



# Return to School Plan

FOR FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE TRADITIONAL FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING



## SCHEDULE FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

For families who choose to send their students to face-to-face school, below is the schedule for grade levels to return to school buildings. Remember, families can choose to continue with remote learning at home.

- Monday, September 28 - Self-Contained Special Education Students
- Monday, October 5 - Grades Pre-K, K, 1, 6 and 9
- Monday, October 12 - Grades 2, 3, 4, 7 and 11
- Monday, October 19 - Grades 5, 8, 10 and 12

Families with students in multiple grades may choose to send all students back on the date the last student is scheduled to return. For example, in a family with students in grades 7, 9 and 12, all students may return on the 12th grade date. Please notify your school of your plan.



## MEAL SERVICE AT SCHOOL

Students who return to school will be served breakfast and lunch at school. Remote students will have the option to pick up a week's worth of breakfasts and lunches at their school on Mondays starting September 28 (from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at most schools).



## UNIFORMS, MASKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- MCPSS is simplifying uniform requirements to assist parents. Students will wear their school's required uniform pants/bottoms/skirts (no jeans), uniform shirt, and a belt, as appropriate. Requirements for shoes, socks, and outerwear will be relaxed as long as items are safe and suitable for school. If you need assistance with uniforms, please contact your school or MCPSS Social Services at 251-221-4245.
- Students in grades 2 and up will be required to wear face coverings or masks. Younger students are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Masks cannot contain inappropriate images or words or any political messages.
- Check your school's website or Facebook page for school supply information. We understand that many families are experiencing financial hardship. If you are not able to purchase school supplies, please contact MCPSS Social Services. All students will need to bring a charged device to school each day. If you cannot bring the device you are currently using, please let your teacher know, and your child will be provided with a device to use at school.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### When will I need to decide whether my student(s) will return to school?

Teachers will be contacting families this week to get this information. Please let them know your decision as soon as possible. The deadline to do so is October 2.

### Will learning at school look different?

Students will use Schoology and traditional methods to complete assignments, as determined by the principal and teacher(s). Teachers will provide instruction and assistance directly to students in the classroom.

### Will school start/end times be the same as 2019-20?

Yes. All schools are encouraged to have the same start/end times as 2019-20. Though unlikely, any changes at the school level will be communicated to parents/guardians.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, CONTINUED**

### **What safety measures are being utilized at schools?**

Schools are following CDC guidelines for sanitizing all areas of buildings with a cleaner that has been certified to fight COVID-19. Hand sanitizing stations will be used, and bathrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels. Water fountains have been turned off; students will need to bring water bottles to school.

As much as possible, elementary students will remain in one classroom during the day (except for PE and recess), including during meal times. Middle and high school students will change classes, but with protocols to reduce the number of students in the hallways at the same time. Teachers will space seating as far apart as possible.

MCPSS has hired additional nurses and has trained its nurses in identifying COVID-19 symptoms, in isolating patients with symptoms, and in contact tracing so we can identify students or employees who have potentially been exposed.

### **Will schools conduct temperature checks on students?**

No, unless an individual student shows symptoms of illness, in which case he/she will immediately go to first aid. Parents are asked to check temperatures and to carefully screen their students for illness each day before sending them to school. If your child comes into contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or is exhibiting symptoms, please contact your physician and keep your child home from school.

### **What is the procedure if a student or employee at my child's school tests positive for COVID-19?**

If your child has close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with an individual who is quarantined or tests positive for COVID-19, you will be

notified and given safety procedures to follow. The health and safety of our students and employees is our top priority.

### **Will buses be running as usual?**

Yes. However, if you are able to transport your child(ren) to school, please consider doing so to limit contact with other students. Bus routes will be posted to [www.mcpsps.com](http://www.mcpsps.com).

### **Will schools offer before and after school care and/or extended day enrichment activities?**

Individual schools are allowed to offer these programs by submitting a safety plan to the Superintendent for approval. Check with your school to find out if they received permission to offer these programs.

### **Can we change our mind about returning to school or participating in remote learning?**

Unless a child must quarantine, necessitating the use of remote learning, all students will be allowed to change their decision once.

### **Will remote learning be offered throughout the 2020-21 school year?**

The Superintendent will decide after first quarter whether to continue offering remote learning.

### **Can students attend some classes on campus, and some remotely?**

No, students must choose between returning to school and remote learning.

### **What if I have additional questions or concerns?**

Please contact your child's principal or teacher. Each family's situation is unique, and we want to do our best to serve each student in our school system. Thank you for having patience and demonstrating flexibility as we navigate this uncharted territory. Our students, employees and parents/guardians are resilient and capable, and everyone has done a very admirable job utilizing remote learning.

