



De Queen Public Schools

PO Box 950
De Queen, Arkansas 71832

The De Queen Public Schools family has missed seeing our students and truly appreciate everyone's understanding over the past few months. We look forward to school starting in August and understand parents have many questions regarding the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. We want to assure you that the administration, faculty, and staff are currently working to create the safest educational environment possible. Below you will find a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with answers that we have compiled to provide you with as much information as we can at this time to help alleviate some of your concerns.

******We are adjusting our plans to comply with ADH and ADE guidelines as they change.******

******Updated 7/9/2020******

De Queen Public Schools FAQ's Regarding COVID-19 Guidelines For 2020-2021

1. What is the first day of school for students?

School will begin on Monday, August 24th, 2020.

2) Can you guarantee students and staff will not become ill?

No. While the well-being of our students, staff, and families is of utmost importance, we cannot guarantee no one will get sick. Every risk cannot be mitigated, but we will do all we can to ensure everyone's safety.

3) What are the requirements for face coverings?

We receive guidance regarding Covid-19 topics from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) weekly if not on a daily basis. Currently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) are **strongly recommending** all individuals 10 years old and over to wear a face covering. However, the ADH has not issued a directive to **require** face coverings. The ADH is also advising that students younger than 10 wear a face covering to the extent possible.

Based on this guidance, De Queen Public Schools will be **strongly recommending** students in 5th grade and above to wear a face covering.

4. Will face coverings be provided for students?

The district will provide cloth face coverings for all of our students. Parents may also provide their children with their own face coverings if they so choose.

5. Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for students. If there are any changes to bus schedules, stops, or routes, information will be communicated to parents.

6. Will students have to wear face coverings on the bus?

Due to the bus being a confined area where physical distancing is not feasible, it is strongly recommended that students wear a face covering where practical. All students age 10 and over are strongly recommended to wear a face covering at all times while on the bus. We will follow ADH and DESE guidance.

7. What will the school day look like for my child?

Administrators are working diligently to create schedules that include minimizing close physical interactions. Our goal is to maintain as normal of a day as possible while mitigating risk.

8. How will students socially distance in the classroom?

Classrooms will be arranged to maximize spacing between students and teachers to the extent possible. We will make every effort to conform to social distancing guidelines.

9. Where will my student eat lunch?

Based on current ADH guidelines regarding limited capacities in cafeterias, we are working on adjusting lunch schedules and possibly using alternative areas if necessary. Other measures will include proper sanitation of all areas after every meal service.

10. Will my student still be able to have recess or play on the playground?

Yes, students will have outdoor play time.

11. Will students still have extra classes like P.E., art, music, and library?

Yes, students will still have the opportunity to participate in activity classes.

12. Will students be able to attend field trips?

We anticipate field trips in the fall to be very limited. We will follow ADH and DESE guidance.

13. Will water fountains be available?

Students are encouraged to bring filled water bottles as water fountains will not be available. Hydration stations will be available for students to fill their water bottles if needed.

14. Can I still send money with my child to school to pay for lunch and any fees?

You may still send money to pay for lunches and or fees. We encourage parents to pay for their lunch charges on the district website if at all possible.

15. Will De Queen Public Schools have Pre-K for the upcoming school year?

Our Pre-K programs are run by the De Queen Mena Educational Cooperative. They plan to have Pre-K programs for this upcoming school year.

16. Will extracurricular activities and sports be offered in the fall?

Yes. Many student athletes have currently returned to campus to begin practice based on ADH and Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) guidance. We anticipate there will be sports activities in the fall with possible modifications required by ADH and AAA.

17. Will there be any restrictions on band and/or choir?

We are still waiting on guidance from ADH.

18. What precautions will be taken for cleaning and sanitizing?

Disinfecting, sanitation, and cleanliness continue to be a high priority on all our campuses. Extra

attention will be given on high touch surface areas. Restrooms will also be continuously cleaned throughout the day. Students will be expected to wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day.

19. Will students and adults be screened daily?

At this time guidance from ADH and DESE does not include taking temperatures.

20. What happens if a student comes to school sick?

The student will be screened by the school nurse. If the student has a temperature over the ADH guidance, they will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school. The student will be required to check in again with the school nurse upon returning to school.

21. What happens if an individual tests positive for COVID-19?

The district will be in close contact with ADH directly and follow ADH's guidance.

22. Can I visit the school, classroom, or eat lunch with my student?

Under current ADH guidance, visitors will not be allowed in the school except for the reception area. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their child. Visits to the school will be limited to essential activity.

23. Can I walk my child into the school?

No, parents and guardians may not walk them into the school, but they may walk their student to the school entrance.

24. What about students who have special needs or students with compromised immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

The district will be prepared to accommodate students with special needs through both onsite and remote instruction. Our Special Education instructors will be taking extra precautions when working with students. If parents have concerns about their students who may be at high-risk for COVID-19, they may be interested in exploring our digital option which allows the students to continue their education from the safety of their home.

25. How will you help fill any gaps in learning for my student from the previous year?

The district curriculum team, along with classroom teachers and administrators are continuing to work in order to revise district curricula so that missed essential standards and skills will be addressed when students return.

26. What happens if schools are mandated to close again?

This is where "blended learning" for traditional students comes in. With blended learning, students will learn content through in-classroom instruction with their teachers as well as through online resources such as the Lincoln Learning program. Students will learn how to use these digital learning systems by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. In the event of a school closure, or if a student becomes ill, students will be able to easily pivot or transition to online learning at home. Blended learning will become part of our new normal.

27. If I do not want my student to return to school in this traditional format, what are my options?

A survey was sent to parents on July 1st in order for us to collect data on families that may be interested in a completely digital online learning experience for K-12 students. For families considering an online option please contact your child's campus Principal to see about online learning options.

28. When will parents be able to apply for the online learning program?

You may contact your child's school to inquire about online learning options at any time.

29. Can I change my decision about digital learning?

If you feel that digital learning is best for your family then we encourage you to commit to the learning plan for an entire 9 weeks or semester. We however would be open to looking at your situation on a case by case basis if you feel that a change of placement is needed. We are currently working with DESE for guidance on this issue.

30. I understand that I will not be able to walk my child into school and only to the front entrance. Will there be someone who can help them get to their classroom, especially on the first day?

Our principals know they will need to be prepared for these situations. While at this point we are not able to allow large groups of parents in the school, we understand this is an important part of the first day of school and we will work on a way to make it as positive as possible. We want to assure you that we will take care of your kids.

31. Will there be an open house, will we be able to meet the teacher, or see the classroom?

These types of events will be very limited. Each campus will communicate important information on our school website and district facebook pages. We also give press release information to our local radio station 92.1 KDQN and on their website. Please monitor these sources for upcoming information.

32. When and how will students be receiving their schedules and learning where classrooms are located?

Our Kindergarten students will be having a planned registration time. All other grades just need to report to school on the first day and we will provide everything for them at that time.

33. Will kids be allowed to play together or have to stay 6 feet apart?

We will do our best to encourage the six foot rule for kids, but we all realize that we must be reasonable in how we work through those types of issues. We want school to be a safe and caring place and have to be careful about making it too "institutionalized."

34. Will my child's teacher be teaching her classroom students as well as online digital students?

We are currently looking at our parent surveys to come up with a plan of dealing with this issue. Teachers may be managing both at school and digital students.

35. What if a student wants to play football or another sport, or be on dance/cheer but wants to do digital learning, is that possible?

Yes. All enrolled students are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

36. If my student is enrolled in the online learning program, will they be allowed to come to school to attend band class?

We will be flexible and try to do our very best to provide the best educational opportunity for our students.

37. Can students in the digital programs still go to prom, homecoming, and graduation?

Yes, they are De Queen Public School students enrolled in our programs so they can attend prom, homecoming, and graduation.

38. Will it be possible for my child to attend school part of the day and do the rest of their curriculum online?

We will be flexible and try to do our very best to provide the best educational opportunity for our students.

39. Will attendance still be taken regardless of in-class or virtual instruction?

Yes, attendance will be required and taken regardless of the learning environment.

40. Will the semester attendance policy still be in effect for semester test exemption?

Yes.

41. What are the electives for the online learning program?

We are working with the Department of Education for guidance on this area.

42. If my student enrolls in the online learning program, will they have different teachers for each core curriculum, or will they have only one teacher?

If a teacher has dual certification, they would be teaching more than one core subject. This would completely depend on staffing and the certification of the teachers. They can only teach subject areas in which they have a license.

43. Will those enrolling in the online learning program be able to take Pre-AP and AP courses?

We will be flexible and try to do our very best to provide the best educational opportunity for our students.

45. If we are in the online learning program, will my student be able to have her picture taken and be in a yearbook?

Yes, our online students are part of our district and will be assigned to a home school. As such, we will have a plan for ensuring they get their pictures taken and be represented in a yearbook.

46. Will the G/T program be part of the online learning program?

We will be flexible and try to do our very best to provide the best educational opportunity for our students.

47. I still have questions. Can I email a question or speak to a staff member over the phone to help me discuss the best option for my student?

Yes. You may contact any district or building office at any time to answer any question that you have.

Administration Office: 870-584-4312	De Queen Primary: 870-642-3100
De Queen Elementary: 870-584-4311	De Queen Middle School: 870-642-2428
De Queen Junior High 870-642-3077	De Queen High School: 870-642-2426

