

Dear Perea Families,

We are so grateful for the flexibility, hope and persistence you've shown in partnering with us this fall. Your children are continuing to find success academically, socially and emotionally despite the trying circumstances we've all been experiencing. We are proud of so many pieces of the way this year has begun and they were only possible because of your support:

- Our three week staggered re-entry allowed us to build a strong foundation for trusting personal relationships between teachers and students.
- We have seen the highest levels of family engagement and communication we've ever experienced! Family Orientation allowed us to ensure you had the technology you needed and were prepared to support your students during virtual learning. Since then, you have been actively staying in touch with teachers.
- Student attendance and engagement in virtual learning has been strong, both during synchronous instruction each morning from 8-10:30 and during asynchronous learning, completing work on a range of online platforms that you have supported your children to use effectively each afternoon.

We are excited to continue building on this positive momentum. **Starting Monday, October 26th, we will transition from a Virtual model to a Hybrid model.** Students will attend school in-person for full instructional days Monday through Thursday and all students will learn from home each Friday.

You will find more details on this decision and what to expect in the rest of this document. Please reach out with any questions you have.

In continued partnership,
Mrs. Ussery & the Perea Elementary Team

KEY DETAILS

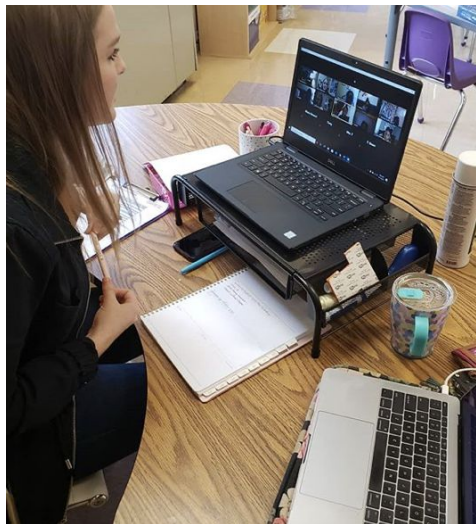
- In the week of October 20-23, your child will have one designated day to attend school and drop off any devices (laptop, charger, headphones) borrowed from Perea.
- In-Person learning in the Hybrid model will begin on Monday, October 26th.
- Students in the Hybrid model will be at Perea for in-person learning every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- On Fridays, all students will engage in Project-Based Learning at home.
- We are confident in the steps we've taken to ensure the safest possible in-person environment. Everyone in the building will wear masks and students will maintain physical distancing in their classrooms.
- If you prefer for your student to remain virtual, we will continue to offer a fully virtual option. If you want this option, please tell us right away.

If you have not notified your child's teacher about whether you prefer hybrid or virtual learning, please do that immediately-- or call the main office to discuss your options.

Whether you choose Hybrid or Virtual, daily attendance will be taken during Morning Meetings and students will receive grades for all work assigned.



What to Expect if you choose the Virtual Model



If you decide that learning at home is the right decision for your family, we will continue to commit to supporting your child academically, socially and emotionally.

- ❑ They will largely continue to follow the same schedule we are currently operating on, with synchronous learning on Zoom from 8-10:30 am and then asynchronous learning the rest of the day.
- ❑ The one change is that this will happen Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, Virtual students will participate in PBL Fridays (please see page 4).
- ❑ All students in a grade will be grouped together for instruction. The teacher and Instructional Assistant that your student has started the year with will be transitioning over to teaching in-person, so your student will have a different teacher starting October 26th. They will be in class with students who have previously been in other sections of their grade.

Goals of the Hybrid Model



As we transition back towards students being in-person, we want to prioritize both continuing the things that have been positive about the school year so far while increasing the effectiveness in areas that have been difficult in the virtual learning space.

- We want to continue:
 - Keeping kids and staff safe and healthy
 - High levels of family engagement and communication between school and home, with parents actively involved in student learning
 - Building technology literacy in our students through purposeful integration of the most effective online platforms
- We want to increase:
 - Opportunities for social connections between students
 - Ability to engage students in hands-on ways, through exploratory learning and use of manipulatives
 - Opportunities for teachers to gather data on student learning so they can most effectively meet them where they are and support them to grow





What to Expect on In-Person Learning Days (Mondays through Thursdays)

- ❑ Each morning, you will be asked to assess your child's health before dropping your student off at school. If your student does not feel well or has been around anyone with COVID-19, please keep your student home.
- ❑ We will be staggering exit times and using two entrances, based on grade level, to avoid any congregating in large groups-- for both students and families. See details on the FAQs page.
- ❑ When you drop your student off at school, s/he will have his/her temperature checked to confirmed it's under 100 degrees. As soon as that is confirmed, s/he will use hand sanitizer. Students will be escorted from the front entrance into the building by Perea faculty and staff.
- ❑ Unfortunately, families will not be able to come into the building unless an appointment is made through the main office and a mask is worn. If there is an emergency, please call the main office for assistance.
- ❑ Teachers will be required to properly wear masks throughout the day. Students will be required to wear masks when they cannot be 6 feet apart from others.
- ❑ Class sizes will range from 12-20 students per room. We have made adjustments to all rooms to ensure that 20 students can fit in the room with the desks six feet apart from one another. If any class roster grows to be more than 20 students, we are prepared to split classes into smaller groups and use additional space in our building to keep social distancing possible.
- ❑ Your student will stay with the same group of students throughout the day. Students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. Students will remain at their designated desk in the classroom, six feet apart from other students, throughout the day. -- If small group instruction is held at the Teacher table, they will sit with a plexiglass partition between each student's space.
- ❑ Weather-permitting, all students will have recess outdoors each day. We will also use outdoor space as needed for provision of services.
- ❑ Classes will take breaks throughout the day to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer.
- ❑ We will follow all TN guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing surfaces. Desks will be disinfected after each meal, any shared supply (i.e. small group instruction tables) will be disinfected between student groups who use it, and each classroom will receive a thorough cleaning after daily dismissal.



- ❑ Students will have a box of their own individual supplies that stays at their desk and is only used by them. In addition, they will keep their own laptop and headphones at their desk and be the only one to use these. Students will wipe down these items daily. No school supplies should be brought from home to school each day-- please keep those supplies at home for students to use on their homework and on Fridays.
- ❑ We will maintain a separate space in the building for any student who shows signs of illness.

What to Expect on Virtual Learning Days (Fridays)



On Fridays, all students will learn from home. All devices (*laptops, headphones and power cords*) borrowed from the school for Virtual Learning will be returned to the building the week of October 20-23 on your designated day. They will remain there for the rest of the school year, so work on Fridays will not be computer-based. This will provide the opportunity for students to engage in some very exciting, hands-on, real-world Project-Based Learning opportunities with their families.

Each week, you will get very clear directions from your child's teacher around the project they need to complete. These directions will be reviewed in school with your students and shared with you on Google Classroom and by email. All materials your child will need to complete the project will be sent home from school on Thursday. The project will be an opportunity for your student to apply what they've learned all week to a new context-- and a chance to be creative!



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Perea's decision about its re-entry plan different than the Shelby County Schools decision?

As a charter school, Perea has the autonomy to make decisions that we believe are in the best interest of our school community, as long as they are approved by our Board and the state of Tennessee. Particularly, as a small school with 235 students enrolled and 35 staff members, operating at one site, the implications of health guidelines may be different for us than for a large district.

What if my student has special needs and an IEP?

A special support plan will be in place that meets IEP requirements and provides a safe, quality learning environment-- whether you choose the Hybrid or Virtual Model. A member of the Special Populations team will contact you to discuss further.

What entrance will my child use for dismissal?

We are adjusting procedures with the goal of limiting the size of the groups of people congregating at any entrance of the building to limit the potential spread of COVID-19. It is essential that, if you walk your student home from school, you maintain social distancing while waiting outside, wear a mask at dismissal and vacate the premises as soon as you have your child.

- Kindergarten and 1st grade students will arrive at and dismiss from the Vollintine doors. Dismissal is at 3:25 pm.
- 2nd grade students will arrive at and dismiss from the Claybrook doors. Dismissal is at 3:30 pm.
- If you have a student in 2nd grade with a sibling in K/1, s/he will arrive/dismiss with his/her younger sibling.

What commitments do we ask for from home?



We have always known that family support is crucial to student success and have strived to be in true partnership with Perea families. That support is even more critical during this pandemic. These are the steps we ask you to commit to at home. Please reach out to us if you have concerns and we'll work together to find solutions.



1. **Keep the communication flowing.** Make sure that we have your most up-to-date contact information. Let us know if your student is sick. Let us know if your internet isn't working. Let us know if you have questions about your student's academic or social-emotional progress. We anticipate holding all family/teacher meetings/conferences on Zoom. Google Classroom will be used to share important updates, provide overview of the week and host information to answer questions.
2. **Talk with your student about the importance of hygiene (washing hands, coughing into your elbow) and preventative health measures (wearing a mask and social distancing).** Make sure your student practices wearing a mask and gets used to it before school begins. Show your student what 6 feet of space looks like and help him/her practice staying 6 feet away from other people in the neighborhood.
3. **Keep your student home if s/he is sick.** We need to be particularly cautious this year. Be on the lookout for fever, cough, shortness of breath, excessive runny noses, underlying health issues and loss of sense of smell.
4. **Replenish your student's individual shoebox of supplies and keep it at home.** This will also be important the rest of the year, no matter where your student is learning.
5. **Please return the device you borrowed from Perea** to school on your designated day in the week of October 20-23, if your student will be learning in the Hybrid Model.

Life during COVID-19 is incredibly challenging for all of us right now. We are here to support you and your family with anything you need, whether or not the support you need is directly about your student's school experience.

- If you are in need of support services from Universal Parenting Place, please contact Mrs. Molly Nelson at (901) 701- 2342.
- If you are in need of any community resources, please contact Mrs. Pearson at 901-203-6420.
- Individual social-emotional support will be available for students via telehealth. If your student is in need of support, please contact Mrs. Thomas at 901-203-6420.