

## Learning Options for Pegasus Students for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Parents,

As the school year approaches, we wanted to give you more details about the upcoming school year. Following guidance from the Texas Education Agency, we have worked hard to design flexible learning opportunities that best meet the needs of you and your students. We are offering these options to allow you to make the best learning and health decisions for your students. These options are described in greater detail below.

Note: All students have the option to choose either Option 1, Option 2, or Option 3. A student may move from one selection to another, but only at the beginning of each 9-week grading period.

The three learning options we have developed for your students for the 2020-2021 school year are:

Option 1: 100% **In-Class Learning**,

Option 2: 100% **At-Home Learning**, and

Option 3: **Flex Learning** that combines **In-Class Learning** and **At-Home Learning**.

**Will all three options be available on the first day of school for Pegasus on August 12, 2020?**

**No.** The Dallas County Health Department has ordered that there can be no in-person classes for schools in Dallas County until after September 7<sup>th</sup>, so the three scenarios described above will occur after schools are allowed to open in person. **Because of this all Pegasus students will start with virtual classes on August 12<sup>th</sup> and students may move into In-Class options as allowed by health officials.**

**Why is Pegasus Starting School Virtually On August 12?**

We want to start with virtual learning on the day originally planned for the beginning of the school year. We believe it is important for families and students to be able to count on traditional breaks—Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break and Summer Break. Barring unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate that starting virtually on August 12<sup>th</sup> will help Pegasus achieve this goal.

**Materials to Help Students with Learning**

While students are learning from home it is important to establish a routine that is followed consistently. To help with this, we will be providing a schedule for students to follow and each student will receive supplies needed to perform schoolwork. This “School in a Box” kit will include a laptop computer to borrow, information/access to the internet, earbuds, pencils, sketch pads and drawing pencils for art class and other school supplies. In addition, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders studying music may check out instruments. Students will be able to set up their at-home classroom by simply opening the box in whatever space you determine best meets their learning needs. We will let you know how and when to get your “School in a Box” supplies.

Sincerely,

Pegasus School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## Detailed Information Regarding the Three Learning Options

### **Option 1: 100% In-Class (IC) Learning**

K-7<sup>th</sup> grade **In-Class learners (ICLs)** will follow their assigned schedule but, to minimize the possibility of COVID exposure, will not change classes or go to a common lunchroom. Teachers will rotate between classrooms. Students will eat lunch in their assigned classroom.

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade **In-Class learners (ICLs)** will follow their assigned schedule but, to minimize the possibility of COVID exposure, will not change classes or go to a common lunchroom. Teachers will rotate between classrooms. Students will eat lunch in their assigned classroom.

### **Option 2: 100% At-Home (AH) Learning**

K-7 grade **At-Home Learners (AHLs)** will be assigned a teacher and a learning schedule that covers the same instructional material as the K-7 ICLs, but taught in a different manner. The students will participate in zoom calls every day with their teacher and will use their assigned laptops and Classlink to complete all assignments.

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade **At-Home Learners (AHLs)** will zoom into each class every day and follow the same schedule as ICLs. They will receive the same instruction at the same time as the in-person students.

### **Option 3: Flex Learning –A combination of IC and AH learning.**

**Flex learners (FLs) will participate in AH Learning on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and IC learning on Tuesday and Thursday.**

K-7<sup>th</sup> grade **FLs** will be assigned the same teacher as the 100% AHLs and learn from home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but will come to campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays to receive in person instruction from that teacher.

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade **FLs** will learn from home on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and will also come to campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays to receive in person instruction. 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> FLs will follow the identical schedule as **ICLs** and **AHLs**.

### **Technology Supported Instruction**

Regardless of the method of instruction you choose, every student will be assigned a laptop. To facilitate instruction for the upcoming year, Pegasus is utilizing Classlink, an academic platform that lets your student access google classroom, see his or her teacher, and see his or her week at a glance with listed assignments. Classlink also contains all the educational applications that your student will use. Pegasus will host virtual trainings for parents and students on using Classlink.

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Learning Options

### Questions for All Learners

1. How will my student be assigned his or her laptop?
  - a. If your student is an **In-Class learner (ICL)**, Pegasus will check out a computer to your student on the first day of school.
  - b. If your student is an **At-Home Learner (AHL)** learning or a **Flex learner (FL)**, we will have a drive-up time before school starts for computer pickup.
2. Is the 90% attendance rule still in effect?

Yes. Students must meet the 90% attendance rule.
3. How is attendance taken for each option?

Documentation of attendance will vary from the learning option chosen and the grade the student is in. Specific details regarding this matter will be provided as details are fine-tuned by the school.
4. Will the Pegasus grading policy apply the same to all learning methods?

Yes.

### Questions unique to **In-Class learners (ICLs)**

5. What procedures and equipment does Pegasus plan to utilize in order to minimize the exposure risk for covid-19?

Pegasus is taking guidance from recommendations by the Center for Disease Control and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

  - a. Students and Staff will be asked to self-screen at home for COVID symptoms and whether they have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID. Other Visitors will be screened for COVID symptoms and asked about close contact as they enter the campus. Anyone entering the building will have his or her temperature screened. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be asked to stay home. Anyone who has been in close contact with a lab confirmed diagnosis with COVID should also stay home.
    - i. TEA lists the following as COVID Symptoms:
      1. Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
      2. Loss of taste or smell
      3. Cough or difficulty breathing
      4. Shortness of breath or headache or chills
      5. Sore throat or shaking or exaggerated shivering
      6. Significant muscle pain or ache
      7. Diarrhea
    - ii. For clarity, TEA defines close contact as
      1. Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
      2. Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield;

if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

- b. Safety protocols for entering the building will be utilized, including maintaining social distancing of six feet.
  - c. Students will pick up breakfast and take it to their classroom. Students will eat breakfast and lunch in a smaller classroom setting so that social distancing can be maintained.
  - d. Student movement throughout the building will be minimized.
  - e. Student and teacher desks where possible will be kept six feet apart.
  - f. Visitors to the building will be limited.
  - g. School buildings were sanitized during the summer. Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of the building will occur regularly.
  - h. Pegasus has added partitions between sinks in the bathroom.
  - i. Pegasus has increased the availability of hand sanitizers through-out the buildings.
  - j. Teachers will remind students regularly about handwashing and social distancing.
6. Will students be required to wear a mask?
- a. Yes, everyone on campus will be required to wear a mask as mandated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Governor of Texas.
7. Will there still be free before and after extended learning for **ICLs**?
- a. Yes, Pegasus will continue to provide free extended learning opportunities for on-campus learners between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:30pm.
8. Are ICL's still required to wear the school uniform?
- a. Yes, uniforms are required anytime a student is on campus. This year, uniforms may be purchased on-line. Informational flyers will be provided to assist parents with the process.
9. What happens if my student has chosen **IC Learning** but becomes sick and must stay home:
- a. The school is developing procedures to limit gaps in learning for your student if he or she feels able to participate in learning while at home. More details will provided in the future.
10. What happens if the school needs to close for cleaning or a governmental entity says school campuses in Dallas must close?
- a. Every student will learn from home during this closure. Students' laptops and class set-up will easily facilitate this transition.
11. Will drop off and pick-up be the same as last year or will it change?
- a. Drop off and pick up will be in the same location as last year. However, while students wait for parents they will be spaced farther apart and parents will be required to social distance outside while waiting to pick up students. Being outside helps prevent the spread of COVID.
12. For students learning on campus, why is Pegasus requiring students to stay in the same room each day while the teachers move from class to class?
- a. This will help limit the interaction of people which should help minimize any spread of COVID.
13. If I choose one method of learning for my student, can I change my mind? For example, can I switch my student from **AH Learning to IC Learning**?

- a. Yes, you can change your mind at the start of every 9-week grading period. We will send out reminders.

14. How will my 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student participate in dual credit college classes in the fall?

- a. If your student qualifies for dual enrollment, all El Centro dual enrollment classes will be on-line so students can continue earning college credit while completing high school requirements.
- b.

Questions unique to **At-Home Learners (AHLs) and Flex Learners (FLs)**

15. If my student is an **AHL or FL**, but still wants to participate in sports or academic competitions, will he or she be allowed to do so?

- a. Yes, if sports and academic competitions occur, **AHLs and FL's** will be allowed to come on campus to participate in sports and academic competition. Students who participate in sports or academics must wear the school uniform or designated sports uniform when on campus or at competitions. **FLs** must wear the school uniform on the days they learn on campus. The same screening, mask and social distancing requirements will apply.

16. If my student is an **AHL or FL**, can he or she still receive food from the breakfast and lunch program?

- a. Yes, Pegasus will have designated times for parents of AHLs to drive up to pick up food. It will be very similar to summer food pick-up. Food will be distributed to FLs at the end of one of the days he or she is on campus.

17. If my student is an **AHL or FL**, will my student receive a free DART pass?

- a. We do not yet have guidance from the Texas Education Agency regarding this matter. When we do, we will provide updated information.

18. What does my student do if I want him or her to be an **AHL** but I do not have internet access?

- a. Pegasus will work with families on a case by case basis to help get everyone internet. This may include hotspots or help finding nearby locations with free wifi.
- b. If internet is not possible, we will provide paper copies of all work to a student.

19. If my student is an **AHL** can I drop him or her off for extended learning hours?

- a. No. Extended Learning is limited to **ICLs**. **FLs** may stay for after school on the days they participate in **IC** learning.

20. If my student is an **AHL or FL**, how will they get supplies for their art and music classes?

- a. Pegasus will have a drive by pick-up time for supplies for K-12 art and we will have supplies that can be picked up for 6-12 music, as needed.

Parents, if you have other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [contact@pegasuscharter.org](mailto:contact@pegasuscharter.org).