

# Alice Birney EK-8 Public Waldorf School

March 17, 2021 Zoom Session + Updates as they are received

*Learning options include:*

1. **In-person/Concurrent Learning** – Students would attend school in-person two (2) days each week and distance learning the other three (3) days each week.
  - **Cohort A** – In-person Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
Distance learning Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays
  - **Cohort B** – In-person Thursdays & Fridays  
Distance learning Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
*No students on campus on Mondays*
  - **Dates for in-person return, by grade:**  
*April 8<sup>th</sup>: EK - 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*April 15<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>*  
*April 22<sup>nd</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>*
2. **Distance Learning** – Families may choose to keep their students in distance learning via methods determined by teachers for appropriate developmental levels, including asynchronous work, Google classroom, Zoom, etc.
  - **Cohort C** – Distance learning, 5 days a week. Schedules TBD by teacher.

## Family-Asked Questions/(Best Current) Answers

What time are students on campus?

*The current plan is-*

*AM Kinder – 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 8am-11am*

*PM Kinder: 11:30am-2:30pm*

If we elect to have our child return, can we then change our mind?

*Yes, but just one in and out, from In-person to Distance. Distance to In-Person is not an option.*

Will there be a way to request T/W vs Th/F?

*The district is sorting students by household into cohorts. We do not know what flexibility we will have to change students to certain days. This will be dependent on many factors including the number of students returning in a given class, students in other grade levels, etc. Parents should be notified of their child's cohort prior to March 29<sup>th</sup>.*

**Will siblings be in the same cohort?**

*Yes, to the best of our ability. As well as any other students listed at the same address.*

**How will students enter campus? What does the process look like?**

*There will be a “passive” screening that takes place at home prior to coming to school each morning. It is an app that gets downloaded onto a device. When arriving to campus, students can be dropped off in the front circle or on the front sidewalk area. There will be marks on the ground every six feet to show where children should stand along the sidewalk that runs along kindergarten and up to the cafeteria sidewalk. “Active” screening begins when the child arrives at the front of the line, near the black gate. On the patio, temperature will be taken, health questions asked and student observed. We will have a medical assistant assigned to us. Students will then move to a hand sanitizing station. When finished, they will walk to their designated class cohort area.*

**Do parents need to stay off campus?**

*For the protection of all students and staff, parents will remain off-campus at this time.*

**What does the “Care Room” look like at Birney?**

*Our staff lounge in the front office has been converted into our “Care Room” for temporary quarantining of students who develop symptoms when they are on campus. Our assigned medical assistant will help in this room throughout the time students are on campus. The room will have open windows, HEPA filters, continuously circulating air, PPE, and any other necessary materials.*

**What if there is a COVID exposure on campus or in the school community?**

*The principal contacts district support immediately and there is a [multi-step process that is followed](#). Contact tracing is done, impacted parents will be notified, and specific directions will be given based on the context of the situation. For more details, go to [returntogether.scusd.edu](http://returntogether.scusd.edu).*

**Will there be contact tracing?**

*Yes.*

**Will there be COVID testing at school?**

*Yes. There will be two types of testing available. One type is for those with symptoms and the other is for those without symptoms. It is voluntary and currently scheduled for every two weeks. This could change based on the colored tier that our county is in at the time. The medical assistant will be supervising the testing during the day. They are self-administered and only with consent.*

Is Birney adhering to the 6-foot rule?

*Yes. There are indoor and outdoor markings. Desks are placed 6 feet apart and marked by tape on the ground. Hallways are designated with tape or stickers on the ground/walls of six feet. There are signs for reminders all around the campus, inside and out. Restroom capacity is limited to two students at a time in the larger restrooms and one student at a time in the smaller restrooms. There are waiting markers outside of the restrooms.*

How will attendance be handled when students return or remain in DL?

*Attendance will be taken daily, as it is now.*

Will food be eaten on campus?

*No. In-person students will be provided with a “grab and go” lunch that also has breakfast for the following day. Students will pick this up as they exit through the West Gates. All meals are to be eaten off-campus. For students not returning to campus, food will be picked up on Monday for the entire week’s meals. More details will be forthcoming on where this will take place.*

What is the vaccine status of the adults working on campus?

*This is considered personal medical information and cannot be shared due to privacy laws.*

How will Birney be instructionally different than the model proposed by the district?

*Our intention is to have students outside all day, as much as weather permits. Students should dress accordingly with multiple layers. We may need pop-up tents, mats, buckets or other items to support our outdoor learning. Negotiations with the district and teachers is ongoing so there is no set answer at this time. Our Waldorf schools intend to honor a model that best serves the curriculum and instruction that you chose for your child by enrolling at our school. Details will be shared by classroom teachers when decisions are made.*

Will distance days be a livestream of the classroom or will they be async days?

*The format of instruction is still being determined. The outdoor learning model does not lend itself to livestreaming.*

Will kids in person class be allowed to play outside?

*Our intention is to be outside all day.*

What will state tests look like at Birney for grades 3-8? Can parents opt their child out?

*Parents have the right to opt their child out of state testing this year like they have in the past. At this time, we are being told that testing WILL happen on our campus, although we do not know when. We will have more details as the time gets closer.*

**Can start times be staggered? Can there be a separate entrance for K-1?**

*I have been told that our start time must remain the same and that we cannot stagger times. That may change in the future and I will continue to ask the question.*

*Currently, we have been assigned only one medical assistant to assist with the health screenings. If more become available to us in the future, we may be able to add more entrances to campus.*

**What will PM EK-K lunch look like?**

*TBD-Ms. Horning will speak with our cafeteria manager to determine this. Your teacher will communicate with you about how to receive your lunch.*

**What is meant by cohort?**

*A cohort is a small group of children (no larger than half the class) that will attend school on the same two days each week. Cohort A will come to campus on Tuesday and Wednesday. Cohort B will come to campus on Thursday and Friday. All children will be off-campus on Monday.*

**When can students start lining up?**

*Students can start lining up around 7:40 AM.*

**Will learning take place after 2:12?**

*Currently, there is not a proposed model that would require students to be live with a teacher after 2:12. Students may have asynchronous or "homework" to do after that time. Families remaining on The Families Project may choose to do activities after 2:12.*

**How will paraprofessionals assist students?**

*My current understanding is that they will join the child they serve on campus for the child's on-campus cohort days and support them remotely on the other days. If a child needs assistance, the adult would move close to help for a brief time and then step back out to be six feet apart.*

**Where is the thermometer used on my child's body?**

*Students will walk by a thermal scanner device. It does not touch the child's body.*