

Uncommon Schools

School Year 2020-2021 Plans

This overview represents learning models planned as of August 26, 2020. These plans may continue to change as state and local decisions and guidelines are finalized.

Guiding Principles

Our first priority for the 2020-21 school year is designing a plan that **prioritizes the health, safety, and wellbeing of all students and staff.**

Our commitment to provide a rigorous and joyful education for our students remains unchanged, no matter what external circumstances we face together during the COVID-19 pandemic. **For more information on school reopening status and the health and safety measures we are planning, please visit our website: www.uncommonschools.org/school-reopen-2021/.**

Whether we are together remotely or in-person, our goal is to ensure that all students are learning. Our guiding principles in planning for 2020-21 learning models are:

- ▶ Ensure equity for all students – **all students have what they need** to learn successfully.
- ▶ Design a plan with simplicity and flexibility in mind **that can be adjusted for any scenario.**
- ▶ Design a system that is **workable for all families of students and staff members.**
- ▶ Plan and prioritize content, understanding that learning is more difficult online and stamina declines more quickly than in person. **Students will continue to have access to programming to develop the whole-child**, including specials, electives, wellness, and community-building activities.

While learning models may continue to change as state and local decisions and guidance are released, the following pages offer an overview of what we are currently planning for our schools:

- ▶ K-8 Remote Learning Model - [page 3](#)
- ▶ K-8 Hybrid Learning Model - [page 6](#)
- ▶ 9-12 Remote Learning Model - [page 8](#)
- ▶ 9-12 Hybrid Learning Model - [page 9](#)
- ▶ Remote-Only Option for Families - [page 11](#)
- ▶ Health & Safety Overview - [page 12](#)

We will continue to update families as state and local decisions are made, and schools will share final plans and schedules with families before the start of the new school year.

K-8 Remote Learning Model

All Uncommon Schools will begin the year in a remote model with students learning from home.

During this time, elementary scholars will receive remote instruction in Reading, Writing, Math, Science and History. Middle school scholars will receive remote instruction in ELA, Math, History, and Science. Key components of remote learning will include:

- ▶ **Community Building:** Starting the first day of school (Aug. 31), scholars will have 30 minutes to 1 hour of live community-building Zoom sessions with their teachers and peers starting at 8:30am, Monday–Thursday.
- ▶ **Teacher Office Hours:** Teachers will provide daily office hours during the first two weeks of school, Monday–Thursday for additional support. Office hour specifics will be shared by schools and teachers.
- ▶ **Live Teacher Instruction:** Starting the week of September 14th, scholars will receive live teacher instruction via Zoom Monday–Thursday, for a minimum of 2 hours each day, at a consistent time.
- ▶ **Instructional Videos:** Scholars will watch engaging and informative videos throughout the week that introduce new content.
- ▶ **Student Packets and Deliverables:** Scholars will complete their daily work packets and deliverables on paper or via Google Classroom based on grade level. Each day, scholars will have a deliverable per each subject block that they will submit to their teacher.
- ▶ **Independent Reading:** Scholars will engage with high-quality books at their reading level for 20-30 minutes daily through K-4 and 5-8 reading platforms that will be accessible from any device or from hard-copy books of their choosing.
- ▶ **Teacher/Parent Check-Ins:** Teachers will schedule check-ins with scholars and families at least once per week, and answer any questions about the scholar’s work.

In addition to these components, schools will also be coordinating orientation sessions via Zoom for new students. Additional information will be sent from individual schools.

K-8 Remote Learning Launch (Aug. 31–Sep. 11):

During the first 2 weeks of the school year, scholars’ daily schedules will start with live Zoom community-building. Scholars will then independently engage with instructional videos, complete their daily packets, and submit the designated daily deliverables.

K-8 Remote Learning Launch Daily Schedule:

Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-8	Remote with live Community Building	Remote			

Scholars can expect to be engaged in learning for the below number of hours per day, by grade span, for the first 2 weeks of school. Note that the total instructional hours for elementary school grades are increased by approximately 1–1.5 hours a day from the Spring to provide increased instructional time for foundational content.

Grades K-2: 3.5 hours per day

Grades 3-4: 4.5 hours per day

Grades 5-8: 5 hours per day

Please note that the below schedules are sample schedules with the exception of the live Community-Building block. Exact schedules for independent work can be modified to meet the needs of your family.

Elementary K-2 (Monday–Thursday)

Time	Subject
8:30 – 9:15am	Community-Building (live)
9:15 – 9:30am	Break
9:30 – 10:15am	Phonics
10:15 – 10:30am	Break
10:30 – 11:15am	Narrative Reading
11:15 – 12:15pm	Lunch
12:15 – 1:00pm	Math
1:00 – 1:15pm	Break
1:15 – 1:45pm	Independent Reading
1:45 – 2:00pm	Break
2:00 – 2:45pm	Writing

Elementary 3-4 (Monday–Thursday)

Time	Subject
8:30 – 9:15am	Community-Building (live)
9:15 – 9:30am	Break
9:30 – 10:30am	Informational Reading
10:30 – 10:40am	Break
10:40 – 11:40am	Math
11:40 – 12:40pm	Lunch
12:40 – 1:40pm	Narrative Reading
1:40 – 1:50pm	Break
1:50 – 2:20pm	Independent Reading
2:20 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:30pm	Writing

Middle Grades 5-8 (Monday–Thursday)

Time	Subject
8:30 – 9:30am	Community Building (live)
9:30 – 10:15am	ELA - Reading
10:15 – 10:25am	Break
10:25 – 11:10am	ELA - Writing
11:10 – 11:20am	Break
11:20 – 11:50am	Math
11:50 – 12:20pm	Lunch
12:20 – 1:20pm	Math
1:20 – 1:30pm	Break
1:30 – 2:15pm	Science
2:15 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:15pm	History
3:15 – 3:45pm	Independent Reading

Note that Elementary Science and History content will be embedded within the Writing and Reading blocks, and remains an important part of student learning.

K-8 Remote Learning + Live Instruction (Starting Sep. 14):

Starting Monday, September 14th, scholar schedules will incorporate live Zoom teacher instruction in addition to the live Community-Building sessions, to supplement ongoing independent work.

Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-8	Remote with live instruction	Remote			

K-8 Sample Remote Learning Daily Schedules with Live Instruction:

Please note that the below schedules are sample schedules. Exact schedules will be provided by your scholar's school prior to the start of school. In addition, schools may need to continue to make changes as external conditions and guidelines change during COVID-19. Blocks taught live by a teacher on Zoom are marked with "(live)" in the subject and will be grouped together with appropriate breaks.

Middle School live instruction will be grouped as AM or PM cohorts. The below Middle School sample schedule models the AM cohort. Schools will share scholar-specific schedules to indicate which cohort they will be participating in.

Elementary K-4 (Monday-Thursday)

Time	Subject
8:30 - 9:00am	Community-Building (live)
9:00 - 9:45am	Reading (live)
9:45 - 10:15am	Amplify Knowledge (live)
10:15 - 10:30am	Break
10:30 - 11:15am	Reading (live)
11:15 - 12:00pm	Math (live)
12:00 - 12:30pm	Lunch/Break
12:30 - 1:00pm	Specials (live 2x/week; independent 2x/week)
1:00 - 3:30pm	Independent Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-2: 45-60 min. Amplify Knowledge & Skills • K-4: 60 min. Amplify Knowledge • 20 min. Independent Reading • 45 min. Math

Middle Grades 5-8 (Monday- Thursday)

Time	Subjects
8:30 - 9:00am	Community Building (live)
9:00 - 9:30am	Math (live)
9:30 - 10:00am	Reading (live)
10:00 - 10:30am	Writing (live)
10:30 - 11:00am	History (live)
11:00 - 11:30am	Science (live)
11:30 - 12:00pm	Specials (live 2x/week; independent 2x/week)
12:00 - 12:30pm	Lunch/Break
12:30 - 4:00pm	Independent Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 min. Math • 60 min. ELA • 60 min. History • 30 min. Science

Elementary K-2 (Friday) Independent Work

Time	Subject
9:00 - 9:45am	Narrative Reading
9:45 - 10:00am	Break
10:00 - 10:45am	Math
10:45 - 11:00am	Break
11:00 - 12:00pm	Amplify Knowledge
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 1:20pm	Independent Reading
1:20 - 1:30pm	Break
1:30 - 2:00pm	Amplify Skills (Phonics)

Elementary 3-4 (Friday) Independent Work

Time	Subject
9:00 - 9:45am	Informational Reading
9:45 - 10:00am	Break
10:00 - 10:45am	Math
10:45 - 11:00am	Break
11:00 - 11:45am	Narrative Reading
11:45 - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45 - 1:05pm	Independent Reading
1:05 - 3:00pm	Amplify Knowledge

Middle Grades 5-8 (Friday) Independent Work

Time	Subject
9:00 - 10:00am	ELA
10:00 - 10:15am	Break
10:15 - 10:11:45am	Math
11:45 - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45 - 1:45pm	Science
1:45 - 2:00pm	Break
2:00 - 3:00pm	History

Note that Elementary Science and History content will be embedded within the Writing and Reading blocks, and remains an important part of student learning.

K-8 Hybrid Learning Model

While the school year will start with all scholars learning remotely, Uncommon Schools will transition to a hybrid model when it has been deemed safe to resume in-person learning. Note that when we begin a hybrid model, families who are scheduled for hybrid may choose to switch to remote-only learning at any time. Once remote-only learning is selected, families will only be able to switch to hybrid at set points throughout the school year.

Elementary and middle school hybrid-learning scholars will attend school in person **at least 2 days per week**, with the potential for additional in-person learning days for our Kindergarten scholars and scholars with individualized education plans (IEPs). Exact schedules will depend on state and local health and safety regulations and building capacity, and will be shared with families when a decision is made to reopen schools in person.

Each scholar will be provided an Uncommon Chromebook in late Fall so that they can continue learning remotely throughout the school year. In-person and remote instruction will rely on paper and online platforms, including Zoom and Google Classroom, where scholars will access interactive, online curriculum for the majority of their independent instruction.

- ▶ **In-Person Days** will focus on instruction that students will most benefit from having in person, such as text-based discussion. Staff and scholars will follow health and safety protocols, including social distancing and will wear PPE when they are on campus. More information on the health and safety procedures that will be in place during in-person days can be found on [page 12](#) or [our website](#).
- ▶ **On Remote Days** students will watch engaging pre-recorded videos and to complete their daily tasks and deliverables. Once every scholar has an Uncommon Chromebook, they will access their daily work through additional interactive, online platforms and supporting workbooks and resources. Scholar-specific schedules for teacher instruction will be provided by your school.

Sample Weekly and Daily Schedule for Grades K-8:

Please note that these are sample schedules and schools will need to adjust for their specific building capacity, start times and continue to make changes as external conditions and guidelines change during COVID-19. Elementary and middle school hybrid-learning scholars will attend school in person at least 2 days per week, with the potential for additional in-person learning days for our Kindergarten scholars and scholars with individualized education plans (IEPs).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
GROUP A Grades 1-8 (50% of students)	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	Remote	Remote
GROUP B Grades 1-8 (50% of students)	Remote	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	

Weekly Hybrid Schedule Overview:

The below scholar schedules are examples with students receiving in-person instruction on Monday and Wednesday, and working remotely on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Please note that some scholars will receive in-person instruction on Tuesday and Thursday, and work remotely on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Elementary Grades K-2 Hybrid Schedule

Monday, Wednesday (In-Person)		Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (Remote Sample)	
8:30 - 9:00am	Community Building	9:00 - 9:45am	Narrative Reading
9:00 - 9:45am	Narrative Reading	9:45 - 10:00am	Break
9:45 - 10:30am	Special	10:00 - 10:45am	Math
10:30 - 11:00am	Snack	10:45 - 11:00am	Break
11:00 - 11:45am	Reading Mastery	11:00 - 12:00pm	Amplify Knowledge
11:45 - 12:45pm	Amplify Knowledge	12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch
12:45 - 1:30pm	Lunch	1:00 - 1:20pm	Independent Reading
1:30 - 3:00pm	Math	1:20 - 1:30pm	Break
		1:30 - 2:00pm	Amplify Skills (Phonics)

Elementary Grades 3-4 Hybrid Schedule

Monday, Wednesday (In-Person)		Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (Remote Sample)	
8:30 - 9:00am	Community Building	9:00 - 9:45am	Informational Reading
9:00 - 9:45am	Narrative Reading	9:45 - 10:00am	Break
9:45 - 10:30am	Special	10:00 - 10:45am	Math
10:30 - 11:00am	Snack	10:45 - 11:00am	Break
11:00 - 11:45am	Reading Mastery	11:00 - 11:45am	Narrative Reading
11:45 - 12:45pm	Amplify Knowledge	11:45 - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45 - 1:30pm	Lunch	12:45 - 1:05pm	Independent Reading
1:30 - 3:00pm	Math	1:05 - 1:30pm	Break
		1:30 - 3:00pm	Amplify Knowledge Writing

Middle School 5-8 Hybrid Schedule

Monday, Wednesday (In-Person)		Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (Remote Sample)	
8:30 - 9:00am	Community Building/Agency	9:00 - 10:00am	ELA
9:00 - 9:45am	Science	10:00 - 10:15am	Break
9:45 - 10:30am	History	10:15 - 11:45am	Math
10:30 - 12:00pm	Math	10:45 - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:00 - 12:45pm	Lunch	12:45 - 1:45pm	Science
12:45 - 1:30pm	Special	1:45 - 2:00pm	Break
1:30 - 3:00pm	ELA	2:00 - 3:00pm	History

9-12 Remote Learning Model

All Uncommon Schools will begin the year in a remote model with students learning from home. Uncommon high school students will have a set schedule of between 5 and 6 periods per day of remote instruction, with the other 1 to 2 periods reserved for breaks or work time during the school day.

Each class period will be taught live by a teacher via Zoom. Class time will include a combination of live instruction and work time for students to complete assignments. Students will not be expected to have large amounts of additional assignments (homework) beyond what is expected in class, with exceptions for reading English novels and AP Classes which may have additional assignments due to the pace of the classes.

At the end of the school day, teachers will host Office Hours or small group tutoring for students who need additional support. Students will be able to continue engaging in extracurricular activities, including Projects and Clubs like Speech, Debate, and Robotics. All projects will be fully remote and will be led by a combination of teachers and outside experts in their fields. Because they will be online, some projects will be cross-campus, meaning students will have the opportunity to join with other Uncommon students from other cities and states!

Sample Remote Learning Weekly and Daily Schedules for Grades 9-12:

Please note that these are sample schedules, and schools may need to continue to make changes as external conditions and guidelines change during COVID-19. All students will have an individualized schedule. Specific times for each period will be determined by the school.

Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
All Students	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote

Monday–Thursday (55-minute classes)

Period & Time	Subject
1 st Period 8:00–8:55am	Math
2 nd Period 9:00–9:55am	Science
3 rd Period 10:00–10:55am	Spanish
4 th Period 11:00–11:55am	Break
5 th Period 12:00–12:55pm	History
6 th Period 1:00–1:55pm	College Readiness (1-3 times/week)
7 th Period 2:00–2:55pm	English
3:00–3:55pm	Office Hours & Projects

Friday (40-minute classes)

Period & Time	Subject
1 st Period 8:00–8:40am	Math
2 nd Period 8:45–9:25am	Science
3 rd Period 9:30–10:10am	Spanish
4 th Period 10:15–10:55am	Break
5 th Period 11:00–11:40am	College Seminar or Arts Elective
6 th Period 11:45–12:25pm	History
7 th Period 12:30–1:10pm	English
1:15–1:45pm	Community Meeting
2:30–4:00pm	Optional Cross-Regional Project Intensives

9-12 Hybrid Learning Model

While the school year will start with students learning remotely, when states and cities decide that schools can reopen in-person, we expect that Uncommon Schools will open in a hybrid model where students will alternate days learning remotely and in-person. On days where students are in person, they will engage in all of their classes with all of their teachers—including electives—in a small group setting. On days when students are remote, they will follow the same plan as the remote model on page 8.

High school students will attend school in person **at least 1 day per week**. Exact student schedules will depend on state and local health and safety regulations and building capacity, and will be shared with families when a decision is made to reopen schools in person.

Health and safety are a top priority during in-person days. In turn, our goal is to create small cohorts of students who have as many of the same class enrollments as possible. This will enable students to take their classes in the same classroom to minimize the number of people who come in contact with each other during the day. Teachers will rotate classrooms to teach. Staff and students will follow health and safety protocols, including social distancing and wearing PPE when they are on campus. More information on the health and safety procedures that will be in place during in-person days can be found on [page 12](#) or on [our website](#).

Students will be enrolled in all of the classes they would have been enrolled in previously, including electives, whether remote or in-person. Schools will maximize the benefits of in-person days both in classroom teaching and learning and in the opportunities to socialize and connect as a community to support student socioemotional wellness.

Sample Weekly and Daily Schedules for Grades 9-12:

Please note that these are sample schedules, and schools may need to continue to make changes as external conditions and guidelines change during COVID-19.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
GROUP A Grades 9-12 (25% of students)	In-Person	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote
GROUP B Grades 9-12 (25% of students)	Remote	In-Person	Remote	Remote	Remote
GROUP C Grades 9-12 (25% of students)	Remote	Remote	In-Person	Remote	Remote
GROUP D Grades 9-12 (25% of students)	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-Person	Remote
GROUP E Students with IEPs	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	Remote	In-Person

Sample Weekly and Daily Schedules for Grades 9-12:

This is a sample schedule for one student on the days when they are in the building. All students will have an individualized schedule.

Monday–Thursday (55-minute classes)

Period & Time	Subject
1 st Period 8:00–8:55am	History
2 nd Period 9:00–9:55am	English
3 rd Period 10:00–10:55am	College Readiness (1-3 times/week)
4 th Period 11:00–11:55am	Spanish or Electives
5 th Period 12:00–12:55pm	Lunch and Physical Education
6 th Period 1:00–1:55pm	Math
7 th Period 2:00–2:55pm	Science
3:00–3:55pm	Projects

Friday (40-minute classes)

Period & Time	Subject
1 st Period 8:00–8:40am	History
2 nd Period 8:45–9:25am	English
3 rd Period 9:30–10:10am	College Readiness (1-3 times/week)
4 th Period 10:15–10:55am	Spanish or Electives
5 th Period 11:00–11:40am	Lunch and Physical Education
6 th Period 11:45–12:25pm	Math
7 th Period 12:30–1:10pm	Science
1:15–1:45pm	Community Meeting
2:30–4:00pm	Optional Cross-Regional Project Intensives

Remote-Only Learning Option

We are happy to offer both hybrid and remote-only options for parents. We know that even when schools reopen for in-person instruction, some families may need or wish to consider a fully remote option for their child due to health or safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. In those situations, families can request to sign up for a remote-only option. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and to ensure we are providing students with access to learning and instruction even when they are unable to be physically present in the school building.

Once schools open in the hybrid model:

For Elementary and Middle School Students:

The remote-only option will look the same for students as the remote learning model starting the week of September 14th ([page 5](#)). From Monday through Thursday, scholars will have live Zoom instruction each day at a consistent time, and complete independent work when not receiving live instruction. Live Zoom classes will consist of a teacher specifically instructing a group of remote-only students. Schools will share scholar schedules directly with families for these days. On Friday, all scholars will have a fully independent work day.

For High School Students:

The remote-only option will look the same for students as the remote learning model on [page 8](#).

Health and Safety Overview

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority, and we have spent the past several months consulting with health experts, CDC, state and local guidance to create plans for when we are back together in-person.

Physical Distancing

Health experts tell us that mask wearing along with physical distancing are the most important ways we can lower virus transmission. We will rearrange our classrooms to have fewer students in each room, spacing out desks and removing extra furniture. We will also stagger and separate large group moments like arrival, dismissal, meals, and hall transitions.

Masks

While in school, all students and staff will be required to wear masks. Uncommon will provide reusable masks for students and staff, although they can also bring their own masks from home if they prefer.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

All buildings will be sanitized before students return. We have developed new cleaning and disinfecting protocols which will be in use during and at the end of each day. All buildings will be sanitized at night between groups of students, where all desks, chairs, bathrooms and surfaces will be disinfected. And there will be a sanitizing schedule during the school day where high touch surfaces like doorknobs, bathrooms, water fountains, hand railings, elevator buttons, etc. will be sanitized more frequently.

Hand Washing & Sanitizing

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and common spaces. Time for handwashing and sanitizing will also be built in throughout the day, including at minimum when students arrive, before and after breakfast/lunch/snack, and after restroom use.

Individual Materials & Supplies

We will minimize sharing of materials between students and staff while in the building as much as possible.

Symptom Monitoring & Temperature Checks

We will monitor symptoms for all students and staff before they enter any of our buildings, including mandatory touchless temperature checks. Any students or staff showing symptoms of illness should stay home, for their own well-being and the safety of others. If a student or staff member arrives at school with a fever they will need to go home. If a student arrives with a fever without a parent, the student will be separated from other students and a parent or guardian will be called to pick them up.

Sick Student Protocols

Students experiencing symptoms after they arrive at school will immediately alert the nurse or school leaders. They will be separated from others and evaluated, and will be sent home immediately if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19. The nurse or school leader will follow up with families on student symptoms and testing after they go home, and students must have either have a doctor's note clearing them of any symptoms, whether they are diagnosed with COVID-19 or not, or quarantine for 14 days before they can return to school.

Restricting Visitors

We will minimize the number of people who enter the building and come in contact with each other. External visitors will not be allowed in buildings, and students will not leave the building for field trips. Schools will be creative in using every other avenue (videoconference, telephone, email) to communicate with families even when visitor access to the building is restricted.