1. **How will the learning modules be implemented?**

   The first day of school is August 20, 2020, or August 21, 2020, depending upon the student's designated schedule. Students in grades PK-3, SPED, and ELLs will have face-to-face instruction four days per week with remote learning on each Wednesday to allow for deep cleaning and remote learning support. Students in grades 4-12 will follow an AB schedule with face-to-face instruction on Monday and Thursday and remote learning on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday or face-to-face instruction Tuesday and Friday and remote learning on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

   Teacher and parent support will be essential for both face-to-face and remote instruction. The availability of the learning modules will allow for immediate access should the school division transition between the Governor's phases for reopening schools in Virginia during the school year to ensure equity for students with and without internet access. Also, depending upon how school schedules will be created, direct instruction during face-to-face classes will help provide students and parents support and guidance to effectively utilize the learning modules and/or paper packets during remote learning that will be supplemented by extended teacher facilitated lessons via a platform such as Google Meet and / or phone calls. Thus, this is the rationale for requiring the learning modules to follow the Curriculum Pacing Guides.

   A full description of the remote learning modules, along with a sample module, may be found here.

2. **Will only the students that are working from home be using the learning modules or all students?**

   All students will use the learning modules. Students who attend face-to-face instruction will use the learning modules on the days they are not physically present in the classroom for continuity of learning. Students who participate in remote learning 5 days per week will use the learning modules each day. The learning modules follow the Curriculum Pacing Guides to ensure continuity of learning for all students.

3. **Is school-based remote learning led by a teacher? What is the teacher's role in guiding the student through the learning modules?**

   All PCS students will be assigned a teacher at their base school. During face-to-face instruction, teachers will provide students with support and guidance to effectively utilize the learning modules and/or paper packets on remote learning days. For students working remotely 5 days per week, teachers will be available to provide remote learning support on Wednesdays, when no students are physically present in class, and at other times as schedules permit. Support may also be provided through meetings and teacher facilitated lessons via a platform such as Google Meet and / or phone calls.

4. **Will the learning modules adequately cover all of the course material?**

   The learning modules were created through collaboration between schools, including administrators and teachers, based on guidance from the Virginia Department of Education.   Each learning module correlates with the PCS Pacing Guides and VDOE Curriculum Frameworks and includes learning experiences to help students obtain mastery of the Standards of Learning (SOL) and Industry Certification Competencies.

5. **How much time should students devote to remote learning each day when not in school for face-to-face instruction?**

    A typical school day allows for 5 ½ to 6 hours of instructional time. *The VDOE Virginia Learns Anywhere guidance document, in addition to input from Pittsylvania County teachers and parents with consideration given to working parents juggling both work and school support for their children, provides the following suggested minimum learning times for remote learning (the 1 remote learning day for Grades PK-3, the 3 days for remote learning for Grades 4-12 when students will not receive face-to-face instruction at school, and the 5 days for students participating in 100% remote learning).* **Pittsylvania County Schools will use this guidance for suggested minimum daily learning time at the various grade spans.**

    - *Suggested Minimum Daily Learning Time for Grades PK - 2 is 60 minutes per day.*

    - *Suggested Minimum Learning Time for Grades 3- 5 is 90 minutes per day.*

    - *Suggested Minimum Learning Time for Grades 6 - 8 is 30 – 45 minutes - per teacher which would equate to 2 - 3 hours per day (schedules vary due to block schedules in some middle schools).*

    - *Suggested Minimum Learning Time for Grades 9 - 12 is 30 - 60 minutes per teacher for grades 9 - 12 which would equate to 2 - 4 hours per day. Dual enrollment and advanced courses may require 60 – 90 minutes per teacher which could equate to 4 – 6 hours per day.*

6. **How will online meetings work when students have different teachers for each subject?**

    School-specific schedules are coordinated at each school to ensure that online lessons and meetings do not overlap. More information will be available at the start of the school year.

7. **Will remote learning lessons be live-streamed or pre-recorded with set deadlines?**

    Some lessons may be live-streamed or pre-recorded. All assignments will have a set due date.

8. **How/when will students complete/submit work?**

    All assignments will have a due date. Students receiving face-to-face instruction will turn in assignments based on the direction of the teacher, either on face-to-face instructional days, school's drop box, or via Google Classroom on remote learning days. Students who are participating in 5 days of remote learning and completing paper packets, must turn them in to the school on or before the due date. Students who are participating in 5 days of remote learning using Google Classroom must upload assignments to Google Classroom on or before the due date.

9. **If students begin the year with remote learning, will they be permitted to attend in person at a later date?**

    While principals will make every effort to accommodate students and families, once socially-distanced classrooms have been established, schools may not be able to guarantee space for additional in-person instruction.

10. **What can students expect from face-to-face instruction, and how will schedules be structured?**

   According to the VDOE Standards of Accreditation, students will receive instruction in all four core subjects (reading, math, science, and social studies) and resource or exploratory courses such as PE, music, art, CTE, etc. ***Individual school resources (people, fiscal, material, and time) will determine the overall schedule for the instructional school day. Learning will, however, be continuous for all students.***

   Face-to-face instruction will include introduction of new skills and spiral review, or spiraled practice, to provide students repeated opportunities to practice skills previously taught to help them keep their skills fresh and build automaticity. Research supports the use of spiral review. Spiral review will help students retain all the information they have learned from week to week and month to month. They will learn to make connections and store information for later use.

   *Students are taught strategies for reading and writing primarily in their language arts classrooms. There, teachers focus on teaching specific skills to build strong readers and writers. But reading and writing aren't just applied in language arts classrooms. Students will be able to use these skills in **content area classes**, such as science, social studies, foreign language, fine arts, PE, CTE, etc. Students will receive opportunities to comprehend, or understand, what they read, and be able to write about it in a number of ways, and communicate or talk about the content taught. Students will be exposed to authentic and relevant learning experiences with an emphasis on the Profile of a Graduate 5 C's: critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship.*

11. **In our school we have a weekly folder that goes home every Thursday. Will we be able to continue to do the weekly folder?**

   Yes; teachers will still be able to provide students with a weekly folder.

12. **How will instruction be provided to students who require specialized instruction such as SPED, ELLs, and Gifted?**

   Cluster grouping is an excellent strategy, and schools will make the effort, but there may be circumstances where it isn't possible and alternative plans will be required to provide students access to required instruction.

13. **How will electives be taught when many of these classes are hands-on?**

   Learning modules have been developed for all classes including electives and will provide opportunities for students to complete hands-on activities during remote learning.

14. *For classroom instruction, will students be able to participate in using the Smartboard (touching the board/markers)?*

   Yes; the IT Department has provided cleaning instructions.

15. *Will students be allowed to share manipulatives and library books?*

   CDC guidelines will be adhered to for safe cleaning and usage of all materials.

16. **Parents are asked to monitor the remote learning of their children. Will parents be solely responsible for teaching the content in these learning modules?**

Blended learning will allow students to receive support from teachers during face-to-face instruction to assist with the learning modules that will be utilized during remote learning at home. For students participating in 5 days of remote learning, teachers will be available to provide remote learning assistance on Wednesdays, when no students are physically present in class, and at other times as schedules permit. ERIP teachers may be available to provide assistance Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Teachers may provide additional support with meetings or lessons via a platform such as Google Meet, emails, and/or phone calls.

17. *How will the school division support parents with online learning to assist their children with remote learning?*

Teachers will model for students how the Google Classrooms should be accessed and used, and will provide guidelines to assist parents with utilization of the learning modules. All learning modules include a content overview with five-day instructional activities and supporting resources. Staff will provide paper copies for students without devices and Internet access. All teachers will follow the learning modules in their classrooms to keep all students on the same pacing which aligns with the school division's Curriculum Pacing Guides.

18. **Will there be an attendance policy put in place to help keep the students on track?**

School Board Policy determines overall attendance expectations. Parents and students will receive written expectations for remote learning and attendance prior to the start of school.

19. *Will grades be assigned?*

Yes; grades will be assigned for all classes.

20. **Will there be an Open House?**

Yes; Open House will be conducted virtually Thursday, August 13, 2020. Schools will notify parents via School Messenger regarding specific details.