

CMS Family FAQ (frequently asked questions)

*Last updated 8/4/20 before labor contract negotiations have been finalized**

These questions are directly from the chat and Q/A functions from the first and second garden side chat(7/24/20 and 7/31/20) and will be added to in successive gardenside chats and other inquiries.

Questions have been grouped for ease of reading and appear in no particular order.

Please send any questions you have to rachel.friedman@ousd.org.

Office staff support contact information:

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Questions	Answers (to the best of our knowledge and answers may change based on new information)
Logistics	
What will class size be during distance learning?	We estimate that the general education class size will be between 32-40 students. For Special Day Classes, the class size is typically between 5-12 students.
How many hours of instruction will take place daily?	This will be determined by contract labor negotiations. Likely to be about 5 hours, which includes synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
Will teachers use Zoom more than last spring?	Yes. Ultimately how long will be determined by contract labor negotiations, but we plan to build upon what we started in the spring.
What will the first day of school look like? Will kids be "orientated" to this new model?	We are working on this and will share the plan by orientation. The contract labor negotiations are key determinants. Students will receive orientation the first week of school.
How many more "gardenside chats" will be held?	At least two more (Friday, July 31 & Friday, August 7th.) Open to more if there is interest. We want to keep the lines of communication open!

What will grading look like during distance learning?	This will be determined by contract labor negotiations.
Will Zoom meetings be recorded for those who need a review or miss the lesson?	This will be determined by contract labor negotiations.
Will students be able to access library books?	Not sure yet about hard copy books. CMS librarian, Grace Kenny, will be holding office hours once school starts. She has links for students to access online materials and has a wealth of knowledge about books for adolescents. Teachers can also schedule time for their class with Ms. Kenny.
When is registration/orientation?	Friday, August 7th
What happens if we're at work and can't make sure our kids are on the computer?	Please make sure you have created a login to the parent portal, parent.ousd.org . Email the grade level deans or the counselor, for the verification code needed for first time log in! You can see regular updates about how your child is progressing! If you feel like your child needs more support, please contact the grade level dean!
Is there a contact person for IT/Computer issues?	Yes! Please contact the grade level dean and they will direct you!
How is the school registration going to be conducted? We typically come into the gym for that.	Registration has been on going throughout the summer through the AERIES parent portal. If you have yet to complete it, please reach out to office@claremontms.org
Safety/health	
Once we return to school, how will sanitization happen daily?	This is a serious concern and priority. Clean schools were a challenge prior to Covid-19. All districts are struggling to figure this out. Ultimately, it will be determined by contract labor negotiations.
What is the notification process for COVID?	While we hope this is not the case, if your child contracts COVID-19, please communicate with attendance@claremontms.org and your grade level dean. You are also free to communicate to us if other members of your household contracts COVID-19
If your child or someone in your family contracts COVID, will they be responsible for missing work?	Again, we hope that this does not occur, but if it does, please follow the directions above. The grade

	level dean will create a plan on a case by case basis to support your child!
Is OUSD providing COVID tests to all staff?	This has yet to be determined. During distance learning they will not be giving tests to staff.
Student schedules	
How will the mini-mester work?	Students will have three of their classes in the fall, and three more in the spring. This will be determined by the traditional class schedule.
Will the mini-mesters be all year even if kids go back to school on campus?	Yes, once we choose minimesters, they will occur all year.
How long would each class be during the mini-mester? How long will the school day be? Are there breaks built in?	This will be determined by contract labor negotiations. Classes will be between 30-60 minutes. The school day is looking like it will be between 5 and 6 hours. Our plan is to have breaks built around each block of instruction.
When will students find out their schedule?	Most likely the first day of school, but as early as possible.
Can students choose which mini-mester block they do first?	No. While each student will have three classes, it won't necessarily be in a block format, where half of the students have one schedule and half have another schedule. We will not be able to accommodate schedule preferences.
Can we choose our child's schedule?	The schedules are determined by the master schedule that has already been created.
Will every students' schedule be different?	Statistically speaking, no, there are only so many combinations, but each schedule will be individual and two kids are unlikely to share the exact same schedule.
Can you provide the contact person for electives? Do 6th graders choose electives?	Scheduling queries should be sent to Candy.Pareja@ousd.org and the appropriate grade level dean. 6th graders will all get a quarter of Spanish and a quarter of Computer Science. 7th and 8th graders chose their electives in the spring.
Will teachers provide the week's plan and assignments on Mondays, so that students can have an idea of what to expect for the week?	This will be determined by teachers and grade levels.

<p>What time do classes start in the morning?</p>	<p>This is still based on negotiations, but since we know that this age group could benefit from extra sleep, we are looking to push back the start time for live instruction closer to 9 or 930am. We will have recommended schedules which will encourage them to start their day by 830am.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	
<p>Are there any special supplies families should consider before the first day of school?</p>	<p>Students will receive a planner from the school to keep track of deadlines and Zoom meetings. Additionally, we recommend all students have a notebook, pen/pencil, folder, a fidget to stay focused during Zoom instruction. If possible, it would be helpful for students to have headphones with a microphone for Zoom instruction.</p>
<p>Are Chrome books available for students?</p>	<p>Yes! Please reach out to Ms. Anderson (edana.anderson@ousd.org) immediately. Our goal is to make sure students have a Chrome book and internet connectivity before the first day of school. Spread the word!!</p>
<p>Will there be a supply pick up?</p>	<p>Yes! Information will be coming out soon with details. Students will receive student planners, workbooks and a few other needed supplies. Please know that those who are assisting the school will be putting themselves at risk all day and follow all health and safety regulations for your protection and theirs!</p>
<p>Support and IEP Services</p>	
<p>What will happen to IEP services?</p>	<p>This issue will be determined by contract labor negotiations.</p>
<p>How will we support students who get low grades in a particular class and what can we do in the off quarter to support??</p>	<p>The grade level deans, the assistant principal and other leadership team members will be working with students who are not meeting expectations and creating support plans. If you believe your child is in this circumstance and you have not been reached out to, please start by contacting your grade level dean!</p>
<p>What if you believe your child may have a learning disability? What is the process for testing?</p>	<p>Currently, all new referrals are put on pause, as so much of the testing required is 1:1 and in person. However, please contact your grade level dean, so they can either start the process or work with you to create a plan to support in the meantime.</p>

How will we keep knowledge & skills fresh for kids?	Baked within student schedules will be opportunities to continue best practices such as independent reading and math supports.
Are you planning any extra support/tutoring for students who need?	Yes! If your child has particular questions, first encourage them to check in with classmates and then have them ask the teacher. If you feel your child needs extra support on a regular basis, please contact the grade level dean!
Will you have mental health provisions for teens who find this very isolating and difficult?	We have several staff whose focus and speciality is on community building. In addition, we have a counseling staff. If this is something that you think your child may benefit from, please contact edana.anderson@ousd.org .
Building community and connections	
What are the plans to build teacher-to-student and student-to-student relationships?	We are aware of how hard this time is, especially for middle school students. Teachers also miss the connection with students! We are making plans for online lunchtime affinity groups/clubs, ice breakers and community building activities during Advisory, schoolwide challenges and online events, and really digging into this work in the first few weeks of school and then building up from there.
During class, do our children have to show faces for entire zoom sessions during class?	This is the expectation. If this is a concern, please contact the individual teacher or grade level dean to support troubleshooting.
What is the status of clubs, activities, and afterschool programs?	Clubs will continue this year. We will survey students after school begins to see what their interests are then we will see which staff members are interested in supporting those clubs. It is a place for students to exercise leadership as they can advocate for a club and encourage friends to join. They could even ask a particular teacher about their willingness to support their club. Afterschool programming is being called Extended Learning in this time of distance learning. Hoping to have both creative and academic offerings.
Do you anticipate leveraging parent volunteers to support online learning?	Absolutely! A few things are important to note: 1) We are not clear yet on what the volunteer requirements are for distance learning. Traditionally, you would need to get clearance from the district prior to

	volunteering with students. 2) Consistency is critical. We will need adults who can meet with students on a regular basis. We will need to talk with teachers after school starts to determine how best to leverage parent volunteers. Please reach out to grade level dean or Mrs. Anderson if interested!
How will updates be shared?	The Knightline is pushed out weekly. If you do not receive this, please sign up using our website box here . (Scroll down on the right until you see a gray box that says Claremont Knightline and type in your email). There will also be updates through a texting application called talking points and robo calls. Both use information from AERIES(parent.ousd.org). If you are not receiving communication from us, please ensure that your information is correct in AERIES or contact office@claremontms.org
We are a family with two households/shared custody, and we've been told multiple times that we can only have ONE email address in Aeries. This means that one family has to forward all emails to the other families. Why does this policy exist? With so much important communication, this is a burden.	We know! We are working with the district to fix this and are getting stymied ourselves! A few workarounds include ensuring all caregivers are signed up for the CMS Knightline(see directions above) and to check the website regularly. Also, your child is able to access things like google classroom, and Aeries! We will continue to work to make this better!
Long-term considerations	
Any discussion of in-person instruction after the first four weeks of school?	At this point, it is likely that distance learning will be extended beyond the first four weeks based on guidelines from Governor Newsom. There are a lot of unknowns. This issue will be determined by contract labor negotiations.
If things improve and we move towards more in person learning, can I choose to keep my child home for distance learning?	Yes! The district has announced this for all schools.
How will tests be administered?	Last year, state exams were canceled. We anticipate this will also occur this year. In class assessments will be administered by teachers and will likely move more towards authentic assessments.
PE and Electives	

How will elective classes work (music, art)?	We will know more about the specifics once the labor contract negotiations are finalized. However, in the minimester model all classes, except 6th grade electives will be similarly scheduled.
When do 6th graders choose their electives?	Sixth graders will rotate through two electives. They will not have a choice. Seventh or eighth graders who didn't select their elective in the spring should contact our Academic Counselor, Ms. Pareja immediately. (candy.pareja@ousd.org)
Will AAMA (African American Male Achievement) be like other electives?	AAMA will be scheduled like other electives.
Will there be zoom meetings for PE?	TBD
Will Algebra be in place of Advisory for those 8th graders who are in it?	During distance learning algebra will be either before or after the traditional school day. All students will have an advisory even if they are in Algebra.
How will the schedule impact traditional zero period classes like spanish?	We now offer Spanish during the school day!
Sports	
Will there be cross-country or other fall sports?	Oakland Tech already announced that many fall sports have been postponed until, at least, winter. Still waiting to hear about middle schools, but unlikely that there would be a difference between middle and high school.