

Press Release

Public School System Launches Blended Learning

What does this mean?

The CNMI Public School System is taking the next step toward re-opening the campuses. Starting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, all Public School System elementary, middle, and high schools will transition into blended learning from remote learning.

Blended Learning is the practice of using both **in-person** and online instruction when teaching students. In a blended-learning course, for example, students will attend a class taught by a teacher in a traditional classroom setting, while also independently completing online or paper-based learning packet components of the course outside of the classroom.

In order to maintain appropriate social distancing in every classroom, schools have organized students into cohorts of up to half of the student population. Each cohort will be scheduled to report to school to attend in-person classes twice a week. With this learning mode, attendance of in-person classes is compulsory. Schools will be reaching out to parents to inform them of their child's school schedule.

Since students will be reporting to school, safety is of utmost importance. Therefore, students who report to school must wear a mask on campus at all times. Practicing hand sanitizing and social distancing will be enforced.

Although these are unprecedented times school attendance is still compulsory under CNMI law and all students must attend in-person classes when instructed to do so. 3 CMC § 1131 states "Every person between the ages of five (5) and seventeen (17) shall attend a public school or non-public school or until the completion of the twelfth (12th) grade or upon meeting the high school graduation requirements. Any parent, guardian, or other person having the responsibility for the care of a child, whose attendance at school is obligatory, shall enroll their child in school." Only students with a medical condition that may impair their ability to attend school in person may apply to the Commissioner of Education for a waiver which will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions, please contact your child(ren)'s school.

PSS Assurances:

- Schools will ensure daily sanitizing of classrooms.
- Schools will enforce social distancing indoor and outdoor.
- Temperature checks will be conducted and documented
- Face masks or face shields will be required at all times for students, staff and visitors.
- Classrooms will be retrofitted to meet safety measures.

BLENDDED LEARNING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

On-Campus (In-Person) Class Start & End Time (TWThF): 7:30 a.m.- 1:15 p.m.

Remote Learning (Virtual Live) Class Start & End Time (M): 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Student Weekly Schedule:

- Students attend classes on campus twice a week and work on assignments independently on days they are not scheduled on campus. Students will attend classes virtually on BBU on Mondays in the same way we are currently implementing remote learning.
- A maximum of up to 15 students are allowed in each classroom, depending on classroom size.
- Some schools may conduct back-to-back classes within the week (Tu/Wed and Th/Fri on-campus cohort schedules).
- The schools will notify parents regarding their child/ren's schedule before the beginning of 2nd Semester.
- After-school remedial or wellness programs may be available depending on the school offerings from Tuesday through Friday and/or Saturdays.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturdays
Remote Learning Virtual Live classes for all students Teacher/ Staff Planning/ PD Time & Student Support (virtual/ in-person/ phone conference) as needed or scheduled	COHORT 1 (On- Campus Instruction)	COHORT 2 (On- Campus Instruction)	COHORT 1 (On- Campus Instruction)	COHORT 2 (On- Campus Instruction)	Opportunities for After-school programs
	COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning)	COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning)	COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning)	COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning)	

BLENDDED LEARNING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

On-Campus (In-Person) Class Start & End Time (TWThF):

COVMS, DMS, FMS, TMS: 8:25 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

HMS: 8:20 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

TJSHS (Tinian)- 7:40 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

RHIJSHS (Rota)- 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Remote Learning (Virtual Live) Class Start & End Time (M): 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Student Weekly Schedule:

- Students attend classes on campus twice a week and work on assignments independently on days they are not scheduled on campus. However, HMS has four cohorts and therefore each cohort will attend classes on campus once a week.
- All Students will attend classes virtually on BBU on Mondays.
- A maximum of up to 15 students are allowed in each classroom, depending on classroom size.
- Some schools may conduct back-to-back classes within the week (Tu/Wed and Th/Fri on-campus cohort schedules).
- The schools will notify parents regarding their child/ren's schedule before the beginning of 2nd Semester.
- After-school remedial or wellness programs may be available depending on the school offerings from Tuesday through Friday and/or Saturdays.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote Learning Virtual Live Classes for all students	<p>COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>	<p>COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>	<p>COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>	<p>COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>
Teacher/ Staff Planning/ PD Time & Student Support (virtual/ in-person/ phone conference) as needed or scheduled	<p>HMS ONLY: COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 2 COHORT 3 COHORT 4 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>	<p>HMS ONLY: COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 1 COHORT 3 COHORT 4 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>	<p>HMS ONLY: COHORT 3 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 1 COHORT 2 COHORT 4 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>	<p>HMS ONLY: COHORT 4 (On-campus instruction)</p> <p>COHORT 1 COHORT 2 COHORT 3 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)</p>

BLENDDED LEARNING FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Remote Learning (Virtual Live) Class Start & End Time (Monday):

- KHS, MHS, SSSH, RHIJSHS, TJSHS: 8:30 a.m.-10:55 a.m.
- Da'ok Academy: 8:25 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

On-Campus (In-Person) Class Start & End Time (TWThF):

- KHS, MHS, SSSH: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Da'ok Academy: 8:25 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- TJSHS (Tinian): 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- RHIJSHS (Rota): 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Student Weekly Schedule:

- Students attend classes on campus twice a week and work on assignments independently on days they are not scheduled on campus. All Students will attend classes virtually on BBU on Mondays.
- The schools will notify parents regarding their child(ren)'s schedule before the beginning of 2nd Semester.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote Learning Virtual Live Classes for all students	COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 1 (On-campus instruction)	COHORT 2 (On-campus instruction)
Teacher/ Staff Planning/ PD Time & Student Support (virtual/ in-person/ phone conference) as needed or scheduled	COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 2 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)	COHORT 1 (Off-Campus Independent Learning/ Asynchronous through BBU)
	RHIJSHS ONLY: COHORT 2	RHIJSHS ONLY: COHORT 1	RHIJSHS ONLY: COHORT 2	RHIJSHS ONLY: COHORT 1

Information for All Schools

Office Hour for Student Support:

- Time will be afforded to students and parents through scheduled meetings with the teacher on Mondays after the virtual live classes. Parents and students will need to make arrangements to meet with the teacher for those who are in need of guidance with assignments.
- Students and parents may reach out to the teachers for inquiries throughout the week.
- Meetings may be arranged either virtually, in-person or through phone conferencing.

Student Meals for All Schools:

- Please note that each public school student is eligible for only one meal set per day.
- Breakfast and lunch meals will be served on campus to students scheduled on site.
- Students who are not scheduled on campus may pick up meals from the “Grab-n-Go” sites and must have their school ID for meals served.
- Parents are not allowed to pick up meals at Grab and Go sites on the same days their children are attending in classes.

Bus Schedule:

- Parents must be present at the bus stop for the student pick-up in the event that a student’s temperature is measured at higher than 100°F or 38°C. Students with an elevated temperature must be taken home.
- Students must wear a mask while on the school bus at all times.
- Parents should contact their child’s school to inform them that their child must remain home due to elevated temperatures.

Saipan Schools	
School Level	Before school pick-up
Elementary schools	6:55 a.m.
Middle schools	7: 15 a.m.
High schools	7:30 a.m.

Tinian Schools	
School Level	Before school pick-up
Elementary schools	7:15 a.m.
Middle schools	7:15 a.m.
High schools	7:45 a.m.

Rota Schools	
School Level	Before school pick-up
Elementary schools	6:55am
Middle schools	7:30 am
High schools	7:30 am

Student Attendance:

- Student attendance will be recorded for the in-person and asynchronous (independent learning) days.
- Asynchronous attendance will be recorded based on the submission of completed tasks/assignments assigned on days students are off-campus.
- It is imperative that students use their off-campus days to complete assignments given as it will determine their daily attendance.

PSS ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

Present: A student is “present” or “attending” if they are attending an instructional program approved by the state, district, and/or school.

Absent - Excused: An Excused absence is absence necessitated because of illness or death in the family, or absence with the written approval of parent/guardian when such approval is not inconsistent with the academic needs of the student as determined by the principal (§ 60-20-420(a)).

Absent - Unexcused: Unexcused absences are those which are not excused. They may generally be categorized as being of such a nature that prudence would have avoided or precluded the absence. Suspensions and expulsions are considered unexcused absences (§ 60-20-420(b)).

Tardy - Excused: The term tardy is defined as being late to school, class or an activity with or without permission of parent/guardian. A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives after the designated time of the class or activity, regardless of how late the student is (§ 60-20-420 (f)(1)).

Tardy - Unexcused § 60-20-420 (f) Tardiness

- (1) The term tardy is defined as being late to school, class or an activity with or without permission of parent/guardian. A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives after the designated time of the class or activity, regardless of how late the student is.
- (2) A student who misses more than half of a class or activity shall be considered absent for the entire class or activity.
- (3) For secondary school students, every third unexcused tardy shall be considered one unexcused absence within the term/semester the tardies occurred.
- (4) For elementary school students, every third unexcused tardy of 10 minutes or greater shall be considered one unexcused absence within the term/semester the tardies occurred.