

MIMS Opening FAQ

Note: Based on questions taken from the below, what you see below is what Mr. Ying and Admin have provided to PTO and parents so far. PTO has no control over these answers - we're just providing the scribe service!

Topic areas show questions and comments from PTO meeting followed by the best answers we've been given highlighted in yellow.

Questions

- [From Yang form](#)
- From live PTO meeting 9/18
- From Parent Q&A with Ying on 9/24

In-Person Survey Portal Issues:

- Contact Mrs. Obando Linzhe.Obando@houstonisd.org
 - If you cannot get into the portal, email Ms. Obando with your decision
 - Obando can also check to see if your submission has gone through if you submitted and the form is clear
- Deadline delayed to Monday 9/28

Link to parent portal: <https://www.houstonisd.org/parentportal>

Still don't have your code? Aka Ms Obando or check your students' email ([instructions here](#))

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 days afterward

Devices

Questions & Comments

- why do we need a device if the kids are in person?
- They will still be using computers to connect in person from what I understand
- because HISD still wants paperless. They will get learning in person but work is still done online.
- Will the school provide technology for students currently using their own devices?
- ok, so kids have to provide own laptop to bring to school for virtual learning at the school?

- If we have been using a personal device, can we request a district device for your child to bring to/from school
- How about charging our personal devices if we are bringing our own?
- what happened if we send a device and it gets damage? a prek, kinder kid is not careful enough

Answers

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

- 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.
- 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)

Health Screening & What if there's a positive

Questions & Comments

- what about health screening survey for students?
- What is the process if there is a positive COVID case at school? And, what if our grade level teacher is exposed and needs to quarantine?

Answers

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

Other notes

- Teachers and staff have a health screening app
- Students will be temperature screened when they come in
- Students will be isolated for any fever over 100 until parents can pick up
- There will be some form of contact tracing for any issues

Housekeeping, Masks & other PPE

Questions & Comments

- Will kids be required to wear masks outside as well?
- Will Prek and kinder students be required to wear masks?
- are there plexiglass around desks?

- we were told no plexi glass

Answers

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

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

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

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

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 will in person look like

Questions & Comments

- did you just say virtual lessons for students who attend in person as well? you cut out. thank you
- yes, in person will still be virtual lessons, just at the school

- Mr. Ying, can you expand on what virtual learning will look like at school? Will it be the same as the student logging in from home?
- Mr. Ying, if we are keeping our teachers does that mean they have to teach in person and online simultaneously?
- what's the advantage of going FTF? I understand if both parents are considered essentials workers and need to be outside the home but otherwise, is there a difference/ advantage for the kids to being back at school?
- so basically, in person learning is the same as virtual but at the school
- If the in-person schooling is the same as the virtual schooling, how does it look like? The teachers will do the live teaching via computer while the students are in the same room as them? Or, the teachers will teach in a different room while the students are in the classrooms?
- Is each teacher teaching both online and in-person students at the same time or are there certain teachers teaching virtual and certain ones doing in-person only?
- I would like Principal Ying to describe how in person and virtual will be done. It sounds like he said kids doing in person will be doing the same virtual lessons as children who are remaining virtual. The only difference will be that in person kids will have the teacher teaching them directly (but virtual lesson)?
- how much support will the kids have in the face to face classroom? will they have help if they run into technical issues? will there be monitoring of the students?
- will there be small group instruction? with the teacher?
- will the kid in campus also do virtual learning with teacher who is doing virtual class with all other student stay at home?
- How does in-person look like for the younger grades, pre-k, K, 1st, that don't know how to use devices?
- will there be an option for a hybrid where 2 days a week, kids can come in, 3 days virtual?

Answers

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

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 some scenarios based on percentages returning?

- Cannot answer this at this time

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

- No answer at this time

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

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

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

- No answers at this time

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

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

Numbers

Questions & Comments

- If there are more than 466 students who want to return to school, how will they be selected?
- 9 kids in a classroom
- 466 on campus. is this just for students or does this include staff...so number should be lower?
- so 550 ish with staff?

Answers

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"

After School & Before School & Pickup/Dropoff Times

Questions & Comments

- After school?
- will there be early and/or after school care?
- After-school: Working to provide that service and vendor must be approved.

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.

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

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.

Breakfast & Lunch

Questions & Comments

- so, HISD will provide breakfast and lunch? Sorry, just joined!

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

Will in-person students be able to purchase lunch?

- No sure at this time

No food delivery: no DoorDash, UberEats: pack a lunch or get what the cafeteria sends

Ancillary? Recess? Outdoors?

Questions & Comments

- @Ying. will there be Ancillary in person?
- what about recess and pe? can they go out?
- if in person, will there be ancillary rotation?

Bathrooms & Water Fountains

Questions & Comments

- Will bathrooms be open or closed?

Bathrooms Open

No water fountains - send bigger or more water bottles for your kids

When can we change?

Questions & Comments

- if we choose to send back and we don't like it can we change our mind and go back to all virtual?
- I'm asking if we choose in person and then we think it is terrible after a week can we just keep our kids at home to do virtual learning for the remaining 5 weeks of the grading period?
- What if students are sick, can they change from in person to online?

- can student return to home virtual learning any time if the in school virtual learning is not working out?
- what about within the 6wks?

Answers

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

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.

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

Teachers

Questions & Comments

- do teachers have the option to work from home?
- Will HISD or Ms. Lyons provide grief counseling?

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

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.

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

How will teachers get the rest & breaks required?

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

FAQ & Thursday night

Questions & Comments

- Other schools will having the Principal Speak on Thursday next week to get any last minutes questions answered. Can Ying do that? Is that reasonable to ask?
- I think a key FAQ doc would be helpful
- Pls include the Google Sheet questions

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

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