



July 16, 2020

Dear Marion County Family,

Our new school year is just weeks away and many of you are concerned as we are given the issue of the COVID-19 pandemic. We must be very cautious when it comes to our schools and children. This is why we are committed to reopening our schools in a responsible way this August.

Part of this responsibility lies with you as parents and families. Only you know the circumstances at home that concern you and your children. You as parents and family leaders will decide what is best for your family. Per the governor's order along with guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education, we will responsibly open our schools on August 6, 2020 for a new and exciting year. Responsibly means with much care, consideration, and preparation. The biggest part of this reopening comes from you. You told us that you wanted choices for your children when it comes to school. We listened to you and now you have the power of choice when it comes to what is best for you and your family.

You will have two choices. The first choice is traditional MCSD face-to-face learning at each school campus. This plan comes with rigorous health and safety protocols implemented that must be followed to ensure our boys and girls are safe. The second choice is MCSD online learning. Students will have the opportunity to learn from home by joining us through our MCSD Learning Management System. I realize this may not be an easy decision to make, but I am very confident that we will go the distance together to ensure that our children will receive a quality education.

Our school district theme this year is built around our book, SPARK. In the book, we learned that a spark is someone who doesn't just accept what is given to them. Sparks realize that they can do things differently to create the change they'd like to see. Sparks understand that they have both the ability to influence and inspire, and they look to influence and inspire those around them. Sparks create their own opportunities and are identified by their actions, commitment, and will. Sparks choose to lead.

Our district focus for this school year is Igniting Inspiration, and our district focus word is SPARK. We will also share many children's literature books connected to Spark. You will see and hear about the central themes of character, credibility, accountability, intent, service, confidence and consistency which are exactly what every student, teacher, parent and administrator needs to become a spark to ignite inspiration.

Be A Spark! Golda Meir said, "Trust yourself! Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all of your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement."

I will be praying for each of you as you IGNITE your own inspiration in determining which SPARK of learning is best for your child. Please follow this link to read our entire plan. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SKFjPet2cPiNIR5KBFTfnTS5n-knd4k2/view?usp=sharing> Additional details about each choice will be on the form that you will complete on line beginning Monday, July 20, 2020. God bless all of you! WE ARE MARION COUNTY! WE INSPIRE INSPIRATION!

Sincerely,



Wendy Bracey  
Superintendent of Education  
Marion County School District