

BayLink FAQ for Parents

BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS · WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020 · 8 MINUTES

1. How do I choose this option for my student?

You can go here to make your selection: <https://focus.bayschools.net/focus/>, scroll down on the homepage of your parent portal account to the section called 2020 back-to-school options. There's a video there that walks you through the next steps.

I attempted to make my selection on Parent Portal but do not see the Child Info screen stated in the directions. Why is this?

Your student may not be attached to your Parent Portal account. To correct this, please call your child's school and they will attach them to you after verifying custody. This is a quick process and you can make your selection right after this is done.

Alternatively, you may have a Limited parent account due to custody arrangements. In this case, you will not be able to make a selection for your student. An account with full custody and parent access will need to make the selection instead. Please contact your child's school to verify if this is the case and make corrections, if appropriate

2. Will my student be expected/permitted to log in and watch an entire day's worth of instruction?

No. There may be many situations where teachers are live/recorded during portions of direct instruction and then turn off the camera while students work with the rest of the class in-person and online students complete their work independently. There may be lessons that don't lend themselves to being videoed and students will just work on assignments uploaded to Canvas by teachers. Remember, this Canvas process will also be the "makeup work" option for when students are absent. Whatever is available that day on Canvas will be there for those students as well. Students will have the chance to watch recorded and live lessons as often as possible.

3. Will BayLink students be completing different activities than those attending class in person?

Obviously some activities will have to be changed to accommodate the needs of online students. The basic premise, however, is that BayLink instruction will be the same instruction going on in class.

Parents who choose this option or Bay Virtual School WILL HAVE TO ASSUME A LOT MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR STUDENT LEARNING than parents who choose in-person instruction. Teachers cannot be responsible for the engagement of remote students but will be responsible for providing instructional opportunities, learning activities and lessons. We are in the process of developing a comprehensive document that will address parent expectations for BayLink and will release that to our reopening website ASAP: <http://www.bay.k12.fl.us/school-reopening>

4. Why is this additional option being proposed?

We heard your concerns about wanting to maintain a relationship with a “brick and mortar” school while having the flexibility to enroll your students in online classes. We heard our union’s concerns about class size and social distancing. The state has not provided more money to hire more teachers for smaller classes. However, if a good percentage of students choose BayLink, there will be fewer students face to face in classrooms and social distancing will be easier. We believe fewer students in our rooms will help us spread out, stay safe and encourage social distancing as much as possible. Fewer students on campus will also help at lunch, recess, special area etc.

Students want to maintain their enrollment in their home-zoned school, school choice school, advanced academic program etc. and this gives them that option.

5. Can students drop in and out of BayLink on a whim?

Students will choose either brick and mortar every day or BayLink every day. A brick and mortar student who needs to quarantine or self-isolate due to illness will switch to BayLink temporarily after providing documentation to the school. A BayLink student who decides this option no longer works for him/her can come back to brick and mortar. A student cannot, for example, be BayLink from home on Mondays and Fridays and in-person the rest of the week. There will be students temporarily using the work uploaded

to Canvas as makeup work, however, if they miss a day of school. If a student is out sick for a day, he/she can watch uploaded lessons and complete assignments.

We see these options with BayLink:

Students have the option to attend “brick and mortar” school in person five days a week.

OR

Students have the option to attend school in person five days a week and may transition to BayLink for digital learning through Canvas if/when the need arises (quarantine, self-isolation, illness). Parents/guardians must notify the teacher and/or school when a student needs to transition to BayLink for reasons noted above. In order to return to brick and mortar school, students must have a return to school note from a primary care provider or Bay County Department of Health.

OR

Students have the option to choose BayLink for digital learning five days a week assigned to their teacher of record/scheduled classes. This option provides opportunities for students to continue to learn at home while remaining registered at their enrolled school. This model is designed for families who don't feel comfortable sending their children back to school but ultimately plan to rejoin their enrolled school in the future. Students may transition back to brick and mortar schools on the first school day of each month. Notification must be provided to the school principal.

6. Are teachers expected to teach live students and respond to online chats at the same time?

No. Teachers may choose whether or not to turn on live chat when teaching a lesson. Teachers may ask remote students to email questions, they may set up a weekly video conference with students or teachers may choose to be responsive to their chat questions if they turn on that feature. Parents will have to be willing to accept responsibility for student engagement with BayLink just as they do for virtual school. Teachers will be as responsive as possible to questions and emails during normal contract hours.

It is possible, depending upon enrollment numbers and staffing availability, that some schools will be able to designate specific teachers just for BayLink. In that case, it's likely that students will have the option to live chat with their teachers during normal school hours.

7. Is the whole class on video?

No. We envision the chromebook/camera being set up close to the front of the room so it captures the teacher/lesson during whole group instruction. It may also, instead, be focused on the whiteboard or smartboard so remote students can see the work being done. There may be times when remote students can hear teachers but not see them and, as noted above, there may be times when the lesson has ended for the remote students because they are working independently.

8. What happens if a teacher needs to quarantine or self-isolate?

BayLink will enable teachers to teach from home if they are well but need to quarantine/self-isolate.

9. What happens if my student is attending brick and mortar but needs to quarantine or self-isolate?

That student would seamlessly shift to BayLink to follow instruction (live or recorded) for the duration of his/her time at home and could then return to brick and mortar when cleared to do so. Students returning will provide documentation to the school.

10. Can my student continue to participate in sports and extracurricular activities while in BayLink?

Students may continue to participate in sports at their zoned/choice campus if they meet the requirements specified by the school principal and coaches.

We will accommodate, as much as is feasible, requests for participation in extracurricular activities and students can attend virtually or in person to be determined by the school principal and sponsor.

11. I enrolled my student at Bay Virtual School but have changed my mind. What do I need to do?

Please log on to Parent Portal and select either “brick and mortar” or “BayLink from home” for your student’s instructional model five days a week. Please do all you can to make your selection prior to July 30th so our schools can begin preparing for those who are returning to brick and mortar, those who are choosing BayLink from home five days a week and those who are choosing Bay Virtual. Please note that brick and mortar students will always have the option to switch seamlessly to BayLink if they need to quarantine/self-isolate or if they become ill. If your student begins the year as a Bay Virtual student, he/she must complete the first semester before transitioning back to brick and mortar or BayLink.

12. What’s the difference between BayLink and Bay Virtual?

Bay Virtual is a well-established school with a principal, teachers and staff. Bay Virtual students belong to the school called Bay Virtual. BayLink students who are learning remotely will remain students of the brick and mortar school they typically attend. So, for example, if a student in MAPPS at Mosley High School chooses BayLink, he/she will still be a MAPPS student learning from home. If that student chooses Bay Virtual, he/she will withdraw from Mosley and enroll at Bay Virtual. Bay Virtual has a plethora of honors and advanced courses but does not offer MAPPS, AICE, IB or Collegiate Studies programs as those are school-specific honors programs.

In either case, parents of students learning remotely must be prepared to be more involved than they may have been with students attending brick and mortar schools. Online/virtual teachers are responsible for providing content, lessons and instructional activities based upon the standards but parents of online students are responsible for ensuring engagement, pacing and completion of assignments.

13. What about students who need ESE services?

Students who have an IEP will continue to receive services and support based upon their individual needs. Related services, such as speech, language, occupational, or physical

therapy, as well as counseling services, will continue to be provided in a virtual setting. Accommodations (or modifications if indicated) will be provided through the virtual/online setting. The student's IEP will be reviewed and if necessary an IEP team, to include the parent and/or student, will convene virtually and update the IEP. If you have questions specific to your child's needs or IEP, we encourage you to contact your student's school counselor or the District's ESE Department at 767-4100.

14. Where can I find out more information about the district's reopening plan?

You can see frequently-updated FAQs and other information related to the reopening of school on our website at <http://www.bay.k12.fl.us/school-reopening>