

General FAQ

How big are cohorts? What is their purpose?

Cohorts contain classroom groups that receive instruction together at the same location. A cohort is a classroom. The purpose of containing these cohorts is to limit exposure between individuals. Cohorts vary in size depending on level. Currently, there are an average of 18 enrolled students in Primary, 20 in Lower Elementary and 20 in Upper Elementary, 34 in our Middle School. Preliminary numbers show 15% of this enrollment are electing a remote-learning option for the school year.

What are plans for outside during inclement weather? (Winter, Rain)

Our outdoor space will be used as classroom square footage with weather-protective awnings providing shelter. Heat sources will be provided in the winter. We are asking each child to come to school with rain gear and snow gear, when necessary, assuming that a large portion of the instructional day will occur in the outdoors on our 11 acre property.

Will there be specials every week?

Yes, Specials classes have had no decrease in time or frequency, simply the method of instruction delivery has changed to eliminate exposure to different cohorts of students.

What time is drop-off and pick-up?

Drop-off, or carline, will be staggered by last name.

8:00 is the arrival time for Middle School students and their younger siblings.

Children with last names A-J will arrive at 8:10.

Children with last names K-Z will arrive at 8:20.

Students on buses will naturally have staggered arrival times.

For pick-up, or afternoon carline, the same staggering will occur.

Children with last names A-J will depart at 2:40.

Children with last names K-Z will depart at 2:50.

Students on buses will depart at staggered times as their buses arrive.

Is there a school lunch program this year?

There will be no school lunch program this year. This includes pizza lunch on Fridays.

Can I have food delivered to school for my child?

If there is an emergency situation where a student is at school without lunch, please contact Nicholle Gregor at 518.283.5400 or ngregor@woodlandhill.org. Nicholle will discuss your options for providing your child a lunch for the day.

How will lunch operate with mask wearing? Can my child opt to eat outdoors?

- During their lunch period, children will be required to maintain social-distancing and will be at their own desks, with windows and exterior doors open, and their masks will be permitted to be removed while they eat their lunch and while seated. When the children are done eating, they will be asked to resume wearing their masks while cleaning up and ambulating during their transition.
- Teachers are welcome to use outdoor spaces on campus and outside their classrooms to have lunch in the outdoors. They will be encouraged to do this as frequently as weather permits.

How will mask breaks work?

- Mask breaks will be offered individually to students whenever it is determined that they need one, either by indicating to a teacher, if the child is of developmental ability to communicate this need, or by teacher observation that this would best suit a child at the moment.
- Individual mask breaks will be facilitated in an outdoor location, whenever possible. At the minimum, a mask break can occur once a child is seated at their individual work space as this provides the necessary social distancing to remove their mask. They will be given time to be refreshed and return to mask wearing before ambulating within the environment.
- Group mask breaks will occur in a methodical manner, when a cohort has gone outside or to a large auxiliary indoor space such as the gymnasium. They will be directed to provide ample spacing of 6' or more prior to simultaneously removing their masks for a guided opportunity to have a break and then again, to simultaneously restore their masks prior to ambulating as a group. An example of this within the daily schedule is recess.

What happens when we are running late and/or forget to fill out the daily health screening?

If a family has not completed the health screening before arrival at school, the student will be asked to wait at the health screening station until a parent can be reached to complete the screening.

Will outside providers be permitted on-campus?

Outside providers will be permitted on-campus after they complete a health questionnaire and temperature check upon arrival. Providers will be offered both an outdoor location and a separate office space if they must work inside, but must observe or contribute to group interactions in the exterior classroom location, as deemed essential and with advanced notice.

Can students borrow a chromebook if a transition to remote were to happen?

Absolutely. Please email Nicholle Gregor so she can add you to the list.
 ngregor@woodlandhill.org

How will children with allergy symptoms be handled?

We are asking parents to work with their child's health care provider to create a list of common symptoms of their allergies and share it with our Health Services Coordinator, Katie Singh. She is also available for assistance with this process. ksingh@woodlandhill.org

Will yoga mats be required for all levels?

Yoga mats will be required for the Toddler - Upper Elementary Program (?) We ask that you look for a mat that is distinct to your child.

How will aftercare operate?

There will be a specific aftercare staff member assigned to your child's classroom. They will arrive at 2:30 pm to provide hallway supervision during dismissal before transitioning into the classroom at 3:00 pm. Aftercare will end at 5:30 pm. This allows enough time for staff to disinfect the environment before completing their shift.

COVID Specific**Will there be any diagnostic or antibody testing of students/staff who are not presenting symptoms?**

At this time, we are not planning to require any diagnostic or antibody testing of students or staff.

When will my child be required to take a COVID test?

If a child or staff member has any COVID symptoms, a return to school will require a resolution of symptoms and either a negative COVID test or documentation of an alternative diagnosis from a medical provider. Medical clearance must be provided by a provider who is not an immediate family member.

If I travel for work, how do I keep my child and their cohort safe to continue learning in-person upon my return home? Will my child be asked to opt into remote learning for two weeks?

A student or staff member may continue with in-person instruction if a member of their household has traveled to a restricted area, as long as the traveler is observing quarantine procedures as outlined by the NYS Department of Health. Please refer to the NYSDOH webpage for more details: [Interim Guidance for Travel Related Quarantine](#).

Will I be notified if there is a COVID positive case in the school community? Or just if there is a case in my child's cohort?

Woodland Hill will notify all families in the event of a COVID positive case on campus. A separate letter will be sent to families if there is a COVID positive case in their child's cohort.

When will my child be able to return to school after exposure to a case of COVID?

A child will be able to return to school after exposure to a positive case of COVID after being symptom-free for the duration of a 14-day quarantine.

Primary- Specific

How will nap be handled?

Naps will occur in the classroom this year.

How will half-day students be dismissed?

Half-day Primary students will be escorted to the car line area at the front of the school, near the flagpole, for dismissal.

How will snack look different this year?

There will be no communal snack or preparation this year. All food will be sent from home, snacks and lunches. Please refer to the allergy section of our parent handbook to keep your child's classroom safe. A copy can be [viewed here](#) on page 9.

Remote Questions

How do I sign up for Remote Learning?

If you wish to immediately join remote learning, please keep your child home and email your child's teacher and Erin Mergil, Assistant Head of School, emergil@woodlandhill.org and indicate if you wish to borrow a Chromebook from the school for your child.

A care package will be provided by your child's teacher and our Remote Learning Technology Liaison to support your child.

Is there an option to attend in person some days and be remote other days?

We currently have two options: full-time remote learning or full-time in-person learning, with the flexibility to join remote learning instantly and the need for two-weeks' notice to return to in-person learning.

What does a remote learning day look like?

In reference to a daily schedule, each classroom teacher will develop their own schedule for when remote learners will join a live Zoom that is connected to the classroom for the entirety of the school day, with actual times indicated for each type of meeting. In addition to Specials classes, the teachers will have remote learners join for two to three academic appointments each day; individual, small group and large class gatherings.

There will also be the option for a lunchtime chat with a friend on some days, and a story reading will be available most days, as well. Altogether, this looks like roughly four-six virtual connections a day, depending on a student's lesson plans, project work (meeting with a peer for writer's workshop), Specials' schedule (some days there are two, some days there are none), and other classroom happenings. The details will come as schedules finalize and you will have the time slots by the first week of school. However, as in the other areas of our Montessori Method, we seek to follow the child. Each teacher will learn each remote learner's rhythm for online learning and with consideration for their developmental stages and academic needs, will shift the schedule and meeting type based on observing these factors.

A Remote Learning Compact that you will receive from your classroom teacher will outline what you can expect from your child's remote learning experience and what will be required from you at home in terms of teacher check-in, assessment and communication.

If my child wakes up sick, can they opt into remote learning until they are cleared by a doctor to return to school?

Yes- this is the goal of the responsive aspect of our remote learning plan; it can be joined instantly. If remote learning is necessary due to acute illness, please send an email to Erin Mergil, Assistant Head of School, at emergil@woodlandhill.org and allow for one full school day prior to having a Remote Learning Kit available for your learner, compiled from their teachers. A Chromebook to borrow from the school will be available instantly, if needed.

How do I transition from remote learning to in-person learning?

We welcome students to return to in-person learning as soon as their family feels ready to do so. We ask for parents to notify Erin Mergil, Assistant Head of School, at emergil@woodlandhill.org that they intend to return so that the school and your child's teachers can prepare for their arrival. Once we receive this notice, we ask that students wait two full school weeks before beginning in-person learning.

Will everyone receive a remote learning orientation?

Yes, a remote learning orientation will be provided for all students, in case of a cohort or school move into remote instruction.