

Ascend Public  
Charter Schools  
Return to School  
Family Guide  
Academic year 2020-21



# What you'll find in this guide



- [Introduction](#)
- [Commitments to our community](#)
- [Academic calendar](#)
- [Phases and learning modes](#)
- [Phase One: 100% remote learning](#)
  - [Sample daily schedules](#)
  - [Family and student services](#)
- [Planning for Phase Two: some students in-person, most students remote](#)
  - [Family learning mode preference](#)
  - [Campus health and safety](#)
  - [Sample daily schedules](#)
  - [Family and student services](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)

# Introduction

Thank you for being a member of our [Ascend community](#). Whether your family is new to Ascend, or you've joined us sometime since our first school opening in 2008, we've never been more grateful for entrusting us with your child's education.

This guide has been designed to help your family prepare for the upcoming academic year. We know that this will be a year like no other, and many uncertainties exist. Ascend will continue to seek guidance from public health experts and solicit input and feedback from our families and staff to monitor our community and to adjust our plans as appropriate to ensure our students receive a safe and excellent education. We will keep you informed every step of the way.

As previously announced, [Ascend will begin the year in full remote learning mode](#). This means that all students will learn at home at least through October 16. Student and family orientations and technology training will be scheduled for the week of August 31-September 4. [The first day of school for grades K-12 will be September 8](#). At the end of September we will review and adjust this plan based on community health status and guidance from public health officials. To ensure you have advance notice of any changes, we will communicate details about the next phase no later than October 2.

We believe that learning happens best when students and teachers are together in person. However, we know it will be some time before we can all be back together as we were used to. Physical distancing guidelines require us to host many fewer students in our classrooms and buildings, which means that even when in-person learning becomes available, not everyone will be able to come to school at the same time. We've also heard from many

families that they currently prefer to keep their children at home and would like the option to elect 100% remote learning even once in-person learning becomes available. Later in this guide, we'll share what steps to take to elect 100% remote learning for your family.

[Ascend has designed our plans for academic year 2020-21 to minimize the difference in experience between remote learning and in-person learning to ensure that students have full access to excellent instruction and support regardless of where their learning happens.](#)

As you'll see later in this guide, we've been busy acquiring technology, training our staff, and making changes to our facilities, schedules, and procedures to put into practice the very best thinking of health and school experts. We'll be well positioned throughout the year to shift to 100% in-person or 100% remote learning consistent with any new developments in our public health landscape.

All our plans have been guided by the input of our families. Your participation in our June family survey and our July town hall meetings provided us with invaluable information and insight. We hope this guide will answer most of your questions, but please check for updates on our [website](#) and do not hesitate to reach out to your school leaders to let us know what additional information you may need.

Thank you again for being a part of our Ascend community. We look forward to our next year together!

*The Ascend Leadership Team*

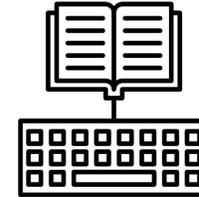
# Commitments to our community



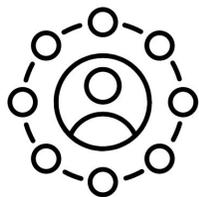
**Safety and care**  
for the whole person comes first.  
Parents can elect **100% remote learning** at any time.



Kids deserve the **best teachers** always. Students and parents have **access to teachers five days a week**.



We will **minimize the difference** between in-person and remote learning modes, providing a **laptop and technology training for every student**.



This academic year will be **as strong as or stronger** than last year.



We will support students and families by driving **consistency and predictability in schedules**.



We will remain aligned to our **values**.

# Academic calendar: 2020-21

August	
31	Student and family orientations, technology trainings begin
September	
8	First day of school for grades K-12
18	Professional development; No students at BAHS
October	
2	Professional development; No students at BACS, BAMS
5	Professional development; No students at CHACS, EBACS
9	Professional development; No students at BVLS, BVM
12	Indigenous People's Day; No school for all students
13	Professional development; No students at BAHS
16	Professional development; No school for all K-8 students
19	Professional development; No students at CALS, CAMS
23	Professional development; No students at BWMS, BWLS
26	Professional development; No students at CBACS, CBAMS
30	Professional development; No students at EFACS, LGACS
November	
3	Election Day; No school for all students
6	Professional development; No school for all K-8 students BAHS progress report conferences, 1:00 pm dismissal
11	Veterans Day; No school for all students
19-20	Progress report conferences K-8, 1:00 pm dismissal
25-27	Thanksgiving holiday; No school for all students
December	
4	Professional development; No school for all K-8 students
11	Select progress report conferences at BAHS, 1:00 pm dismissal
23-31	Winter break; No school for all students

January	
1	Winter break; No school for all students
4	Professional development; No students at BAHS
8	Professional development; No school for all K-8 students
18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; No school for all students
February	
12	Professional development; No students at BAHS
15-19	February break; No school for all students
25-26	Select report card conferences K-8, 1:00 pm dismissal
March	
12	Professional development; No students at BAHS
29-31	Spring break; No school for all students
April	
1-2	Spring break; No school for all students
May	
28	Select progress report conferences at BAHS, 1:00 pm dismissal
31	Memorial day; No school for all students
June	
10	Grades K-8 1:00 dismissal
11	Grades K-8 last day of school, 1:00 dismissal
15	Last day of regular instruction at BAHS
25	Last day of Regents testing at BAHS

Please check our [website](#) regularly for updates!

# Phases and learning modes

At various times throughout the academic year, Ascend may need to shift the mode in which our students learn to ensure we are placing the safety of our students and staff first as well as providing continuously excellent educational experiences.

While all students will begin the year in remote learning mode, we will reassess the situation every six to eight weeks throughout the year to determine if in-person learning experiences can safely be made available to a portion of our students during the next section or “phase” of the academic year. Robust and interactive remote learning will be offered until it is safe and effective for in-person learning to resume. When and if in-person learning becomes available, students will be prioritized for these experiences based upon grade and circumstances.

Due to the unique nature of the kindergarten experience, our highest priority is bringing these first-time learners to campus to meet their teacher and experience school in-person as soon as it is safe to do so. Additionally, we will prioritize first grade, ninth grade, and twelfth grade for in-person learning to best support these critical years of academic transition. Students who are identified as having unique circumstances, challenges, or needs that cannot be met through remote learning will also be prioritized for in-person learning when and if it becomes available this year.

Regardless of which learning mode students are in during any given phase, our goal is to maintain consistency in each student’s schedule. In lower and middle schools, remote learners will remain 100% remote throughout the phase and in-person learners will be in-person for five days a week throughout the phase (unless their family chooses to switch back to remote learning). Lower and middle school students will not rotate between in-person and remote learning modes within phases.

When and if in-person learning resumes for high school students, a hybrid learning approach will be used and students will rotate between in-person and

remote learning based on a consistent, four-week cycle. More details and sample schedules for each grade level can be found later in this guide.

Please note that while we strive to provide families with consistent and predictable schedules, these models are subject to change. We will comply with all public health mandates and will close and re-open classrooms and schools as needed to protect the health and safety of our students, staff and families.

Again, please remember that families may always elect 100% remote learning for any portion or the entirety of the academic year, regardless of what grades their children are in and whether in-person learning is available.

Sept 8 - Oct 16	Oct 19 - Nov 24	Nov 30 - Jan 22	Jan 25 - Mar 26	Apr 5 - Jun 11/25
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
All students 100% remote learning	To be determined and communicated by Oct 2	To be determined and communicated by Nov 6	To be determined and communicated by Jan 8	To be determined and communicated by Mar 15
	IEP, ENL, and striving scholars at all levels are prioritized for in-person learning			
	Grades K, 1, 9, 12 prioritized for in-person learning			
Families may choose 100% remote learning option at any time				



Phase One:  
100% remote  
learning

September 8 - October 16

# Remote learning sample daily schedule: Kindergarten

A shortened day focused on supporting first-time learners

Start	End	Monday - Thursday AM Cohort
9:00 AM	9:20 AM	Morning Meeting (Live)
9:20 AM	9:30 AM	Body Break (Live)
9:30 AM	10:00 AM	Guided Reading (Live)
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	Snack Break (Live)
10:15 AM	10:45 AM	Fundations - Phonics (Live)
10:45 AM	11:00 AM	Body Break (Live)
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Math (Live)
11:30 AM	11:40 AM	Body Break (Live)
11:40 AM	12:00 PM	Closing Circle (Live)

Start	End	Monday - Thursday PM Cohort
1:00 PM	1:20 PM	Morning Meeting (Live)
1:20 PM	1:30 PM	Body Break (Live)
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	Guided Reading (Live)
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	Snack Break (Live)
2:15 PM	2:45 PM	Fundations - Phonics (Live)
2:45 PM	3:00 PM	Body Break (Live)
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	Math (Live)
3:30 PM	3:40 PM	Body Break (Live)
3:40 PM	4:00 PM	Closing Circle (Live)

Start	End	Friday AM & PM Cohorts
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Morning Meeting (Live)
9:30 AM	10:15 AM	English Language Arts Small Group Instruction
10:15 AM	11:00 AM	Math Small Group Instruction
11:00 AM	12:00 AM	Additional Targeted Small Group Instruction

Families will be provided with detailed schedules for each of their children during orientation. The sample schedules above illustrate what a typical remote learning day will look like for students in Kindergarten *during Phase One*. We anticipate that the first week of school will look slightly different as we complete technology/remote learning orientations. Kindergarten *schedules will change in Phase Two* of the school year (beginning Oct. 19), regardless of whether students remain in remote learning or begin in-person learning.

In order to best support Kindergarten students while acclimating to new classmates, a new teacher, and new technology and help them build enthusiasm and stamina over the first six weeks of school, we'll use a customized approach to remote learning, featuring smaller class sizes of 7-8 students and shorter, three-hour school days. Live, facilitated breaks are scattered throughout each day to encourage students to regularly move and enjoy time away from their screens. Students will be assigned to either a consistent morning or afternoon cohort Monday through Thursday. All kindergarten students will also experience remote learning on Friday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM. Students with an ICT designation on their IEP, and other designated kindergarten students will have opportunities for small group instruction, as needed, until noon on Fridays.

Please check our [website](#) regularly for updates!

# Remote learning sample daily schedule: Grades 1-2

Most of each day is spent in live, real-time learning with teachers

Families will be provided with detailed schedules for each of their children during orientation. The sample schedule below illustrates what a typical remote learning day will look like for students in first and second grade during Phase One. We anticipate that the first week of school will look slightly different as we allow extra time in the day for students, families, and teachers to connect and prepare for the new year. Beginning the week of September 14, schedules will be consistent for the remainder of the phase - remote learning begins every day, Monday through Friday, at 8:00 am with a live morning meeting allowing students to connect with their homeroom teacher and each other. Breaks are scattered throughout each day to encourage students to regularly move away from their screens. Synchronous or “live” instruction ends at 1:45 pm Monday through Thursday although asynchronous (pre-recorded) learning continues until 2:45 pm. All modes of learning end at 1:30 pm on Fridays.

Start	End	Monday-Thursday
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting (Live)
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Foundations – Phonics (Live)
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	Break
9:15 AM	10:15 AM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading (Live)
10:15 AM	11:15 AM	Lunch Break
11:15 AM	12:00 PM	Math Workshop (Live)
12:00 PM	12:30 PM	Number Stories (Live)
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	Break
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	Read Aloud (Live)
1:15 PM	1:30 PM	Break
1:30 PM	1:45 PM	Closing Circle (Live)
1:45 PM	2:00 PM	Break
2:00 PM	2:45 PM	Science or Specials (Pre-recorded)

Start	End	Friday
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting (Live)
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Foundations – Phonics (Live)
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	Break
9:15 AM	10:00 AM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading (Live)
10:00 AM	10:45 AM	Math Response to Data (Live)
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Math Writing (Live)
11:15 AM	12:15 PM	Lunch Break
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	Read Aloud (Live)
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	Break
1:15 PM	1:30 PM	Closing Circle (Live)

# Remote learning sample daily schedule: Grades 3-4

Most of each day is spent in live, real-time learning with teachers

Start	End	Monday-Thursday
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting (Live)
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Writing (Live)
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	Break
9:15 AM	10:00 AM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading (Live)
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Lunch Break
11:00 AM	11:45 AM	Math Workshop (Live)
11:45 AM	12:15 PM	Number Stories (Live)
12:15 PM	12:30 PM	Break
12:30 PM	1:15 PM	Shared Text or Literature Circle (Live)
1:15 PM	1:30 PM	Break
1:30 PM	1:45 PM	Closing Circle (Live)
1:45 PM	2:00 PM	Break
2:00 PM	2:45 PM	Science or Specials (Pre-recorded)

Start	End	Friday
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting (Live)
8:30 AM	8:45 AM	Break
8:45 AM	9:30 AM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading (Live)
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	Break
9:45 AM	10:30 AM	Math Response to Data (Live)
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Lunch Break
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Literature Circle (Live)
12:15 PM	12:30 PM	Break
12:30 PM	1:15 PM	ELA Response to Data (Live)
1:15 PM	1:30 PM	Closing Circle (Live)

Families will be provided with detailed schedules for each of their children during orientation. The sample schedule above illustrates what a typical remote learning day will look like for students in third and fourth grade during Phase One. We anticipate that the first week of school will look slightly different as we allow extra time in the day for students, families, and teachers to connect and prepare for the new year. Beginning the week of September 14, schedules will be consistent for the remainder of the phase - remote learning begins every day, Monday through Friday, at 8:00 am with a live morning meeting allowing students to connect with their homeroom teacher and each other. Breaks are scattered throughout each day to encourage students to regularly move away from their screens. Synchronous or "live" instruction ends at 1:45 pm Monday through Thursday although asynchronous (pre-recorded) learning continues until 2:45 pm. All modes of learning end at 1:30 pm on Fridays.

# Remote learning sample daily schedule: middle school

Most of each day is spent in live, real-time learning with teachers

Families will be provided with detailed schedules for each of their children during orientation. The sample schedule below illustrates what a typical remote learning day will look like for students in fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades during Phase One. We anticipate that the first week of school will look slightly different as we allow extra time in the day for students, families, and teachers to connect and prepare for the new year. Beginning the week of September 14, schedules will be consistent for the remainder of the phase - remote learning begins every day, Monday through Friday, at 8:00 am with a live morning meeting allowing students to connect with their advisor and each other. Breaks are scattered throughout each day to encourage students to regularly move away from their screens. Synchronous or “live” instruction ends at 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday and at 1:00 pm on Fridays.

Start	End	Monday-Thursday
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	Advisory (Live)
8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Math (Live)
9:45 AM	10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	English (Live)
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM	12:00 PM	Science (Live)
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Social Studies (Live)
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	Lunch Break
1:15 PM	2:00 PM	Electives (Pre-recorded)
2:00 PM	2:45 PM	Guided reading or Small Group Instruction (Live)
2:45 PM	3:00 PM	Closing Circle/Dismissal (Live)

Start	End	Friday
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	Community Meeting (Live)
8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Math (Live)
9:45 AM	10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	English (Live)
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Lunch Break
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Science (Live)
12:15 PM	1:00 PM	Social Studies (Live)

# Remote learning sample daily schedule: high school

Live, real-time learning with teachers is balanced with pre-recorded, specialized content

Students will be provided with their detailed schedules during orientation. The sample schedule below illustrates what a typical remote learning day will look like for students in grades 9-12 during Phase One. We anticipate that the first week of school will look slightly different as we allow extra time in the day for students, families, and teachers to connect and prepare for the new year. Beginning the week of September 14, period start and stop times will be consistent every day, Monday through Friday. Classes will alternate daily. \*Students are required to attend office hours at least once per week, dismissal on other days is at 3:35 pm. Advisors will meet individually with their students no less than once per month.

Period	Start	End	Monday-Friday
1	8:30 AM	8:55 AM	Advisory (Live)
2	9:00 AM	9:50 AM	English IV (Live)
3	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	AP Calculus (Pre-recorded)
4	10:55 AM	11:40 AM	Lunch Break
5	11:45 AM	12:35 PM	College Seminar IV (Live)
6	12:45 PM	1:35 PM	PE/Art (Pre-recorded)
7	1:45 PM	2:35 PM	AP English Literature (Live)
8	2:45 PM	3:35 PM	AP Biology (Pre-recorded)
9	3:45 PM	4:25 PM	Office Hours* (Live)



Please check our [website](#) regularly for updates!

# Family and student services during remote learning

## Family and student touchpoints

Every family will receive a touchpoint with a teacher/advisor weekly. In lower schools, teachers will have a phone/RingCentral check-in at least once per month with families of students. In middle and high schools, advisors will have a phone/RingCentral check-in with their students a minimum of once per month.

## Parent training and support

Family and student orientations will be held the week of August 31. These will include training and information on remote learning platforms and the Ascend-provided laptops to ensure that students and their families are both comfortable with the tools needed for remote learning.

## Special education and IEPs

Students with IEPs will receive related services as determined by the NYCDOE Office of Related Services. This includes speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and hearing services. Students will receive their mandated SETSS and Integrated Co-teaching services during remote learning.

## Social-emotional learning support

Students who receive mandated counseling will receive it during remote learning. Students who require at-risk counseling will be supported by Ascend clinicians and/or outside referrals.

## Academic interventions

In order to support individual academic progress, some students may require an additional 30-45 minutes of scheduled academic intervention time with their teacher. Teacher and families will discuss the need for these and schedule during their regular check-in meetings.

## Grab-and-go meals

Students learning remotely will have the option of picking up daily grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals, free of charge, from their school. All physical distancing and safety protocols will be enforced during this meal pick up process. Please check our [website](#) for updated information.

## Uniforms

Uniforms are not required during remote learning.

Planning for  
Phase Two:  
Some students  
in-person,  
most students  
remote\*

October 19 - November 24

\*Reminder: all plans remain subject to change



# Family learning mode preference

## Family preference survey

Before the start of each phase of the school year, families will be asked to complete a survey to tell us their preference for remote or in-person learning for their children during the next phase. Please note that while we aim to accommodate all families who prefer in-person learning, physical distancing guidelines allow us to accommodate only a portion of our students. All families who express a preference for remote learning will be accommodated.

## Option to shift from in-person to remote learning

Families may elect 100% remote learning for their children at any time during the 2020-21 academic year. If a student begins the phase in-person and their family elects to shift to remote learning at any point during that phase, the earliest the student may resume in-person learning is the beginning of the next phase. In order to maintain safety and consistency in classroom cohorts, each student's eligibility for in-person learning will be re-evaluated at the beginning of each phase of the academic year and families will be notified of any changes before the next phase begins.

## Phase Two survey must be completed by August 31

Phase Two begins on October 19. If you haven't already done so, please let us know your learning mode preference by completing this survey *as soon as possible*. You can access the survey [HERE](#).



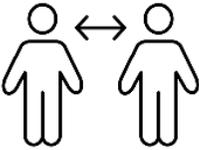
# Campus health and safety

When in-person learning occurs, we currently plan to follow these protocols:



Physical distancing of at least six feet will be maintained. Floor markings and signage have been installed to guide students, staff and visitors to ensure that they remain at least six feet apart in lines and at other times.

Students and staff will be organized into small group cohorts of no more than 15 students which will remain the same throughout the school day. Student cohorts will not join or mix with other cohorts.



Everyone on campus (students, staff, visitors) are required to wear face coverings *at all times*, unless they are medically unable to do so or when eating or drinking. Hand sanitizing stations will be installed throughout each building.



In order to avoid gathering in common areas, meals will be taken within classrooms. We will provide individually packed meals and condiments and utilize disposable utensils and dishes. We will also provide grab-and-go meals for students learning 100% remotely.



Daily health screenings, including temperature checks, must be completed for all students and school-based staff every morning, prior to entering the school.

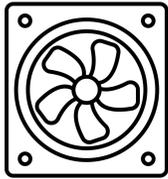
In the event that there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case, we will implement NYC DOH isolation/quarantine protocols and support public health officials in contact tracing efforts.

# Campus health and safety

When in-person learning occurs, we currently plan to follow these protocols:



Increased, routine cleaning and disinfection will occur multiple times per day, with special attention to high-touch surfaces. Each student's belongings will be separated from others' and kept in individually labelled containers.



Heating, cooling, and ventilation systems at all Ascend facilities meet all CDC requirements. Where applicable, bolts have been removed from windows to ensure optimal airflow in classrooms. Our ventilation systems have been upgraded with the highest rated filters that our systems will accommodate. We have also increased filter change frequencies. Ascend facilities currently cannot accommodate outdoor learning.



Only two students will be allowed into each restroom at one time unless the students are from the same cohort. We will create a handwashing schedule for students and will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizing stations will be installed throughout each building.

Additional safety information and training will be shared with families before in-person learning resumes.

# Family and student services during in-person learning

## Parent training and support

Additional health and safety information along with training will be provided for families before in-person learning resumes. These additional orientations will include procedures for arrival and dismissal, hallway management, and detailed expectations and explanations regarding the classroom experience.

## Special education and IEPs

Students with IEPs will receive related services as determined by the NYCDOE Office of Related Services. This includes speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and hearing services. Students will receive their mandated SETSS and Integrated Co-teaching services during in-person instruction.

## Social-emotional learning support

Students who receive mandated counseling will receive it during in-person learning. Students who require at-risk counseling will be supported by Ascend clinicians and/or outside referrals.

## Academic interventions

In order to support individual academic progress, some students may require an additional 30-45 minutes of scheduled academic intervention time with their teacher. Teacher and families will discuss the need for these and schedule during their regular check-in meetings.

## Busing

When in-person learning is available, eligible Ascend students have access to the NYC Department of Education yellow bus service. If the NYCDOE does not provide bus service or the availability is limited, we will provide those eligible students with Metrocards and support families in leveraging remote learning. Ascend will rely on NYCDOE's Office of Pupil Transportation to ensure that school bus companies and personnel follow all appropriate guidelines for safety.

## Uniforms

Uniforms will be required for all students during in-person learning.

## Recess and physical education

Due to physical space limitations and new safety protocols, recess will not be offered at lower schools during Phase Two. Physical education will involve games and activities that do not require students to be in close physical proximity, and twelve feet of distance will be maintained during aerobic activity.

# In-person learning sample daily schedule: Grades K-2

## Kindergarten and first-grade are prioritized for in-person learning

Families will be provided with detailed schedules for each of their children before in-person learning begins. The sample schedule below illustrates what a typical in-person learning day will look like for students in kindergarten, first, and second grade. Schedules are consistent - arrival and breakfast is 7:30-8:00 am every day, Monday through Friday. Dismissal is at 2:30 pm Monday-Thursday and at 1:00 pm on Fridays. Restroom and stretch breaks are distributed throughout the day and time has been allocated for regular handwashing.

Start	End	Monday-Thursday
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Arrival and Breakfast
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting
8:30 AM	8:45 AM	Restroom and Stretch Break
8:45 AM	9:15 AM	Foundations - Phonics
9:15 AM	10:00 AM	Specials (i.e., Art, Dance, P.E.)
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Read Aloud
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	Restroom and Stretch Break
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Math Workshop
11:30 AM	11:45 AM	Restroom and Stretch Break
11:45 AM	12:15 PM	Lunch Break
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	Number Stories
12:45 PM	1:45 PM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading
1:45 PM	2:15 PM	Closing Circle
	2:30 PM	Dismissal

Start	End	Friday
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Arrival and Breakfast
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Foundations - Phonics
9:00 AM	9:45 AM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading
9:45 AM	10:30 AM	Math Response to Data
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Lunch Break
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Restroom and Stretch Break, Play
11:30 AM	12:00 PM	Read Aloud
12:00 PM	12:30 PM	Writing
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	Closing Circle
	1:00 PM	Dismissal

# In-person learning sample daily schedule: Grades 3-4

Start	End	Monday-Thursday
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Arrival and Breakfast
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting
8:30 AM	8:45 AM	Restroom and Stretch Break
8:45 AM	9:30 AM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading
9:30 AM	10:15 AM	Specials (i.e., Art, Dance, P.E.)
10:15 AM	10:45 AM	Writing
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Number Stories
11:15 AM	11:30 AM	Restroom and Stretch Break
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Math Workshop
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	Lunch Break
12:45 PM	1:30 PM	Shared Text or Literature Circle
1:30 PM	1:45 PM	Restroom and Stretch Break
1:45 PM	2:15 PM	Closing Circle
	2:30 PM	Dismissal

Start	End	Friday
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Arrival and Breakfast
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	Morning Meeting
8:30 AM	9:15 AM	Guided Reading & Independent Reading
9:15 AM	10:00 AM	Math Response to Data
10:00 AM	10:45 AM	ELA Response to Data
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Restroom and Stretch Break, Play
11:15 AM	11:45 AM	Lunch Break
11:45 AM	12:30 PM	Literature Circle
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	Closing Circle
	1:00 PM	Dismissal

Families will be provided with detailed schedules for each of their children before in-person learning begins. The sample schedule above illustrates what a typical in-person learning day will look like for students in third and fourth grade. Schedules are consistent - arrival and breakfast is 7:30-8:00 am every day, Monday through Friday. Dismissal is at 2:30 pm Monday-Thursday and at 1:00 pm on Fridays. Restroom and stretch breaks are distributed throughout the day and time has been allocated for regular handwashing.

# In person learning sample daily schedule: middle school

Families will be provided with detailed schedules for each of their children before in-person learning begins. The sample schedule below illustrates what a typical in-person learning day will look like for students in fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Schedules are consistent - arrival and breakfast is 7:30-8:00 am every day, Monday through Friday. Dismissal is at 3:00 pm Monday-Thursday and at 1:00 pm on Fridays.

Start	End	Monday-Thursday
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Arrival and Breakfast
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	Advisory
8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Math
9:45 AM	10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	English
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM	12:00 PM	Science
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	Social Studies
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	Lunch Break
1:15 PM	2:00 PM	Electives
2:00 PM	2:45 PM	Guided Reading or Small Group Instruction
2:45 PM	3:00 PM	Closing Circle/Dismissal

Start	End	Friday
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Arrival and Breakfast
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	Community Meeting
8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Math
9:45 AM	10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	English
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Lunch Break
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Science
12:15 PM	1:00 PM	Social Studies

# In person learning sample daily schedule – high school

## Ninth and twelfth grades are prioritized for in-person learning

Students will be provided with their detailed schedules before in-person learning begins. The sample schedule below illustrates what a typical in-person learning day will look like for students in grades 9-12. Period start and stop times are consistent every day, Monday through Friday. Classes will alternate daily. \*Students are required to attend office hours at least once per week, dismissal on other days is at 3:35 pm. Advisors will meet individually with their students no less than once per month.

Period	Start	End	Monday-Friday
1	8:30 AM	8:55 AM	Advisory
2	9:00 AM	9:50 AM	English IV
3	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	AP Calculus
4	10:55 AM	11:40 AM	Lunch
5	11:45 AM	12:35 PM	College Seminar IV
6	12:45 PM	1:35 PM	PE/Art
7	1:45 PM	2:35 PM	AP English Literature
8	2:45 PM	3:35 PM	AP Biology
9	3:45 PM	4:25 PM	Office Hours*



Please check our [website](#) regularly for updates!



## Questions and answers

# Questions and answers

## How will attendance work?

All students, whether learning remotely or in-person, will participate in daily, live learning with a teacher. Each student will have either an advisory or homeroom period as their first period of the day, during which attendance will be taken by their teacher. Students who arrive at school late or who engage in a remote learning at a later point throughout the day will be marked tardy for the day.

## How will grading and assessments be conducted?

Ascend believes that assessments support and enhance learning and we will consistently measure progress toward mastering challenging standards that promote college and career readiness for all students. While we have made some changes as a result of our new environment, in middle school and high school our grading structures and report cards are the same whether students are in-person or remote. For lower schools, in-person and remote grading can differ. Your student's teacher will explain the details of how we will measure and share your student's progress during each phase of the academic year.

## Will I be required to vaccinate my student?

School immunization requirements are established by the New York State Department of Health. Details regarding these requirements and medical exemptions can be found on the NYSDOH website: [https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/school\\_vaccines/](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/school_vaccines/)

## How will safety protocols be enforced during in-person learning? What happens if my child does not comply?

Staff will be trained and designated to enforce safety protocols. Signage and floor markings have been installed outside and throughout our buildings as reinforcement. Before students resume in-person learning, they will receive training on new safety protocols and instruction in how to comply. School staff will coach and reinforce positive student behavior and will contact parents to develop strategies to overcome individual compliance challenges as needed.

## How will ventilation be managed during in-person learning? Can outdoor space be utilized?

Heating, cooling, and ventilation systems at all Ascend facilities meet all CDC requirements. Where applicable, bolts have been removed from windows to ensure optimal airflow in classrooms. Our ventilation systems have been upgraded with the highest rated filters that our systems will accommodate. We have also increased filter change frequencies. Ascend facilities currently cannot accommodate outdoor learning.

## What about extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities will be organized in accordance with Department of Health guidelines regarding sports and gatherings. At this time, community events will take place virtually. Any in-person activities that take place after school, such as tutoring, will utilize cohorts to the extent possible and will enforce the physical distancing and face covering requirements of the typical in-person school day.

## My question wasn't answered. Where can I get more information?

You can reach out to us by contacting your school's leaders by email or by phone for the fastest response. You can also email the Ascend network office at [info@ascendlearning.org](mailto:info@ascendlearning.org).



We look forward to the year ahead!

Thank you for being part of our Ascend community.