

Uncommon Schools

K-12 Learning Model Plans

School Year 2020-2021

This overview represents learning models planned as of July 30, 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 5
- ▶ 9-12 Remote Learning Model - page 8
- ▶ 9-12 Hybrid Learning Model - page 9
- ▶ Remote-Only Option for Families - page 11

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. As such, our start of year remote model is built on many of the same foundations of our Spring 2020 remote model to ensure accessibility for all scholars regardless of the WiFi enabled device being used, flexibility for families, and to prioritize the most important content to seamlessly transition from scholars' previous to current grade-levels.

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. Similar to the Spring, there will be five key components of learning for the remote launch of the school year:

- ▶ **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 directly or via Google Classroom based on grade level.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Teacher Office Hours:** Teachers will provide daily office hours Monday–Thursday for additional support. Office hour specifics will be shared by schools and teachers.
- ▶ **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 five components, schools will also be coordinating orientation and get-to-know-you activities and small-group Zoom sessions. Additional information will be sent from individual schools.

Scholars can expect to be engaged in learning for the below number of hours per day by grade span. Note that the total instructional hours for the 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

Specials continue to be an important part of our curriculum and will be incorporated with more specifics communicated from your schools.

Sample Remote Learning Launch Weekly Schedule for Grades K-8:

Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-8	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote

Sample Remote Learning Launch Daily Schedules for Grades K-8:

Please note that these are sample schedules and should be modified to meet the needs of your family. In addition, schools may need to continue to make changes as external conditions and guidelines change during COVID-19.

Elementary Grades K-2

Time	Subject
9:00 – 9:45am	Phonics
9:45 – 10:00am	Break
10:00 – 10:45am	Narrative Reading
10:45 – 11:00am	Break
11:00 – 11:45pm	Math
11:45 – 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45 – 1:15pm	Independent Reading
1:15 – 1:30pm	Break
1:30 – 2:15pm	Writing

Elementary Grades 3-4

Time	Subject
9:00 – 10:00am	Informational Reading
10:00 – 10:10am	Break
10:10 – 11:10am	Math
11:10 – 11:20am	Break
11:20 – 12:20pm	Narrative Reading
12:20 – 1:20pm	Lunch
1:20 – 1:50pm	Independent Reading
1:50 – 2:00pm	Break
2:00 – 3:00pm	Writing

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

Middle Grades 5-8

Time	Subject
9:00 – 9:45am	ELA - Reading
9:45 – 10:00am	Break
10:00 – 10:45am	ELA - Writing
10:45 – 11:00am	Break
11:00 – 12:30pm	Math
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 – 2:15pm	Science
2:15 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:15pm	History
3:15 – 3:30pm	Break
3:30 – 4:00pm	Independent Reading

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.

Elementary and middle school 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 mid to 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 wear PPE when they are on campus. [See our website](#) for more information on the health and safety procedures that will be in place during in-person days.
- ▶ **Remote Days** will continue our strong instruction but will be moved to paper and platform-based learning which will accommodate multiple devices. Once every scholar has an Uncommon Chromebook, they will access their daily work through interactive, online platforms and supporting workbooks and resources. Scholar-specific schedules for teacher instruction will be provided by your school.

In addition to our instructional curriculum, the hybrid learning model will also introduce non-instructional specials and wellness curriculum to support scholars in prioritizing their well-being mentally, physically, and emotionally. This will include components of Performing Arts, Physical Education and wellness lessons along with in-person activities adhering to our health and safety procedures.

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.

	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	
GROUP C Kindergarten and students with IEPs	In-Person				

Remote Learning Schedule for Grades K-8:

Elementary Grades K-4

K-4 remote learning schedules in the hybrid model will be similar to the full remote schedules, with the potential addition of scheduled Zoom instruction for Math and Reading as well as the addition of Specials content classes (videos and/or live instruction).

Middle Grades 5-8

5-8 remote learning schedules in the hybrid model will be similar to the full remote schedules, with the potential addition of scheduled Zoom instruction for all subjects as well as the addition of Specials content classes (videos and/or live instruction).

In-Person Day Learning Schedule for Grades K-8:

Elementary Grades K-2

<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>
7:15 - 7:45am	Arrival, Breakfast (staggered)
7:45 - 8:00am	Morning Meeting
8:00 - 8:30am	Community & Skills Building
8:30 - 10:15am	Reading Blocks
10:15 - 10:30am	Snack
10:30 - 11:30am	Writing
11:30 - 12:30pm	Phonics
12:30 - 1:20pm	Lunch (inclusive of hygiene protocols)
1:20 - 1:50pm	Math
1:50 - 2:35pm	Special
2:35 - 3:35pm	Math
3:35 - 3:55pm	Choice Time
3:55 - 4:15pm	Dismissal (staggered)

Elementary Grades 3-4

<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>
7:15 - 7:45am	Arrival, Breakfast (staggered)
7:45 - 8:00am	Morning Meeting
8:00 - 8:30am	Community & Skills Building
8:30 - 9:40am	Reading
9:40 - 9:50am	Snack
9:50 - 11:10am	Reading
11:10 - 12:40pm	Writing
12:40 - 1:20pm	Lunch (inclusive of hygiene protocols)
1:20 - 1:50pm	Math
1:50 - 2:35pm	Special
2:35 - 3:35pm	Math
3:35 - 3:55pm	Choice Time
3:55 - 4:15pm	Dismissal (staggered)

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

Middle Grades 5-8

<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>
7:15 - 7:40am	Arrival, Breakfast (staggered)
7:40 - 8:25am	Morning Huddle
8:25 - 9:25am	Science
9:25 - 10:25am	Special
10:25 - 11:25am	ELA - Reading
11:25 - 12:05pm	Lunch
12:05 - 1:05pm	ELA - Writing
1:05 - 2:05pm	History
2:05 - 3:35pm	Math
3:35 - 3:45pm	Closeout
3:45 - 4:00pm	Dismissal (staggered)

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. Staff and students will follow health and safety protocols, including social distancing and wear PPE when they are on campus. 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 wear PPE when they are on campus. [See our website](#) for more information on the health and safety procedures that will be in place during in-person days.

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:

We will be finalizing our remote-only learning model shortly and will be reaching out to families to share more information before the start of school.

For High School Students:

The remote-only option will look the same for students as the remote learning model on page 8.