



# Return to School Options

## 2020-2021

St. Helens school year begins September 8 with parent-teacher conferences for families to meet teachers and explain the instructional model and digital tools.

Our goal is for families to have control and choice about the best “school” option for their child. Families may choose between a Hybrid Model and a distance learning option called the St. Helens Virtual Academy.

School starts on September 16.

## Options for students & families for 2020-2021



### Hybrid Model

The Hybrid Model is designed to be flexible allowing periodic school building closures due to high infection rates while continuing to provide rigorous instruction at home.

St. Helens Hybrid Instructional Model is based on an A/B schedule with smaller cohorts meeting in person with St. Helens Teachers, alternating in home instruction days. In person sessions will resemble traditional instruction with smaller groups of students. At home instruction will consist of live and/or recorded instructional lessons, projects, assignments and digital lessons. Fridays will be reserved for family outreach and student intervention support.

Each school will begin the year with Parent-Teacher Conferences to allow Teachers an opportunity to explain the instructional model and digital tools being used as well as provide an opportunity for families to ask questions.

At this time, the district is anticipating the Hybrid option will start in the Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) mode due to the Oregon Health Authority re-opening infection rate guidelines.



### Virtual Model St. Helens Virtual Academy (SHVA)

St. Helens Virtual Academy (SHVA) is powered by a nationally recognized interactive software supported by highly qualified and motivated St. Helens Teachers to work in an innovative environment. Teachers work to ensure that students achieve mastery of learning objectives while providing guidance, instruction and support to manage the learning process and focus on students' individual needs. St. Helens Teachers monitor student progress through lessons, daily assessments and work actively with students and parents to advance each child's learning. SHVA is a fully digital program supported and managed by St. Helens Teachers that know our students and our community.

THESE PLANS ARE DEPENDENT UPON GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FROM THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND COULD CHANGE. SHORT-TERM DISTANCE LEARNING MAY BE REQUIRED DUE TO AN OUTBREAK.

## Grade level specifics - Hybrid Model

### High School

- Students will be grouped in cohorts with half coming every other day
- Students will enroll in four 85 minute classes per semester with more options for elective courses, including dual enrollment courses
- Mirrors College: Focusing on 4 classes per semester is similar to a college schedule and the pace of work
- Opportunity to earn one more credit toward graduation than years past
- Intervention/Enrichment period will provide access for College/Career supports, Special Ed support, and Credit-Earning Assurance Plans

### Middle School

- Students will be grouped in cohorts of 15-17 students remain in 1 classroom for all core instruction
- Students will have 3 core teachers rotating classrooms
- Students will have +1 enrichment teachers travel to cohorts & transition cohorts to enrichment classrooms
- Students will have the opportunity for +1 enrichment courses = STEAM, Art, PE, Health

### Elementary School

- Students will be in cohorts of 10 – 15 student per teacher to increase personal attention
- Developing options for child care/academic support provided by a district employee for off-site days
- PE will be taught in the gym/outside, physical distancing will be maintained
- Use of digital tools to allow for seamless integration between home and school days and allow for instructional support

## Safe Schools, Safe Learners

All St. Helens schools will adhere to the Oregon Department of Education guidance to limit exposure for staff and students and provide the safest possible learning environments. These requirements include:

- Physical distancing (35 square feet per student)
- Regular handwashing, regular sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces
- Facial coverings for students and employees
- Restricting visitors
- Maintaining cohort groups

In addition to state requirements St. Helens School District will:

- Utilize ionizing sanitation devices (typically used in medical facilities) to sanitize every school, every day
- Maximize use of outdoor facilities

## Meeting Requirements for In-person Instruction

On July 28, the State of Oregon released a series of county-level COVID infection rate requirements that school district must meet in order to open for in-person instruction. We have 40% of our teachers commuting from the metro area which, based on the guidance, requires us to monitor those counties as well. The requirements are as follows:

County Metrics - metrics to be met three weeks in a row:

- Case rate:  $\leq 10$  cases per 100,000 population in the preceding 7 days
- Test positivity:  $\leq 5\%$  in the preceding 7 days

