What is Accelerated Learning?

Accelerated Learning is making sure you have the chance to master this year’s work and be prepared for what comes next, whether it’s the next grade or the next phase after graduation.

Here’s how:
- Teachers will focus on new learning and new work for this year, while making connections in each lesson to any learning you may have missed last year.
- At the start of the school year, teachers will identify what you need to finish learning from last school year and teach it within the new work of the current grade.
- Teachers will personalize instruction for you by building that knowledge you need to engage in this year’s work.
  - English Language Arts (ELA) example - In our newly adopted ELA curriculum, artwork is used to help you connect your experiences with the background you need for reading and responding to a text.
  - Math example - In our newly adopted Math curriculum, digital “hands-on” tools and step-by-step video tutorials are provided.
  - All subjects will have built-in supports to help you do your job: learning and growing both socially and academically.
**Devices**

Each CPS student in preschool to 12th grade will receive a device to ensure that schoolwork can be completed both in classrooms and at home. Students in preschool, kindergarten and first grade receive iPads. Students in grades 2–12 receive laptops.

Each school has a designated schedule for families to pick up their devices this summer:
Pick-up dates for each school

Free Wi-Fi is available to the homes of all CPS students through the Connect Our Students program, in partnership with Cincinnati Bell and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. The free, limited internet service is to allow students to complete schoolwork.

Cincinnati Bell began reaching out to families August 3. Or, families may call (513) 566-3895 for information about the Connect Our Students program.

**Family Orientation Night**

Family Orientation Night is a great way for you and your family to learn more about your school’s plan to support you. You also will learn more about Schoology and PowerSchool, which will be vital to your success. All Orientation Nights will be held by August 30, 2020.

**Topics Covered:**

- Attendance Procedures and Guidelines
- Learning at Home System of Support
- Schoology is where you will find:
  - Weekly updates from teachers
  - Access to the district-adopted curriculum
  - Schedules of Assignment and Assessments
  - Family/Student/Staff Pacts
  - Activities for learning at home
  - Accessing Support at home
- PowerSchool is where you will find your:
  - Current and previous academic data
  - Attendance records
  - Progress toward graduation
  - Behavior records
- Your school’s communication plan
  - Monthly Newsletter
  - Robo calls
  - Weekly Updates in Schoology

**Who do I contact with questions?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question/Concern</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Devices and Wi-Fi Access</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ITMhelp@cps-k12.org">ITMhelp@cps-k12.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoology/PowerSchool Access</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ITMhelp@cps-k12.org">ITMhelp@cps-k12.org</a> (513) 363-0390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Schedule Questions/Concerns</td>
<td>Your school counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social-Emotional Support</td>
<td>School Counselor/Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions about your class</td>
<td>Your teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Requirements</td>
<td>Your counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your grades/progress</td>
<td>Your teacher/PowerSchool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School COVID-19 updates</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cps-k12.org">www.cps-k12.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Athletics</td>
<td>Your school’s athletic director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>(513) 363-RIDE (7433)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Dining Services</td>
<td><a href="www.cps-k12.org/families-students/student-dining-services">www.cps-k12.org/families-students/student-dining-services</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using Schoology and PowerSchool

Using Schoology and PowerSchool

[youtube video link]

Remember to update your email, phone number and address in PowerSchool.
Login to PowerSchool and Schoology weekly.

Schoology

[link]

PowerSchool

[link]

Attend virtual trainings as needed for technical support.

Staying connected

• Reach out to teachers and classmates.
• Read your teacher’s weekly updates on Schoology*.
• Be active on Schoology* daily - check for due dates, updates, activities and assessments
• Participate in office hours with teachers via Google Meet when you have questions.
• Find videos, activities and much more on our distance learning site: remotelearning.cps-k12.org

*Please note: Ethel M. Taylor Academy and Aiken High School will use Echo instead of Schoology.

What’s on Schoology*?

Schoology Courses are not just for turning in assignments and taking quizzes.

You’ll find:

• Important updates, due dates, and contact information for your Teacher
• Teacher-Led Activities
  - Links to Google Meet
  - Links other live events
• Student-Led Activities
  - Activities that can be completed online and off.
  - Video Lessons and Tutorials
  - Discussion boards to ask questions and find solutions.
  - Texts and visuals to explore and analyze
  - Chats and Flipgrids to work with classmates

* Please note: Ethel M. Taylor Academy and Aiken High School will use Echo instead of Schoology.

Social Connections

You may not be in the same hallways and lunchrooms with your classmates every day, but there are many ways you can stay connected.

• Set up small-group online homework help sessions with your classmates
• Study online with a partner
• Set up an online peer review with your classmates before submitting an assignment
• Volunteer for a local community organization, while following social distancing and other COVID-19 health and safety guidelines
• Participate in online activism for a cause important to you
• Start a virtual book club with your classmates
• Join a virtual club for hobbies you are interested in
• Find a penpal
What does Distance Learning mean?

• Distance Learning means students will access on grade level, high-quality instruction with their teachers outside of the physical classroom or school building.
• Distance Learning may occur at home, with a child-care provider, or in any setting other than a school building.
• Distance Learning is different from homework in these ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance Learning</th>
<th>Homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teacher provides:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teacher provides:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Live, interactive learning experiences</td>
<td>• an assignment or task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Structured, independent learning resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clear sequence of knowledge-building assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tools and guidance to support completion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities focus on:</th>
<th>Activities focus on:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Connections, engagement and building a learning community</td>
<td>• Reviewing previously taught knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Building new knowledge</td>
<td>• Practicing previously taught skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forming new connections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expanding skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students are self-directed in:</th>
<th>Students are self-directed in:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Setting schedule to meet posted due dates</td>
<td>• Completing the assignment or task by the due date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Getting teacher help and support during office hours and through Schoology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distance Learning: We’ve got this

Although you will not be in the classroom, you will have your teacher’s support for success. Whether meeting live with your teacher or working independently, you’re not alone in this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher-Led Learning is...</th>
<th>Self-Directed Learning is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>live, together, collaborative, interactive.</td>
<td>on student’s own schedule, independent, self-guided with support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Required sessions will be consistently scheduled in Schoology and hosted via Google Meet.</td>
<td>• Respond to discussion boards or video prompts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students will be in small groups, allowing for personalized teacher instruction and support.</td>
<td>• Attend specialized office hours, such as Senior Sessions, to ask questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teachers’ office hours are held to immediately support students’ and families’ questions and concerns.</td>
<td>• View videos, guides, organizers posted by teacher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review learning goals and reflect on progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Students submit Weekly Journals to Schoology.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting Routines and Schedules

Continue the morning routines that you would follow if going to school
• Get up, get dressed, eat breakfast, move to a quiet area to do your school work

Create a positive mindset for learning every morning. Tell yourself:
• Your school/teachers are here to help.
• You can succeed.
• Challenges and mistakes are okay. They are the only way our brains will grow (get smarter).

If you get frustrated, here are some tips that can help:
• Chunk classes that are more challenging into a few 10 minute time frames instead of a full 30 minutes
• Reach out to a teacher, friend or family member for emotional support
• Notice when you get frustrated, then set a timer and step away for 5-10 minutes.
  Try:
  - Drawing
  - Dancing
  - Listening to Music
  - Writing
  - Taking a walk
  - Playing with a pet

Distance Learning Schedules
• Each school will provide a distance-learning schedule.

Reflect daily:
• Write out your daily to-do list.
• Journal at the end of each day.
  - What did I learn today?
  - What was the easiest thing I did today?
  - What was the most difficult thing I did today?
  - What questions do I have?

Recurring tasks:
• Check Schoology daily.
• Check PowerSchool weekly.
• Complete and upload assignments daily.
• Get help here: youtu.be/UBKhFDbna6E

Control distractions:
• Set up a work space for schoolwork, such as in a quiet corner of a room on a folding table.
• Reflect on what sights and sounds are distracting and talk to your family about ways to get space and remove distractions.
• Limit screen and phone apps that potentially distract from learning.

Develop consistency:
• Work with your family to set limits on family, work and social obligations during school time.
• Reflect on when you work best; consider time of day, length of activity and need for breaks.
• Create a sample schedule and refer back to it.
Learning and Exploring Outside the School Day

- Notice and wonder when out walking and gardening, housecleaning, cooking, etc.
- Accessing Community Resources on our Remote Learning Site, such as:
  - CPS TV (Cable and Website)
  - Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
  - Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
  - National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
  - Civic Garden Center
  - And many more

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Hamilton County libraries provide an array of resources for the Cincinnati community. Check out some of the resources available to you to support learning and connect you with the world of ideas and information.

- All students will have access to digital library cards.
- Facebook read-aloud sessions where families can click on a link and hear stories read by CPS employees and librarians.
- Fall Family Literacy Night
- Parent Communication Letter to let parents and students know what virtual activities are going on at the library.
- Schoology training facilitated through channels of the library.
- Informative class on how to load pertinent information on devices.
- Curbside service for book pick-up and drop-off
- Education and Homework Support
- Free Wi-Fi at all locations

Go to www.cincinnatilibrary.org or contact your nearest branch.

Outdoor Access

CPS Outside, a collaborative of over 40 outdoor and environmental education partners, is working closely with CPS to provide opportunities for ALL students to expand their classrooms into the outdoors, both on school campuses and in your neighborhoods.

- Working with teachers and administrators to identify spaces where learning can occur outdoors
- Providing after-school and school-break programming
- Encouraging students and families to explore their neighborhoods
- Finding opportunities for children to get outside and move around

Your family can jump right into supporting students’ outdoor education by

- Walking to a park or green space for a nature scavenger hunt bit.ly/CPSNatureHunt
- Planning a weekly meetup (socially distanced) for an outdoor game bit.ly/CPSOutdoor
- Participate in a daily dose of nature challenge bit.ly/CPSNatureChallenge
- Plan craft time that blends art with science using items found outdoors bit.ly/CPSScience
- Spend a rainy day indoors making your own fossils bit.ly/CPSFossils
- More great active, engaging activities to continue learning outdoors bit.ly/CPSActive
Attendance Policy

Students and families can check attendance and grades in PowerSchool.

Daily attendance will be required and reported hourly during Distance Learning.

Attendance is comprised of:
• Logging into Schoology* courses daily
• Submitting assignments communicated on Schoology by posted due date.
• Attending required Google Meet/Teacher-Led Activities
  - Elementary Schedule
  - High School Schedule
* Please note: Ethel M. Taylor Academy and Aiken High School will use Echo instead of Schoology.

School Social Workers and Attendance Support Specialists will track student attendance during Distance Learning.

The Ohio Department of Education is requiring CPS’ policies about attendance and excessive absenteeism to be updated and aligned with blended- and distance-learning plans.

CPS is required to follow district policies concerning truancy (being absent from school too much).

Grading Policy

In 2020-21, Cincinnati Public Schools will follow the Board-adopted grading policy (which was suspended in Spring 2020 due to the unexpected COVID-19 mandatory school closure).

bit.ly/CPSGrading

Pass/Incomplete is no longer in affect.

Teachers will be grading the work they have assigned in Schoology*. They will clearly post due dates for all your work. They will communicate your learning goals and the performance standards you need to meet, the meaning of district assessment scores, and how grades are determined.

To access your most up-to-date grades, log into PowerSchool.

*Please note: Ethel M. Taylor Academy and Aiken High School will use Echo instead of Schoology.

Grading Scale K-6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark for Grades 1-6</th>
<th>Grade Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Almost Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Failing w/ excessive absences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale 7-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Grade Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Almost Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failing w/ excessive absences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduation Course Requirements

All students must earn a state minimum of 20 credits, distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>½ credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>½ credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>5 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are more graduation requirements; reach out to your school counselor for more information or if you need assistance.

Course Credits by Grade Level

To ensure you are on the path to graduation, you should complete a certain amount of credits by the end of each school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By the end of 9th grade</th>
<th>English 9, Algebra I, Physical Science, Modern World History, Elective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 5 credits is required to achieve 10th grade status the following year.</td>
<td>A minimum of 5 credits is required to achieve 10th grade status the following year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the end of 10th grade</td>
<td>English 10, Geometry, Biology, American History, Physical Education/Health, Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 10 credits is required to achieve 11th grade status the following year.</td>
<td>A minimum of 10 credits is required to achieve 11th grade status the following year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the end of 11th grade</td>
<td>English 11, Algebra II, Chemistry, American Government w/ Financial Literacy, Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 15 credits is required to achieve 12th grade status the following year.</td>
<td>A minimum of 15 credits is required to achieve 12th grade status the following year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the end of 12th grade</td>
<td>English 12, Pre-Calculus, Physics, American Government, Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 20 credits is required to graduate. See additional graduation requirements from ODE.</td>
<td>A minimum of 20 credits is required to graduate. See additional graduation requirements from ODE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SUPPORTS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS**

**Resources for English Learner Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Do I...</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Get help from someone who speaks my language?   | Call the CPS Language Hotline for your language and leave a voicemail in your language with your question, name, child’s school and phone number:  
  Spanish: (513) 363-3251 or (513) 363-9827  
  Arabic: (513) 363-1467  
  French: (513) 363-1467  
  Nepali: (513) 363-3745  
  Other: (513) 363-3251                                                                                       |
| Complete distance learning tasks when I can’t understand the language? | Send a message to the teacher and/or an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher to ask for help. You also can call one of the Language Hotline phone numbers above, and an employee will help you reach the teacher. |
| Receive mailings and robo calls in my home language? | Make sure the school has your “home language” listed in PowerSchool as the language in which you want to receive information.                                                                 |
| Ask for what I need in the school office if no one else speaks my language? | Write this phrase on paper or on your phone, and show it to the school office staff: “Please use the telephonic interpreter service for me to communicate with you. I speak (write your language).” |
| Access CPS website information in my home language? | Look for a colorful “G” and “Select Language” at the top of each web page. You can pick Arabic, French or Spanish from the drop-down box.                                      |

**Resources for Gifted Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Happens When...</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You seem to finish all the self-directed work assigned to in the first day of distance learning.</td>
<td>Check to see if there are enrichment options in the student folders or family resource folders in Schoology. If not, reach out to your teachers and they can collaborate on activities to keep you learning and engaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignments you are given seems like work you know how to do.</td>
<td>Enrichment plans can be developed to meet your varied needs. You can participate in different measurements of learning in the first weeks of school to help your teacher determine how to address your learning needs. Please reach out to your teacher if the work you are asked to do is not challenging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You seem to be having a difficult time with transitions, schedules and managing the structure of this new environment.</td>
<td>Consider adding in breaks, and additional check-ins and hard stop times for each subject, to help build a predictable routine. Reflect on the schedule weekly and share feedback with your teachers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources for Students with Disabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Do I...</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Locate support when I don’t understand the distance learning assignment? | You will receive support from an Intervention Specialist during distance learning. They co-plan assignments with your teacher and the accommodations and modifications that are necessary. Additionally, your teachers will be available through Schoology messaging and email messaging, to offer support with distance learning assignments.  
  Please reach out if you have any questions regarding Distance Learning. Do not hesitate. |
| How do I find support with distance learning tasks when I need a modified schedule? | Our team has worked hard to develop multiple sample schedules for you. If one of these schedules does not meet your academic and functional needs, your teachers and related-service providers can help you adapt a schedule to work for you. |
| Reach out if I have a question about my IEP.    | Send a message to your intervention specialist or teacher. Contact information is available on Schoology Courses or by contacting your school. |

**What Happens When...**

**Answer**

- You will receive support from an Intervention Specialist during distance learning. They co-plan assignments with your teacher and the accommodations and modifications that are necessary. Additionally, your teachers will be available through Schoology messaging and email messaging, to offer support with distance learning assignments. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding Distance Learning. Do not hesitate.

- Our team has worked hard to develop multiple sample schedules for you. If one of these schedules does not meet your academic and functional needs, your teachers and related-service providers can help you adapt a schedule to work for you.

- Send a message to your intervention specialist or teacher. Contact information is available on Schoology Courses or by contacting your school.
APPENDIX

Academic Calendar

Use this link to find printable, one-page versions of Cincinnati Public Schools’ school year calendar, highlighting dates for such items as school holidays, winter and spring breaks, and end-of-quarter days. Available in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

www.cps-k12.org/news/calendar/print-calendar-links

CPS Pacts for Learning

Cincinnati Public Schools’ students, families and staff agree — Pacts are great for setting up the best learning possible for you to reach graduation ready for the 3E’s - Employed, Enlisted or Enrolled.

Pacts are formal agreements to work on learning goals and focus on building partnerships and relationships among students, teachers and families to accomplish goals together.

You can build the pact together with your teacher.

Student Pact for Learning
bit.ly/StudentPact

Family Pact for Learning
bit.ly/CPSFamilyPact

Staff Pact for Learning
bit.ly/CPSStaffPact

How We Support Our Teachers

Educators who work with you in Cincinnati Public Schools are lifelong learners. We want to make sure that your teachers are educated in the best teaching practices to ensure you are successful. Teachers receive ongoing support through Professional Development. Areas include, but are not limited to, Schoology and PowerSchool best practices, district-adopted curriculum training, our CPS Distinguished Educator Program and best practices to ensure the best learning outcomes for you.

We’ve added an additional support to meet the specific challenges of the 2020-2021 school year, while ensuring you receive the best instruction:

• Schoology Courses and Templates
• Created by blended-learning and digital-design experts from the University of Cincinnati and Bowling Green State University, in partnership with CPS’ Curriculum and Instruction Department
• All students will use these courses and content, regardless of teacher or school

Professional Development Dates

• August 17-21 Opening Week (No Students)
• Professional Release Days (No students)
  - October 12, 2020
  - January 11, 2021
  - March 8, 2021
• Ongoing, self-paced virtual trainings throughout the school year
The Cincinnati Public School District provides equal educational, vocational, and employment opportunities for all people without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, color, age, disability, religion, national origin, creed, sexual orientation, or affiliation with a union or professional organization, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The district is in compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. For additional information, contact the Title IX Coordinator or Section 504 Student Coordinator at 363-0000. TDD# 363-0124.