



August 5, 2020

Dear Orenda Public Charter School Families,

Our teachers returned today and are busy getting ready for the school year to begin. Even though this year will look different, we are excited to see, (many virtually), our students in two weeks. Below are several important updates and reminders if you missed them last week.

2020-21 School Start Plan: Our 2020-21 School Start Plan is available [here](#). There were several updates last week based on new health guidance. We will continue to update as more information is available or changes. All changes will be marked in red with an updated date to help easily see the changes.

Below is a summary released last week for all campuses on the 3-Week School Start Transition, August 19 – September 8.

New Horizons School:

New Horizons will have on-campus instruction starting on the first day of school, August 17th.

Kingsland School:

Kingsland School will continue with only virtual instruction from August 19 – September 8th with the option for students with the highest needs to come to campus to participate in virtual instruction. Just a reminder to complete the [3-Week School Start Commitment Survey for Kingsland School](#) by **5 pm August 5th**.

Nolan Creek School: Nolan Creek School will continue with only virtual instruction from August 19 – September 8th with the option for students with the highest needs to come to campus to participate in virtual instruction. Just a reminder to complete the [3-Week School Start Commitment Survey for Kingsland School](#) by **5 pm August 5th**.

Gateway College Preparatory and Gateway Tech High Schools:

All instruction from August 19 – September 8 will be virtual with no on-campus option during this 3-Week period.

Athletics: We are continuing to follow UIL requirements for 4A schools. Summer strength, conditioning, and tryouts are moving forward as planned. Plans and expectations for each sport during the first three weeks of school will be forthcoming in communication from coaches.

On-Campus and Remote Learning: Different from Spring 2020, remote learning for K-8 at Nolan Creek, Kingsland, and New Horizons, and K-12 at Gateway College Prep will follow a daily schedule with both synchronous (live) and asynchronous



(independent) instruction. All students, on-campus and remote learners, at Gateway Prep, Nolan Creek, and Kingsland Schools will use Blackboard Learn as the platform for all learning materials.

100% asynchronous instruction, which is only available for grades 9-12 at Kingsland School, Gateway Tech High School, and New Horizons, will have scheduled teacher support to help students as they work independently on curriculum through Edgenuity for 4 hours each day on specific subjects.

Through both models, students need to participate in at least 4 hours of virtual instruction each day, Monday – Friday, to be counted present. Below are specific schedules for each campus.

K-3 On-Campus Schedule – All Campuses: The school start and end times will remain the same as last year. Teacher and grade-level schedules will look similar to last year. Students will go to PE and participate in outside, weather permitting, structured activities following the TEKS. Art and music teachers will go to the classroom for these specials.

K-3 Remote Schedule – All Campuses: There will be two 1-hour synchronous learning sessions per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. These will be scheduled at specific times and will be included in the campus grade-level schedules. Students will be expected to participate in synchronous (live instruction) for 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon along with 2 hours of asynchronous instruction (independent learning) for a total of 4 hours of instruction each day. Specials (PE, art, and music) are required for students and will be asynchronous only. These teachers will be recording one instructional video per week which will be posted in Blackboard.

Grades 4-12 On-Campus Schedule – Gateway Prep, Nolan Creek, and Kingsland Schools (except grades 9-10): The school start and end times will remain the same as last year. Teacher and grade-level schedules will look similar to last year except Gateway College Prep grades 5-12 on Mondays will either be an A or B day (no C days) to reduce the number of passing times for students between classes. See the information below related to student schedules. Students with multiple teachers will be changing classes with mask wearing and social distancing in place.

Grades 4-12 Remote Schedule – Gateway Prep, Nolan Creek, and Kingsland Schools (except grades 9-10): The school start and end times will remain the same as last year. Teacher and grade-level schedules will look similar to last year except Gateway College Prep grades 5-12 on Mondays will either be an A or B day (no C days). Each class period, except PE and athletics, will include both synchronous and asynchronous learning, with at-least 50% of the class period being synchronous. Students will be expected to log into Zoom at the beginning of the class period to participate in synchronous instruction. PE and athletics will be



only asynchronous learning, no synchronous sessions. At least one pre-recorded teacher instructional video will be posted in Blackboard each week.

Grades 9-12 On-Campus Schedule – Gateway Tech, Kingsland, and New

Horizons: The school start and end times will remain the same as last year. Teacher and grade-level schedules will look similar to last year with students working on specific subjects on each day and scheduled times. Teacher support will be available for students.

Grades 9-12 Remote Schedule – Gateway Tech, Kingsland, and New

Horizons: Students will need to work for at least 4 hours each day, Monday – Friday, and complete at least 2 quizzes or tests each day between the hours of 12 am and 11:59 pm. Students still need to complete at least 4 activities (quizzes or tests) per class each week. The classes that students need to work on each day is specific by campus. Teacher support will be available for students at scheduled times each day.

Campus Grade-Level Schedules: Campus grade-level schedules will be sent by the campus principals on Friday, August 7th.

Student-Specific Schedules and Teacher Assignments: Student-specific schedules (grades 5-12) and teacher assignments (grades K-4) will be available in the ***Frontline (formally TEAMS) Parent Portal*** on the ***Schedule*** tab (see link and instructions below) starting on Wednesday, August 12th at 12:00 pm.

Student Devices: Device check-out will be August 17-18 at each campus. More specific information on the process and available times will be communicated by the campuses.

Annual Registration: Our annual registration for all students (new and returning) is now entirely online this year. No paper forms! You will update your information online and complete several online forms through the ***Registration*** tab in the ***Frontline SIS (formally TEAMS) Parent Portal***. To do this, please go to <https://orenda.tx01.teams360.net/selfserve/EntryPointHomeAction.do?parent=true>. You can also access this link directly on the campus website by going to the ***Parents*** tab and clicking on ***Parent Portal Logins***. You need to use Google Chrome as the internet browser to be able to successfully update your information and complete all the forms. Returning users will use their existing TEAMS username and password that they created when they first registered. If you need assistance, please contact the campus front office.

Face Coverings for ALL Students: Following both the CDC and local health department recommendations, we are requiring face coverings (cloth masks or face shields) for ALL students (not just 4th grade and above) along with all staff and visitors while indoors except under the specific exceptions listed in our 2020-21 School Start Plan. This protects our staff and students while reducing the number of individuals to quarantine if we do have a positive case. There will be maskbreaks



throughout the day. We recommend students practice wearing their masks before coming to school. All students will need to bring their own mask to school each day.

Instruction Commitment September 9 – End of the Grading Period:

Instruction Commitment Forms for September 9th through the end of the grading period are available below for each campus. A separate form needs to be completed for each student. Those will be due no later than **5 pm on Wednesday, August 19th**.

- [Kingsland School 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)
- [Nolan Creek School 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)
- [Gateway Tech 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)
- [Gateway Prep 1st Nine Weeks Commitment Form](#)

Meet-the-Teacher and Parent Information Sessions: Live, virtual Meet-the-Teacher sessions for K-5 will be scheduled for August 13- 18. Teachers in grades 6-12 will be pre-recording introduction videos that will be posted on the campus website. We are also working on setting up some live and pre-recorded parent information sessions on topics such as Blackboard Learn, Frontline SIS (formally TEAMS), and how to facilitate remote learning at-home.

Questions: You can continue to email covid19.info@orendaeducation.org with questions for us to consider in our school start planning. Due to the number of questions submitted, you may not receive an individual response to your email, but we are reviewing all questions as part of our school start planning and are also working on including answers to those questions in our district and campus communications. If your question requires an immediate answer, please email your campus administrator or athletic director.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to plan for the 2020-21 school start. Stay safe and take care!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla Silber'.

Carla Silber
Superintendent/COO
Orenda Public Charter School District