



Anser Charter School



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In-Person vs Parallel Learning

Information to support Anser families in making this decision for the 2020-2021 school year.

July 30, 2020



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Dear Anser Families,

There are so many decisions we all are making on a day to day basis to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our community safe. We hope this information will support you as you make the decision for your children to attend In-Person or Parallel Learning at Anser this school year.

Returning, reimagining, and revamping are at the heart of the current work the Anser staff is doing to implement a more enhanced and robust online learning experience this fall. The essential learning that must happen in the midst of a pandemic, whether on campus or remotely, will be more rigorous, revamped, and reimagined through the lens of the EL Core Practices and Design Principles.

Safety and well-being for all of the Anser community is at the forefront of every step we are making. As you make, what we know is a very difficult choice between options that none of us wish were necessary, we want to provide a clear explanation of what you are choosing.

Somos Crew/We are Crew, Michelle Dunstan & Heather Dennis



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Registration will start on Friday, July 31st!

When you receive the online registration link, you will be asked to choose between Parallel learning and In-Person learning for the first quarter, if conditions allow.

Many families expressed an eagerness their kids have in getting back to school and back to a sense of normalcy. If you have read through the plans detailed in the Responsive Return Plan, the safety measures and social distancing practices will make school look very different than before. Our teaching and administrative staff are working hard to preserve the culture and community that are uniquely makes Anser, what it is while keeping safety at the forefront as well.

As you make this important decision, we hope to bring you and better understanding what these options mean and what they will look like.

The following slides will be will support you in visualizing what school will look like on or off campus.



What will the learning at Anser look like this school year?

	In-Person Learning (@school)	Parallel Learning (@Home)	Commonalities of Both Choices
Safety Protocols	Masks required Frequent/routine hand washing and sanitizing Social distancing at 6'	No Masks required Hand washing/sanitizer as needed	
Learning Environment	Students will be seated at their desks when in the classroom (distanced 6 ft) Use of outdoor spaces will be highly utilized for physically distant activities. *This configuration utilizes all the square footage of the classroom if most students attend In-person *No lounging, circling, or pairing	Flexible seating & home learning setting Virtual partnering/small groupings for work	Collaboration will happen via shared documents and online apps only (between students at home or school)



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What will the learning at Anser look like this school year?

	In-Person Learning (@school)	Parallel Learning (@Home)	Commonalities of Both Choices
Library & Supplies	Personal supplies Classroom library will have safety protocol in place	Personal supplies Kit provided to students for equitable learning materials	No school library access
Instructional Environment/ Academic Instruction	Whole group instruction Instruction from adults will be distanced at 6 feet	Whole class, small group and individual online instruction Recorded lessons	Identical assignments will be completed in digital platforms (ie google classroom) All content areas taught
Personal Belongings	Lockers & cubbies have been removed Limited to school specific items only at their desks	Determined by family	



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What will the learning at Anser look like this school year?

	In-Person Learning (@school)	Parallel Learning (@Home)	Commonalities of Both Choices
Movement Around the Building	Crews will walk in small cohorts and at schedule times JH will rotate in cohorts with staggered schedule to reduce hall congestion		
Bathroom & Sanitizing	Frequent and scheduled bathroom breaks and sanitizing	Flexible schedule for personal needs	
Recess	Distanced with masks required	Flexible schedule for personal needs	Outside time is available



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What will the learning at Anser look like this school year?

	In-Person Learning (@school)	Parallel Learning (@Home)	Commonalities of Both Choices
Special Area Classes	Taught in homeroom classroom *schedule may be inconsistent if the specials teachers are needed elsewhere (subbing for a crew leader or supporting parallel learning)	Weekly YouTube recorded experiences	In-Person student can access the Parallel Learning classes for specials from home
Lunch	Assigned lunch spots in cafeteria Home lunch eaten in classrooms	Families will continue to be able to participate in the lunch program. Pick up times will be assigned.	Lunch program available
Technology	1 to 1 chromebooks	1 to 1 chromebooks Financial support with accessing reliable internet access if needed	Devices being used for learning on a daily basis



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What type of support will families received if they choose Parallel Learning?

In the spring, we are aware of the difficulty families had in supporting their children in accessing the online assignments.

Teachers are working on training for parents/guardians with the digital platforms to help alleviate this problem. In addition to increasing the rigor and support for parallel learning, we also want to support the parents/guardians who will be supporting their students from home.

Time will be dedicated to making sure students and parents understand how Parallel Learning will work and to setting students up for developmentally appropriate independent work.



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So You're Considering Parallel Learning...

In the Spring of 2020 Anser teachers and staff focused on maintaining student relationships and academic engagement during the initial stay at home order. This was **Emergency Remote instruction/learning** which is *significantly* different from the **Parallel Learning** we will be implementing this year.

Parallel Learning is the online learning option that parents can choose at registration in lieu of attending school in person. It will closely align with in-person instruction. In short, the intent is to deliver the in-school experience at home.



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Defining Parallel Learning at Anser

Parallel Learning:

- Provides excellent and equitable learning experiences with the goal of having all students achieving the same academic objectives.
 - Students will still experience Expedition, core content areas, project-based learning experiences, and the EL Education model of students leading their learning/student choice.
 - Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with peers and crew leaders, and will have independent work expectations offline.
 - Provides structures for accountability including attendance, grading, weekly expectations, and assessing student progress.
 - All students (online and in-person) will have access to resources and activities through Google Classroom.
 - All students receive equitable instruction and access to materials (i.e., classroom supplies, literature circle books) regardless of where they are learning.
 - Ensures adequate support for families to partner in student learning.



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Defining Parallel Learning at Anser

Parallel Learning:

- Maintains the spirit of Crew at Anser through scheduled live Crew meetings.
- Accommodates **all families** who choose the parallel learning option.
 - Allows for students to transition easily between in-person and at-home instruction. and will be assessed at each quarter.
 - Families can choose to return to In-Person learning at the quarter break.
 - Accommodates extenuating circumstances.
 - Crew Leaders will provide a weekly overview of assignments and a schedule for learning, which families can then adapt to meet their individual needs.
- Provides multiple levels of support to meet academic, health, and social-emotional needs of students with safety and a sense of belonging as foundational principles for learning.



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Final Note

If you have any questions about In-Person and Parallel Learning at Anser this school year, please join an upcoming [Office Hours](#), Tuesday, August 4th at 6pm. This will be the focus our conversation with our Education Director, Michelle Dunstan and a few of our Crew Leaders at Anser.

Thank you!