible to have same teachers stay with the children but now unclear what the difference will be

Can you share come scenarios based on percentages returning?

- Cannot answer this at this time

Lunch in the classroom?

- Elementary: yes, they will eat in the classroom
- Middle School: trying to allow cafeteria eating.
- Large part of cafeteria is being used for classroom seating

Face-coverings: Can students use face shields or must they use masks?

- HISD is supplying masks for each student, each day. It is **preferred** for students to wear the HISD provided masks. They will be available daily
- Face-shields will be NOT allowed

Teachers

- Work-Life-Balance: teachers are encouraged to balance what's safe for them
- Teachers with special circumstances: MIMS is trying to accommodate unique situations for each teacher

Chinese Teachers, will there be new Chinese Teachers?

- There will be Chinese Interventionist hired.
- Enrollment increased; so funding available to hire Chinese Interventionist

Will students be pulled from class for interventions if they are in person/F2F?

- Not sure at this time and there will be an English and Chinese Interventionist to support children

Teachers: Can they elect in-person vs virtual?

- Teachers must report in-person on 12 Oct 2020
- MIMS is trying to accommodate individual circumstances (i.e. health) of each teacher
- Teachers must have a very specific health concern. Exceptions will have to be approved by Ying's superiors
- Teachers can request "Virtual". There is an approval process.

In-Person Survey Portal Issues:

- Contact Mrs. Obando Linzhe.Obando@houstonisd.org
 - o If you cannot get into the portal, email Ms. Obando with your decision
 - o Obando can also check to see if your submission has gone through if you submitted and the form is clear

When will drop-off time be

- Will probably open doors 30 mins before class time
- There will be a drop-off plan after total attendees are clear

How will teachers get the rest & breaks required?

- MIMS will ensure that teachers have enough breaks
- All depends on number of students on campus

IN-Person vs Virtual: Will both student types have the same teacher at the same time?

- No answers at this time

If information is given after decision is made, can parents change decision before class starts?

- Parents are locked into their decision. You cannot change if you submit and then do not like the plan. You are asked to commit through the grading period.

Would you support a "Parent-Involved COVID-19 Taskforce"?

- Ying encourages parents to sent feedback & suggestions
- Ying probably won't be able to have a committee

What is the HISD policy over parents being able to change their 6-week decision?

- MIMS discourages any changes after a child is committed

- If a large number of families change their decision, that will affect the plan that is being made

What is the procedure if a student, teacher, or faculty tests positive for COVID-19?

- MIMS has a plan that has been put into place by Nurse Stubblefield, who is responsible for implementing
- Ying will provide the exact procedure to parents

Will in-person students be able to purchase lunch?

- No sure at this time

When will parents receive information about what in-person will look like?

- HISD will provide data by 01 Oct 2020
- MIMS will have a plan a few day afterwards

Will in-person student have to wear uniforms?

- No strict uniform policy
- Try to wear solid colored shirts and pants
- No profanity or offensive images

Dismissal & Pick-up Plan

- School ends at 4pm
- Pick-up procedure will be very similar to normal practices and parents will have pick up and students come to cars. Timing will depend on attendance.

Does Ying have an existing Q&A to provide parents before having to make a decision?

- Only plan is what has already been provided. Nothing new.

What is Ying doing to prepare for MIMS campus re-opening, taking into consideration that MIMS is K-8, not a neighborhood school, etc?

- Ying must get approval from HISD for any opening and affirms that any planning at other schools is unique to the school and also will have to get HISD approval

Is this Q&A being recorded?

- Yes, Mrs. Obando is recording and will be able to post to HISD YouTube
- Existing Ying Q&A will be a separate downloadable file

What information can Principle Ying provide to help parents make this huge and important decision?

Is there somebody that parents can address to advocate for retaining our current teachers?

- Principal Ying requests that parents address all concerns to him

- He encourages parents to NOT jump the chain of command
- HISD Administration hears the concerns from him and does their best to address them

Was there any changes to HVAC for air circulation?

- There has been discussion and systems are up to standards but not newly replaced at MIMS
- All schools are following the same HISD provided guidelines

What kind of support is being given to teachers

- Training courses are being given to teachers to address technology
- Stress-levels: Teachers are encouraged to reach out to Principal Ying with all concerns

Can parents donate "Air Purifiers" to the classrooms?

- Principal Ying will need to contact HISD for an answer
- PTO and parents are NOT able to provide special equipment to individual schools. Everything will need to be approved at the District Level

What is the major difference between In-Person & Virtual

- Virtual Learning: harder for students to be able to engage

Fourth Grade Students:

- Principal Ying has prepared a communication that will be sent out to 4th Grade parents

What will the discipline practice be for in-person students?

- An adjustment will be made to the "Code of Conduct"
- There will be continued disciplinary action for infractions & repeat-offenders

Closing:

- Ying understands our frustration
- Ying appreciates the teachers for embracing the changes
- Thanks for parents' for their continued faith in the MIMS