

Questions and Answers from July 7 meeting with VES Principal John Carmichael

*****Follow Up Questions Answered by VES on July 13 Begin on Page 11 Below*****

[PLEASE NOTE: Some information and guidance from FCPS has been updated since the July 7 Q&A/virtual meeting with Principal Carmichael was held. For current information and updates on the FCPS Return to School plan, see <https://www.fcps.edu/returntoschool> or the FAQ for families at <https://www.fcps.edu/returntoschool/return-school-questions-and-answers>.]

Announcements made prior to Q&A session:

FCPS Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand in a July 6 town hall announced that:

1. He was giving parents and teachers until Wednesday, July 15 to submit their decisions on return to school/enrollment options for the 2020-21 school year.
2. He intended to recommend to the school board that the first day of school be moved to Tuesday, September 8, 2020. **[Note: the school board approved the request on July 9.]**
3. Virginia has informed FCPS that it may be possible to reduce social distancing at schools from 6 feet to 3 feet if all students and staff members wear cloth masks.

Questions and Answers

Health and Safety

Q. If we choose in-person but then don't feel safe by the time school starts, what are our options?

Dr. Brabrand mentioned this last night during the town hall meeting that FCPS wants parents to really think about these choices now and make the best decision for each student. There may be a need or emergency that comes up so a student would need to change their enrollment choice, but that's not something that will be taken lightly because we're trying to staff both schools (100% virtual and the hybrid). An emergency would have to take place for that to happen.

Q. If a student is sick (cough, snuffle, etc) and has no fever, can that child go to in-person school or would they have to have a negative COVID test before returning?

All parents will be asked everyday that their child is to be attending in person school to complete a CDC checklist stating that their child does not have any symptoms prior to them going onto the

bus or being dropped off at school. If a student is not wearing a mask when they come to school they'll be given a temperature check. At that time if their temp is 100.4 degrees or higher they'll be asked to go into the clinic and then they'll be placed in isolation. We don't know what that isolation room will be at this time. It potentially may be my office since it is close to an exit door and would be far away from other students. If a student doesn't come with a mask and has no symptoms and their temp is below 100.4 degrees we'll provide a mask for them for the day that would be disposable and they'd go to class from there.

Q. What is the protocol when a child or teacher is infected with COVID?

If it is found that a child or staff member is positive for COVID, Fairfax County Government is hiring an additional 200 health care providers that will do contact tracing. Whether the child was in school all day when they may have been susceptible to COVID will be a determining factor in how the county will proceed. Info on closing down an individual classroom, a school or the entire county would be in collaboration w/ the superintendent, the school board, and the Fairfax County health dept to make that determination. If a staff member or student did contract COVID and contact tracing found that other students or staff could be affected they'd be notified by the health department so they are able to be tested as well.

Q. What if a student tests positive? Will the whole school close down? Just the class? Just the closest classmates?

This is where the contact tracing will take place. It will be done by the health department and the school board. They will make the decision on what the school should do. It will be determined by the health department whether we need to close down the school. If we need to close down the school, then we will shift to 100% virtual learning and the health department will determine when we can return to the building with just the students who chose the hybrid model. On the flip side, if our cases go down in our area the health department can determine if 100% of our students can return back to school. There will also be a lot of sanitizing going on in the building throughout the day. They will be cleaning the high-touch areas like hand knobs, railings and faucets.

Q. Would wearing masks be allowed in school?

Masks will be recommended for all, including students and staff. All staff will be wearing masks all the time regardless. Last night during the town hall Dr. Brabrand shared that the health dept and the Governor of Virginia shared with him the possibility of going down to 3-foot separation and with that all students would be required to wear masks. Everyone would need to wear masks if we do the 3-foot distancing. Obviously if we do 3-foot we can increase the number of students we can bring into the building and classrooms. Students will not be moving around the building as much as in the past. If they're walking through hallways they'll be required to wear a mask as well. *[Please note: As of July 14, 2020, according to the FCPS FAQ for families on the Return*

to School Plan students (where developmentally appropriate) and staff will be required to wear cloth face coverings including on bus transportation to and from school. See <https://www.fcps.edu/returntoschool/return-school-questions-and-answers#masks.>]

Q. Will first graders have to wear masks? What if your child has a difficult time wearing masks?

This was brought up during the town hall with Dr. Brabrand. If it is determined by FCPS that we can make a 3ft distance work (instead of a 6ft distance) between staff and students then all students will be required to wear masks. Dr. Brabrand's recommendation was to put a mask on your child now and have them wear the mask for about 6-7 hours to see if they can handle wearing a mask all day. This can help parents and child(ren) with making a decision as to what they want to do next year. They will not need to wear masks during lunch. Also, lunch will be held in the classrooms. Throughout the day, students will not see students from other classrooms because we want to limit the amount of interactions students have with students and staff in different classrooms and throughout the building. In the event that a student in another classroom gets COVID, we hope that we have limited the amount of interactions and exposure to other students and staff members.

Q. Will teachers be wearing clear masks so students, especially those with hearing or learning impairments be able to see their mouths?

We need to get more guidance from FCPS regarding masks. At this time, we do not know of a good clear, cloth mask. If there are clear, cloth masks that would be approved by the health department then we will do our best to try to obtain them for all of our staff.

Q. In regards to quarantine, how does that work if Covid is presented in the class or school? Will virtual learning kick in for those students?

All staff will be trained virtually so they will be able to flip to the virtual model if needed.

Q. Will better ventilation be explored or opening windows be explored if needed?

We have not heard from facilities about the ventilation system, especially in rooms that do not have windows. Facilities will be monitoring all issues in the building with any of the HVAC systems. FCPS only has two or three groups that work on HVAC. We will be trying to get our kids in outdoor classrooms or outdoor learning as much as possible.

Teachers, Classes, Daily Schedule

Q. If we choose virtual, will our teacher be from VES?

That is a good question. I don't have an answer at this point. We're hoping to have a VES teacher for both 100% virtual and in-person/hybrid options but it is dependent on what choices

the community makes in regards to virtual vs. in-person and dependent on what staff chooses whether looking for distance learning or hybrid. There are differences in choices between parents & staff. Staff can choose one or the other but certain criteria need to be followed to make decisions on distance learning: Teachers with an underlying medical condition (as defined by the CDC as high risk), would have first preference for distance learning. After that if there is a member of the house that has a high risk complication, and then after that would be the teacher's choice. At this point we've heard from just under 40% of parents at VES and we've heard from approximately 50% of staff. Staff are on summer break right now and will come back on contract in mid August. If they haven't made a choice by July 15, then default is that teachers (as well as students) would be put into the hybrid model. We'll do everything we can to ensure students are served by our staff. If that isn't the case, it will be staff from local schools that we'll be working with to make sure we have students covered regardless of choice.

Q. If we choose in-person, is it possible our child will be sent somewhere else/to another school?

Yes, that's a possibility. We're trying to limit that if we can so students are staying at our base school (VES). However it will be a capacity issue as well. Shelly and I have gone around the building and tried to identify how many students we can get in a classroom. It ranges anywhere from 6 to 7 students in a classroom to approximately 12 students in a classroom -- that's maintaining a 6-foot distance for all students and staff. Those numbers are based on students only.

Q. If we choose in-person, will my first grader have recess? If yes, what will that look like?

We've been assured we'll be able to have recess but we have not heard how to conduct it or what it will potentially look like. In addition to the inside of the building we'll encourage staff to use outdoor space as well. We're fortunate at VES to have access to the fields by school & Waters field. We won't be able to use them in inclement weather or during winter, but we want to maintain a safe environment for students and staff and will encourage staff to use outdoor space when possible.

Q. Will classes from last year be kept together in any way, shape or form?

We're going to do our best to keep classes as they were last year just for continuity purposes. Based on guidelines now (6-foot distance) and according to measurements Shelly and I took, only having 12 students maximum in a classroom certainly wouldn't allow all students to be in the same classroom as they were last year. Obviously the 100% virtual students won't be coming into the building. Those classes that were formed last year when we had between 22 to 30 students in a classroom will look a little bit different than they did last year.

Q. What will the world look like? My kindergartener had a lot of video assignments that she needed my full help with. Will her future work all be video assignments?

If you're choosing the hybrid model there will be two days where your child will come into the building, so staff will be working with students during that time. If they are doing 100% distance/virtual there will be a teacher who will be doing live instruction approximately three hours a day Tuesday through Friday. It could be whole class, small groups or individual instruction during those three hours. With the hybrid option, it will also be whole class, small group, and individual instruction as needed.

Q. What would the student/teacher ratio be for the 100% online option (in particular for 2nd grade and K)?

FCPS will be using the state's standards of quality: for Kindergarten through 3rd grade, classes could go up to 30 students with one teacher. For grades 4-6, classes could go up to 35 students for one teacher. If we only have 4 students who choose 100% online for a particular grade level, we may not be able to have a VES teacher. It will be based on choices, and could involve combining students from other schools in that grade level.

Q. For the students attending the hybrid option 2 days/week, how will the cohorts be divided?

I was going through that today. As of now we're looking at 450 students for the upcoming year and Shelly has been working hard on getting registrations in. We've had a number of registrations in the last week and a half. We're having to use the alphabet so it helps with daycare issues parents may have or if we have a family that has for example a child at VES, one at Thoreau and another at Madison -- they'd all go on the same day. So we're looking at A-M or A-L. [VES in an email sent July 11 said the breakdown will be A-K on Tues/Thurs and L-Z on Wed/Fri. Mondays will be a teacher workday.] We'll work in collaboration with the pyramid but we also have families who have students who go to Kilmer and Marshall. We'll collaborate with them as best we can.

Q. Will we have a VES teacher for first grade if we go virtual?

Once again, it depends on data coming in from the community and on the choices they make and that staff makes as well. We'll try to do everything we can to make sure VES teachers are available for both in-person and 100% virtual options.

Q. How many hours of synchronous instruction will we have virtually for first grade? What will the work for grading look like?

Grading will be exactly the same as if it were in person. There will be some quizzes, and there may be times when teachers will do individual assessments or in a small group. Synchronous time for distance learning will be approximately 3 hours of live instruction. During that time

assessments that need to be done could be homework assessments, small group assessments or one on one. All assessments for Kindergarteners are individual and one on one with a teacher.

Q. I read in the Washington Post that some FCPS teachers were very unhappy with the FCPS's reopening plan because they did not want to return to physical school before a COVID19 vaccine had been developed, among other issues. What have you heard from VES teachers/staff about their feelings about the re-opening plan?

At this point many of our teachers want to be back in the building as much as possible. To answer a question further down on how Ms. Ochs is doing: I'm happy to report she's out of the hospital and rehab, and she is back home and recovering. Because of the complications, she'd be looking at the 100% distance learning option. We have only one other staff member who was concerned for their safety in returning to school but doesn't have any underlying conditions, so that preference would go to the bottom of the pile on whether that individual could do distance learning or in person. Bottom line is our VES teachers want to be with the children as much as possible. Overall in the county the teachers who have responded so far are about 50-50 on distance vs in-class/face to face. We're a bit of an anomaly compared to the rest of the county.

Q. How many hours of screen time will the virtual be for first grade?

If students chose the virtual model the students will have about 3 hours with a classroom teacher. In addition, there will be a 30-minute special, Tuesday-Friday. Students who are in special education or ESOL will have an additional hour of virtual learning time, based on their needs so that they can get appropriate support and services. So students could have up to 3.5-4.5 hours a day of virtual learning time based on the individual needs of each student.

Q. Will my child be left out if they attend virtual school?

County-wide schools will not be allowed to have field trips, assemblies or any other events in the school this year. If there are events that we are allowed to organize through the school or PTA then all of our VES families will be welcome to participate.

Q. Does Vienna Elementary plan to increase live interactive time throughout the day during distance learning?

All schools throughout the county will be focusing on the same amount of virtual learning time, which will be about 3 hours a day with additional time for specials. In addition, special education or ESOL students will receive an additional amount of virtual learning time based on their needs.

Q. Are you considering a virtual "open house" for students who are new to VES?

We are looking at doing a virtual "open house" for all students, regardless if they are new or just coming to the school as a Kindergartener in September. Once the classrooms are set up we will have the teachers record a tour of their classrooms so the students can see inside their individual

classroom. Teachers will also be asked to record and send messages to their students. Likewise, the school will be in contact with students who chose the virtual model regarding a virtual “open house”.

Q. Will teachers come drive by houses to “meet” new students (from 6 feet away)?

That has been brought up and the answer at this point, in Region 1 is that it will not be allowed. It would be too hard to have children maintain a 6ft distance from their teachers. Plus, once teachers are on contract and back at school working they will be busy getting ready for the school year with training on virtual and hybrid models.

Q. How will kids with IEPs be handled in the two options? I know this is individualized, but in general, will kids doing in person vs. virtual receive the same number of hours of intervention?

Individualized, if students chose virtual then they will have an hour a day of small group learning, Tuesday-Friday to help them with their school work. The curriculum will be different this year, but both models will follow the same curriculum. Social and emotional courses will also be provided so all students will have the access to services that they might need during the school year.

Q. Will there still be recess?

Yes, there will be recess.

Q. Will laptops and mifis be provided for kids doing the hybrid plan?

At this point we are looking at the students who are doing 100% learning. We want to make sure they get all the resources they need to do virtual learning. From there we will look at the students in the hybrid model who also need technology to complete their assignments at home. We have purchased an additional 40 laptops for our building. We do not have any mifis at this time, but the county has been looking to procure an additional 70,000 mifis for the county. If there is a need, VES would look into requesting mifis for our school community.

Q. For families who have chosen virtual learning for the year, have the teacher planning days been established? Will they change?

The teacher planning days will not change. Monday will be a planning day for both models. FCPS chose Mondays due to the number of holidays on Mondays.

Q. What will a day in school via the hybrid plan look like for a second grader? For a kindergartner?

Students in the hybrid model will have all their subjects, recess, and specials. The only difference is that they will be eating in their classrooms instead of going into the cafeteria.

Q. What will a day look like in the online version for a kindergartner? For a 2nd grader?

Students will have 3 hours of live instruction, which could include whole group, small group, or individual. They will also have a special each day. In addition, they will have asynchronous assignments, where students will need work on their assignments individually.

Q. Will parent volunteers be allowed in the school building to teach great art lessons, help VES teachers with admin tasks, etc. as they have in the past?

Unfortunately, no. The county is not allowing parents to go into the schools at this time. It's to minimize exposure of students and staff. Parents will only be allowed to come into the building to register, drop off and pick up their child(ren).

Q. Who is putting together the full-time virtual curriculum?

Instructional Services is working on the first quarter guidelines and planning. From there, the teachers will do their own instructional planning based on the Instructional Services' guidelines.

Q. Please provide details on the virtual curriculum. What platform(s) will be used? Will it be school wide or will each grade or teacher pick their own? And what other tools will be available to students? Any further details on how this is going to be structured would be helpful.

We will be continuing with Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, the new platform that we were using at the end of the school year. We might also use Google Classroom. In addition, we will use Imagine Learning and STMATH, both of which are web based. From there it is up to the teachers on how they will use these resources.

Q. How many VES teachers so far have committed to in-person teaching? What happens if there are some grades where no VES teachers say they will do in-person?

About half of our teachers have responded and most teachers want to be in person. We don't have specific information by grade level at this point. We are still waiting to hear back from all the teachers. If teachers do not respond, the default is that they will be returning to school as an in-person teacher.

Q. Please walk through what the day will look like specifically for the two days kids are in school during the hybrid model. How many hours of actual learning will occur? Will there be specials?

There will be a special every day. Students will be instructed in math and language arts, science and health, just as they will be virtually. A typical school day will be about 6 hours and 45 minutes, minus an hour for both lunch and recess, giving the students over the course of two days approximately 12 hours of instruction in the hybrid model. The Virtual model is about 3

hours a day of instruction plus specials, which will be about 30 minutes. Giving the students over the course of 4 days per week about 12 hours of instructional learning. Both models have about the same time of instructional learning.

Q. I saw that only AAP level IV will be available in both options. What happens to the kids at level III and II, do they just get nothing?

They wanted to ensure that all level IV AAP students will continue to get their AAP services as well as level III students. Level III will be students who have strengths in one subject (Language Arts or Math) it will be decided later on how they will get their services. Level II students are at more of a differentiation which takes place in the classroom with the classroom teacher. As you know our AAP teacher Mrs. Martinez is a halftime position, but we have “traded” her so that she can be a full-time teacher at VES. In addition, AAP services will be dependent on the specific teacher’s platform and the learning model that parents have chosen for their child.

Q. For those students who are getting level III AAP support, will those students be considered their own cohort and grouped separately?

At this time, we will not be grouping Level III AAP students together. We will look at who chose the hybrid model and the virtual model. From there Mrs. Martinez will look at what she can support and what other schools are doing to provide support to their AAP students.

Q. What kind of socializing time will the hybrid students get?

The cafeteria will not be used for lunches. Dr. Brabrand said that students will need to be trained not to talk while they are eating because they will not be wearing masks at this time. More guidance for elementary age students needs to be worked out through the central office. Recess will be 30 minutes and only one classroom at a time will be outside.

Q. What about substitutes? How will that be covered?

We have not been given an answer for that question. It’s a concern that VES has asked for guidance on and they are not sure how a substitute would work at the hybrid model.

Q. Can you talk to the off days for the hybrid model? Does that mean teachers will be assigning worksheets and projects?

During off days students will be working on writing assignments and activities, Project Based Learning activities and other programs and resources their classroom teacher has assigned.

Q. Will you and the rest of the administration be onsite during the school year?

Yes, we will be onsite for the year, we will not have a lot of face to face meetings, but we will be in the building. Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Montaquila will be managing both the hybrid and virtual models together.

Q. Will the bell schedule stay the same?

Yes, at this point the bell schedule will stay the same. We will start around 8:40-3:30am. **[More information about the bell schedule will be coming out on Monday, July 13.]**

Questions answered by VES PTA Following Principal's Q&A

Q. Once everyone's schedules are set up and put out, can we come up with some way to circulate information to organize small learning groups or cohorts?

PTA: Yes, the PTA will help in any way we can to pass along a survey, but the PTA cannot organize the groups due to liability issues and other factors. We encourage families to work on putting together a survey and from there we can help administer it throughout our VES community.

Q. Are there any funds available from the PTA to purchase additional learning programs?

PTA: This is something the PTA would like help fund. We will need to do a little more research first and our budget will be a bit tighter this year with fewer school activities and events. We will get back to everyone at the first PTA meeting with a decision on purchasing additional learning programs.

Q. Other school's PTAs are organizing ways to get air purifiers for their classrooms. Do we have any funds to purchase these types of supplies?

Following the July 7 meeting, the PTA asked the VES administration whether VES parents could purchase free-standing air purifier units and accompanying filters for classrooms. The school consulted with FCPS facilities and FCPS replied that the answer was unfortunately no. FCPS facilities sent the following on July 9, which also includes information from the FAQ for parents on the FCPS website:

It is not recommended by Facilities. While air purifiers with HEPA filters can catch particles as small as COVID-19, they do not eliminate the risk of exposure because COVID-19 is transmitted primarily through inter-person contact within 6 feet. Additionally, since air purifiers are not FCPS property they are not standardized equipment and the school system can't maintain/service them, or be responsible for their safe and intended operation.

FCPS follows [CDC](#) and [Virginia Health Department](#) guidance to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus through our building HVAC systems. Schools are designed to ventilate outdoor air throughout the day to reduce the buildup of pollutants and odors. Maintenance staff conduct routine and preventative maintenance on all mechanical, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems – including replacing air filters. Custodians and operating engineers conduct building checks to identify where workers might be at risk while at work and perform corrective action. In areas where an indoor air quality concern is identified we use HEPA fan/filtration systems to enhance air cleaning.

FCPS also works closely with the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) to communicate the latest health information with our staff and community to better prepare for returning to school. During a June 15th school board work session Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director of Health, FCHD was asked by School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders if there were any possible COVID transmission implications through building ventilation systems. Dr. Addo-Ayensu discussed that COVID transmission is droplet based, not airborne, and this factor has led to the general guidance of 6 feet social distancing. Ventilation systems play more of a role in airborne disease transmission. The CDC does recommend improved air circulation and sunlight to help decrease transmission, but these are not CDC requirements as per Dr. Addo-Ayensu.

Q. Will we have some sort of orientation or new family get together before the start of the school year?

We will try, but it is very hard to keep children apart. We will try to organize an orientation virtually, possibly by teacher or grade. More information will come regarding orientation.

Q. Can we use the communication masks with the clear plastic vinyl?

We will need to get more guidance from FCPS regarding face masks and specific types of face masks.

*****Follow Up Questions Answered by VES on July 13 Below*****

Q. Is there a plan in place to easily shift the in-person/hybrid classes/students to distance learning if Fairfax or Virginia shift backward in phases? Just want to make sure that such a shift would not require a pause in education for the in-person students while FCPS sorts out what to do next. What is the procedure that will be in place so in-person/hybrid learners don't miss a beat if schools are closed? A lag time in learning could put them at a disadvantage vs. virtual groups already established and working.

One of the reasons the start date is now September 8 is because teachers will be going through professional development training so they can teach online or hybrid/in person. So if something were to happen & we shift back to complete distance learning they can seamlessly shift to online teaching.

Q. Will we have to turn in video assignments for specials and teachers in the virtual portion of the hybrid option?

We do not have the curriculum yet to know what it looks like, but most likely it will depend on the teacher.

Q. Can we donate cloth masks for VES teachers and staff and if so how many?

Yes, absolutely! Total would be 75 (for all staff members).

Q. Are teachers checking school email over the summer?

Teachers are not required to do so, but some are checking email.

Q. Will students be allowed to wear face shields and/or safety glasses in addition to masks if families request that?

Absolutely, whatever makes people feel safe as long as they are PPE.

Q. Can you confirm the current thinking on student to teacher ratio in both the hybrid and fully virtual options? Especially in the case of fully virtual, have considerations been made as to how well students engage if ratio cap standards remain the same that were set with physical classroom assumptions?

We'll be following Virginia state guidelines for the 100% virtual option, which states that for K-2nd grade the maximum is 30 students per teacher and for 3rd-6th grades the maximum is 35 students per teacher. For the hybrid/in-person model, VES classrooms can fit anywhere from 6-7 students per classroom up to 12 students per classroom depending on the size of the classroom and maintaining a 6-foot distance between students.

Q. If the fully virtual option is selected, will students qualifying for level II AAP likely get mixed with students from other schools for related services? Or will it not even be offered? How may that compare/differ from hybrid?

Level II AAP students are not pulled out of the classroom. They receive differentiated lessons from their classroom teacher, so that would likely remain the same for both the hybrid and fully virtual options.

Q. Any update regarding CogAt test date and approach for 2nd grade in either option selection?

We have not received information on that yet.

Q. How will better ventilation/opening windows be explored in the classrooms?

Most of the classroom windows open and teachers are able/allowed to open them. Facilities will be making sure the HVAC systems are checked and HEPA filters are replaced often.

Q. If the Health Department were to visit the school and some students were not wearing their masks would the school get in trouble for that?

No, the school would not get into trouble.

Q. Could VES please put together an orientation video for all families that provides an overview of what families and kids can expect on their first day and overall for the first quarter in this strange new world?

Yes, that is what we plan to do instead of a traditional open house this year. All hybrid/in-person teachers will film a video introducing themselves, walking around the classroom, and showing students and families how things will look and work. The 100% virtual teachers will likely also film a welcome video to explain how things will work for online learning.

Q. For virtual learning if a student is assigned to a cohort with a non-VES teacher, what is the chain of command for support? Which school principal would be contacted? The student's base or the teacher's base?

For the hybrid option, the building where your child attends school will be the principal you'd contact. For 100% online, it would be the principal from the teacher's base school.

Q. Will parents be given a roadmap on how to assist the student with the asynchronous learning? We lacked communication from the teacher during the spring quarter on what was being taught, what the student had to finish and when, etc. Everything was left for the student to complete without parent involvement which meant parents were in the dark.

As with in-person school situations, if parents are not getting the information they need from teachers we recommend that they reach out to the teacher to request additional communication and information. Follow ups and regular communication between teachers and parents should continue and evolve as the year progresses.

Q. What happens if the 100% virtual option teacher falls ill? How are subs being handled?

There is a lot of discussion about that right now within FCPS but we do not have an answer to that yet.

Q. Will specials for the 100% virtual option be taught by VES teachers?

Right now we don't know. It depends on the enrollment choices made for both students and teachers, so we don't know where the specials teachers will be placed yet.

Q. Can you confirm that kids who elect the 100% virtual option will very likely be with other VES kids from their grade who choose virtual, but most likely will NOT have a VES teacher (as most if not all will likely be needed in person unless somehow the virtual demand is much higher than anticipated)? Nor will their specials teacher be a VES teacher such as Mr. Sid (because they can't teach both in person and virtually)? Nor will it be likely that they will meet with Ms. Martinez because she too won't be able to teach in person and virtually?

We want to assume VES students will be kept together as much as possible for online if we don't have a lot of VES teachers who qualify for online, but it depends on the choices both families and teachers make [on return to school choice]. For now we just don't know. On whether specialists will be able to teach both hybrid and 100% virtual classes, we don't have an official answer. FCPS has not provided a plan on specials yet.

Q. Is it possible to request that a rising VES Kindergartener doing the hybrid option be placed with children from his/her pre-K classes to ease the transition?

Unfortunately no because the student split will be alphabetical and is coming directly from the FCPS central office.

Q. Regarding 100% virtual, are the time blocks likely to be more consolidated than in the spring? It would be great to know if the 2.5-3.5 hours is likely to be in one or two contiguous blocks to simplify things.

We don't know because we have not done the master schedule yet. Once the return to school deadline options have been submitted we will work on that schedule based on which teachers are where.

Q. About the use of the outdoors (which is a great idea) does VES need donations of pop up tent awnings (like the ones the vendors have at the farmer's market) to provide some shade?

Thank you for the idea and offer. In early August when we have a better idea of what our needs will be we'll discuss those with the PTA and come up with a plan.

Q. Is every student in the 4th grade going to receive a laptop?

It is our hope and intention that every VES student who needs a laptop will get one. More information on that to come.