



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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FAQs

Virtual Learning Center

Forms & registration

Q If we applied online do we need to submit a hard copy of the application as well?

A Yes, families must turn in all required paperwork, including a hard copy enrollment form, birth certificate, physical and immunization forms, and signed parent handbook. All forms are due Friday September 4 by 8pm and can be found on our website:

Brooks - PiedmontYMCA.org/virtual-learning-center

Walker - PiedmontYMCA.org/walker-virtual-learning-center

Return the completed forms either in person at the Brooks YMCA OR by scanning and emailing the forms to us at youthandfamily@piedmontymca.org.

Q Do the health forms and physical need to be submitted before Tuesday?

A Yes if possible. There is a grace period allowed by the state for the health forms so we can work with you if there is a brief delay. This is a licensing requirement to have these on file.

Q We are in the City but signed up for Brooks. Can we stay at Brooks or do we have to switch?

A We are strongly encouraging all City students to please use the Walker location to open more slots for other children. This is not required, however, the Brooks location is filled and currently has a wait list.

Q Will you accept new students over time after the 8th? Some families are waiting to get physicals and immunizations.

A Until you sign-up online, your child is not guaranteed a spot in the program. Health forms may be completed after online registration. We will accept new students as space permits.

Q Can forms be submitted by fax?

A Yes, the fax number is 434.270.7565 or email youthandfamily@piedmontymca.org.

- Q Is possible to withdraw from the virtual learning center after the program starts?**
A In order to maintain consistent “pods,” we are asking people to commit to the first 9-weeks. If you must withdraw from the program, we request a 2-week written notice.

Food & drink

- Q Does Brooks have lunch too or just Walker? Does Walker have both breakfast and lunch?**
A School nutrition services is currently only available at Walker. Nutrition staff will be serving breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Meals are free for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch and can be purchased by families for a fee. More details will be available soon.
- At Brooks, students should bring their lunch, as well as two (2) snacks and water bottle.
- Q Can we still pack a lunch for the Walker location?**
A Yes
- Q Are there any food restrictions?**
A Please do NOT bring peanut butter, peanuts, or other peanut products. They are not allowed due to food allergies. Thank you for understanding.
- Q Could we have ACPS provide lunch to the Brooks location?**
A We are currently talking with ACPS about this being a possibility, and we will provide an update as soon as possible.

Computers & school supplies

- Q Does Brooks supply the computers for children to work on for schoolwork?**
A No. The school districts we have spoken with will be providing computers or Chromebooks to all children. Children will need to bring this device each day along with headphones.
- Q Will the workstations have access to power for laptops?**
A Walker Elementary will have power stations so children can leave their device there to charge each night. We are currently working on trying to secure these for the Brooks location. Your child is also welcome to take their device home each night, but we ask you to make sure it comes back fully charged.
- Q Will the YMCA provide supplies (paper etc.) for the non-virtual activities?**
A Yes.
- Q Is there a specific supplies list (markers, construction paper, etc.) that kids should be bringing or just the learning kits (worksheets, etc.) from school?**
A Please bring any materials specifically given to your child by the school. If you wish to bring specific school supplies for your child, you may. The YMCA also has the following donated supplies available for children in need:

Crayons (24 count), colored pencils, decks of cards, dry erase boards with markers, glue bottles, glue sticks, headphones, markers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, rulers (with cm. & in.), scissors, tissues, wide-ruled paper.

Q Do you need donations of arts/crafts supplies, etc.?

A We welcome donations, especially of the supplies listed above. Your gifts will be put to good use!

Classroom & facilities

Q How many teachers/teaching assistants are there per 10-12 children?

A There will be one teacher in each classroom of 10-12 children.

Q How about Internet speed, if so many kids are doing online class at same time?

A We had Ting upgrade the internet at Brooks in preparation for this program, and Walker has enough bandwidth for all children. We have had IT consultants test each site.

Q If the child goes back and forth between households do you need a notice if they are not attending some days?

A Yes, please just let your classroom staff member know what to expect in terms of your child's schedule.

Q The schools are using apps to communicate with teachers – would you like us to provide the teacher's phone number and/or email.

A The more information you can share with us the better! Our goal is to be the conduit between teachers and families. If you can add us to class distribution lists and communication apps, that would be great. We are also investigating Class DoJo in order to communicate between teachers and families during the day.

Q At Brooks, will the kids come in contact with any of the gym-goers? Is there a separate entrance for the kids?

A There is a separate entrance for this program from the one gym-goers use. Students will be isolated in our youth development wing with separate bathrooms. We also have a coordinated no-contact drop-off process similar to summer camp.

Schedule & activities

Q Is there a form for the weekly schedule or do we just send it via email to Bonita, or include in the forms that we drop off at the Y?

A Please email your child's schedule to Bonita at youthandfamily@piedmontymca.org.

Q How will you accommodate children who have different schedules or lunchtimes? If my child has zoom classes from 12:30-4, will she miss all of the fun recreation activities? Would she be able to do those things in the morning when she is free?

A After we have all the children's schedules submitted, we will be able coordinate activities and plan the day. We will provide an update to families.

Q Will recess be outdoor play weather permitting?

A Yes.

Q Are we allowed to drop off later/pick up earlier than the specified times?

A Yes, if you arrive or pick up outside of the designated drop off/pick up times, you will have to walk your child into the school instead of dropping off at the curb and communicate with staff to let them know.

Q If we want to give breakfast at home, can we come at 9 or will this be disruptive?

A Please ensure that your child arrives 20-30 minutes before the start of his or her first class, so they can get into the classroom, settled and logged in before starting class online.

Q What happens on Fridays? I believe that with ACPS, at least with the elementary grades, there are no classes on Friday.

A We are still learning what full-day asynchronous learning will look like on Fridays. Our primary goal is to complete all weekly assignments. As time permits, we will have PE class and fun activities with our Sports Director at Walker Elementary and the children at Brooks will be swimming.

Q Can you please set up swimming up at Walker?

A We will work on setting this up if possible.

Q If a child isn't engaging in the online learning, can they do an alternate activity (playing, coloring, etc.)

A Yes.

Q Do we need to send our kids logins? My children have to be online with their teachers at certain times according to the schedules I was given today.

A Yes, please send all logins and anything else that will make it easier for Y staff to support your child.

Q Can we get the Y teacher's phone number or email?

A Each Y teacher will be in touch with all of the families of children in their classroom to coordinate.

Q Can you give us more info on the role of the teaching assistants during the day in supporting our children's schoolwork?

Will kids get help troubleshooting the online teaching and the assignments they are asked to do?

How will virtual learning be supported? Will they have help logging on/off and completing activities? Especially for the K and 1st grade.

A Y staff will be in a support role, to help children log on and off and answer questions when possible. Since this type of learning is new to everyone involved, Y staff expect to learn and

adjust as we go. Our goal is to support your child as much as possible and help them have a good experience with online learning.

Q Is there a plan for children with an IEP?

A We are talking with the school districts about what supports are available. Please communicate with us and we will do our best to support your child in getting their needs met.

Q Will virtual learning teachers help the kids to finish homework if their school teacher assigns it?

A During asynchronous learning, our goal is to help children complete and upload all assignments. Our plan is to have all schoolwork completed when parents pick up.

Payments

Q Will the \$50 registration fee be drafted or do we need to pay it at YMCA?

A The \$50 registration fee will be drafted this week.

Q Are first payments due this week?

A Yes, payments will be drafted automatically each week. The first payment will be drafted on Friday, September 4.

Q When will you receive your license from the state to enable DSS payments?

A While the new license is pending, we have been assured that DSS payments will be processed timely.