



## **Pike Learning Pods: Full-day Child Care & Remote Learning Support Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What is a learning pod?***

A learning pod is a multi-age group of students that cohort together during the school day and participate in remote or virtual learning from their school. Children in a pod remain together in an area of the school when their school is not available for in person learning. Students in the learning pod are located in a designated area of a school with the staff supporting the pod. No other people may enter the pod. Students in the pod will spend the majority of their time in a structured space to work on remote learning.

### ***Where will learning pods be located?***

Learning pods will be located inside Pike schools. Specific locations will be based on available space and the number of children enrolled. Your child's learning pod may not be at his/her home school.

### ***When will learning pods begin?***

Learning pods will begin on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Child care is available for children of Pike staff only on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Who is eligible to attend a learning pod?***

K-6<sup>th</sup> grade Pike students (ages 5-12) and K-6<sup>th</sup> grade children of Pike staff are eligible to participate. Child care is also available for 3- & 4-year old children at Nathaniel Jones Early Learning Center.

### ***What are the learning pod hours?***

Monday – Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



***What is the cost?***

\$100 per week for the first child (\$95 per week for siblings) \$90 per week for students who qualify for free or reduced lunches (\$85 per week for siblings)

Payment is due each Friday for the upcoming week, and the first week's tuition is due upon enrollment. Payment can be made via the Pike website ([www.pike.k12.in.us](http://www.pike.k12.in.us) – scroll to the bottom of the home page & select “pay school fees”), or in person via check or money order when dropping off or picking up your child. Cash payments are not accepted.

Fees will be waived should a student need to stay home for illness or quarantine, and prorated as needed to accommodate students who may be on a hybrid schedule.

***Will meals be provided?***

Breakfast and a “supper” snack will be provided at no additional charge. Lunch can be brought from home, or a sack lunch purchased through the students' lunch account (online payment only at this time). Students will eat meals in their assigned learning pods.

***What activities will occur in learning pods?***

Learning pods are designed for Pike students or students of Pike employees who are participating in remote learning and are able to work in a structured environment through Canvas (or a learning management program from a school outside of Pike). Lessons are not developed or provided by the staff member in charge of the pod. Staff will support students in managing their remote learning schedules. Students will have frequent breaks, recess, and a variety of opportunities during free time. Learning pod students also have designated restrooms in the school for students K-6 who can toilet independently.

***Are face coverings required?***

Students and staff are required to wear face coverings, with breaks available for students throughout the day. Students should arrive at the school wearing a clean face covering. Each child will also need to bring **an empty sealable plastic bag with their name on it to store their primary face covering during mask breaks**, and **one additional clean mask/face covering in a sealable plastic bag with their name on it**, for use in the event their primary face covering becomes dirty or unusable. Cloth face coverings may be of any color and made of school appropriate fabric. Disposable face covering, gators, and face shields are acceptable.



Face coverings are not required when outdoors (when social distancing) or during physical activity.

***What additional practices are in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19?***

The [Indiana Department of Health School Screening Checklist](#) will be used for COVID-19 screening. It is the responsibility of the staff, parents/guardians, and age appropriate students to complete a daily self-screen and monitor for symptoms.

A system for student drop off and pickup will be developed at each site to allow for social distancing. Parents may not enter the learning pods.

Frequent opportunities for handwashing will be built into each day and hand sanitizer will be readily available.

Areas, surfaces & supplies will be frequently cleaned & sanitized

Desks in classrooms will be spaced following the guidelines of the American Academy of pediatrics, and barriers will be used when appropriate.

Water fountains will be closed except to fill a container. **Students and staff are encouraged to bring a daily water bottle**, preferably ambient temperature or in an insulated container to avoid moisture on desks.

Each school will have a designated location for students with symptoms of COVID-19 to wait to go home so as to reduce contact with others. The area will be disinfected prior to using again.

All staff and students shall be 72 hours fever free and not subject to a quarantine in order to return to school.

Quarantining or closures may be necessary due to exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals following the [Indiana Department of Health Guidance for Returning to School](#) and/or by the MCPHD.

***How can I enroll my child in a learning pod?***

Please enroll your child online via this link: <https://bit.ly/2Z7HWKv>. When you arrive at the section that asks how your child will attend, please select “other” and specify “full day learning pod.” You will also need to pay your child’s first week of tuition at the time of enrollment. Payment can be made via the Pike website ([www.pike.k12.in.us](http://www.pike.k12.in.us) – scroll to the bottom of the home page & select “pay school fees”), or you may call the



Loving Care office at 317-388-7836 to make arrangements to pay in-person via check, money order, or debit/credit card. We do not accept cash payments.

***Can my child attend a learning pod with their sibling, or with other family members?***

Students within the same family will be placed together in the same learning pod. Requests are accepted but not guaranteed for families to join the same learning pod with other children they may already interact with regularly.

***Please direct additional questions to Naidne Gustin-Bilinski at [ngbilins@pike.k12.in.us](mailto:ngbilins@pike.k12.in.us), or call the Loving Care office at 317-388-7836.***