



MARION COUNTY

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Marion County School District

We are Marion County! We Inspire Excellence

MISSION: It is the mission of the Marion County School District to provide students with educational opportunities that will ensure success by creating a community of empowered, lifelong learners.

MOTTO: Inspiring Excellence

GOALS

1. All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas
2. Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career
3. Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program
4. Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders
5. Our Community effectively using a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes
6. Maintain a safe, orderly culture that creates a positive experience for k-12 education.
7. Operate an effective, efficient, and sound fund balance to ensure resources are distributed equitably, facilities are upgraded and updated, and a state-of-the-art technology infrastructure is maintained.

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Return-to-Learn Plan

QUALITY INSTRUCTION – Whether traditional or distance learning, quality instruction is vital to the success of Marion County School District students. Both face-to-face and online instruction will be tailored to meet the same content standards and provide quality learning opportunities for MCSD students.

MCSD Schools will open for traditional (in-class) learning in August. Teachers will return to school August 2, 2021. Students will begin returning to school on August 5, 2021 and in-class instruction will be offered in schools. Schedules, classroom spaces, and day-to-day operations will be adjusted to allow for social distancing and smaller groupings.

During this pandemic, we have all learned this is a fluid situation, and plans may have to change at a moment's notice. In the meantime, MCSD is planning to implement an incredible school year for 2021-2022 that is safe, engaging, and unlike any ever seen. MCSD serves an amazing community. Together with parents and the community, we will continue to inspire excellence. We will ensure that students continue successfully in their educational journey. As a part of that, we will continue to effectively communicate with our parents and community through various methods of media. (i.e. Phone calls, District Website, Social Media, Learning Management System)

Marion County School District Key Issues to Address



Marion County Schools has developed a comprehensive Return-To-Learn Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. This plan contains guidelines for parents and school officials, and it is built within the framework of considerations issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). In preparing this document, the district leadership team received input from the community, parents, teachers, administrators, staff members, and medical professionals.

Six Key areas were written in the MDE document to address:

1. Academic Programming
2. Operations
3. Family and Community Support
4. Communications
5. Health and Safety
6. Technology Learning Management Systems

This plan is the overall district plan. Each school has specific plans to address each key area for reopening. Social distancing will continue to be a focus with the traditional school model in the 2021-2022 school year. School districts have a limited number of buses, limited square footage in classrooms, and many other efficiency-related obstacles. Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible, and strategies will be implemented by school officials based on the feasibility of the unique space at each school and in each classroom.

Marion County School District Attendance/Academics



Marion County School District will follow the school calendar for 2021-2022 as adopted by the MCSD board of trustees on February 8, 2021. Every child will be expected to attend school every day. No waiver on instructional minutes will be given this year. Therefore, all schools will meet a full day (no less than 330 instructional minutes). Wednesday Schedule will return to dismissal at 2:15 p.m.

Marion County School District will open school with the traditional school model.

Attendance Policy: Traditional Schedule

- Current attendance policies will be in place.
- Any student who has to be isolated at home will be given an opportunity to participate through distance learning during the isolation period.

While face-to-face interaction is a more effective means of instruction, students with severe medical exceptions may opt out and enroll in the districts distance learning program if eligibility criteria is met. This district form to choose the distance medical opt out will be available upon request during the registration timer period.

- Must be enrolled in the Marion County School District.
- Must commit to an entire nine weeks in the program.
- Must have internet availability and use Google Classroom. (Devices are available for checkout). Packets will not be issued for full-time distance learning. All work will be completed in Google Classroom.

Attendance Policy: Distance Learning

- Students participating in distance learning will have an established instructional schedule.
- Procedures will be in place to track attendance and check distance learning.
- Requirements for distance learning will be included in the medical opt out distance learning application form.

Those who participate in school extracurricular activities and some elective courses (CTC) do not have an option for online (distant) learning unless quarantined or tested positive. They must be a traditional student.

Marion County School District Classrooms



- Classrooms will be arranged to achieve the greatest level of social distancing best practices, cleaning best practices, and hygiene best practices. Since each class is its own unique space, there will not be a common configuration. We will configure each class based on the size, function, and grade level. The CDC guidelines are guiding principles, not requirements, so our goal is to practice social distancing in each classroom and to be creative about using all opportunities to increase the physical space between students and teachers.
- K-6 will run a traditional schedule with social distancing protocols while traveling. Recess and enrichment classes will be provided with social distancing in place at the K-6 level. Playground equipment will be sanitized. Students will sanitize their hands before and after recess and enrichment classes.
- 7-12 will run a traditional schedule with social distancing protocols while traveling. Each school will design a traffic flow plan for class changes to maximize social distancing. Students will sanitize hands upon entering each class.

Marion County School District Classroom



- **Classrooms will have standard cleaning kits with items as follows:**
 - **Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer Station**
 - **Cleaning solution in spray bottles to keep surfaces clean**
 - **Lysol Spray Disinfectant**
 - **Paper Towels**
 - **Kleenex**
 - **Gloves**
 - **Antibacterial Wipes**
- **Employees are expected to maintain clean workspaces through cleaning, disinfecting, and proper ventilation throughout the school day.**
- **Custodians will thoroughly sanitize all rooms each day with electrostatic sprayers.**
- **Daily Healthy Hygiene Practices -**
 - **Schools will provide instruction on students and staff on minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.**
 - **All students and employees are expected to wash their hands multiple times within the day.**

Masks

- For the 2021-2022 school year, we will seek guidance from the MS Department of Health, the CDC, and the local health officials to determine if masks will be worn. If masks are mandatory, we will follow the guidelines below. If masks are not mandatory, students/staff will have a choice if they desire to wear a mask next year.
 - Students will wear masks when moving throughout the school and are required to wear them when within the recommended space inside the classroom. (i.e., when working one-one with the teacher)
 - Teachers will develop “mask up” procedures to alert students when those times arise.
 - Students will receive masks from the district. We ask that parents provide additional masks for their children. (Nothing political, offensive, or potentially disruptive - This would be determined by the school principal.) Parents will need to verify their children have their masks each school day.

Marion County School District: Academic Instruction and Learning Management System (LMS)

We will employ all the resources of our *Learning Platform* Google Suite, including our *Learning Management System*, Google Classroom, that will allow for a seamless interaction between in class learning and distance learning simultaneously as students may need to transition from one plan to the other.

The district will assign devices for each student in the 2021-2022 school year.

In conjunction with our existing capability to employ all things Google to provide enhanced learning in class or at home, our administrators, teachers, staff, as well as parents and students will receive ongoing focused professional development that will strengthen our entire school community's ability to learn at a high level regardless of the circumstances this coming year may bring.

Marion County School District Transportation - Buses



MCSD strongly recommends any parent who can transport their child/children to school to do so.

Buses will operate under standard operating procedures implementing precautionary safety measures.

- Standard summer bus maintenance will be completed.
- All buses will be thoroughly sanitized prior to the start of school in August.
- Bus drivers will be given rosters and assigned seats established for all students riding the bus. Siblings may be asked to sit together in the same seat to allow more social distancing opportunities for students.
- Buses will be loaded from back forward and unloaded from the front to the back.
- Bus notes will not be allowed. Students will not be allowed to change bus routes unless there is a permanent change of address. Changing the mode of transportation from car to bus is not allowed. If an emergency arises, please call the principal.
- Bus drivers and students will be follow mask guidelines while on the bus.
- Alcohol based hand sanitizers will be available on each bus.
- Open windows to increase fresh air circulation while not in use.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each morning and evening route with electrostatic sprayers.
- Field Trips will be limited with the exception of athletics and competitions.
- Ensure that drivers, parents, students are trained on bus protocols.

Marion County School District Transportation - Arrival



- Staff on duty will supervise the unloading and loading of buses to secure proper social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC and MS Department of Health.
- Multiple drop-off locations and multiple entrances.
- Limit the number of students entering or exiting buses at one time.
- Temperature checks will no longer be required when students exit the bus or car. We expect parents to check their child's temperature before leaving home.
- Multiple hand sanitizer stations will be available upon entry to the building.
- Students will report to designated areas as assigned by principals.
- Signage will be posted in entrances, hallways, and classrooms to communicate best practices for social distancing, hygiene, and traffic guidelines.

Marion County School District Transportation-Dismissal



- Staff on duty will supervise social distancing considerations provided by the CDC.
- Multiple loading locations with marked spacing.
- Limit the number of buses or cars unloading and loading at one time.
- Staff will monitor the staggered release of the students.
 - Buses
 - Carline
 - Drivers
- Parents picking up students prior to end of the day dismissal will call ahead so that students can be accompanied to the parent's vehicle upon arrival. Students will have to be signed out.

Marion County School District

Temperature Checks for Employees/Students



- Temperature checks will no longer be required during arrival at school. Home is the screening point for 2021-2022. We are asking that parents help us by checking the temperature of their children before leaving home each day to decrease the need for check outs at school.
- The administrator or nurse may determine a temperature check is necessary if a student or employee begins to feel sick within the school day.
- Employees/Students who are not feeling well should contact their administrator/teacher immediately.
- Employees/Students who develop a temperature of 100 or higher within the day will be sent home. • All temperatures 100 or higher will be checked a second time for confirmation.
- A student who has a temperature greater than 100 will be quarantined in a supervised isolation area. Parents or Parent's designee, as identified on the student's checkout list, will be contacted to come pick up their child.

Marion County School District

Protocol for sick student or school personnel



- MCSD will follow the Mississippi Department of Health's guidance on handling student and staff quarantine as related to exposure. MCSD will maintain confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all other applicable federal and state privacy law. MCSD will work closely with the local health department, local clinics, and the Marion General Hospital.
- Marion County School District has employed a nurse for West Marion and a nurse for East Marion.
- A nurse "referral list" will be provided to each teacher to determine if a student is symptomatic and needs to be referred to the nurse.
- MCSD will notify parents of students who may have been in close contact with a positive Covid-19 person if the MCSD is made aware of a positive test.
- Students who test positive for Covid-19 must follow the guidelines for quarantine issued by MSDH and the CDC. Students may not attend class while waiting on results. Parents shall notify the MCSD immediately upon his/her child receiving a positive Covid-19 test result.
- MCSD employees who test positive for Covid-19 must follow the guidelines for quarantine issued by MSDH and the CDC and will require a proper medical documentation to return to school. Employees may not work while waiting on test results. The MCSD Office of Human Resources will ensure all federal and state guidelines are followed regarding employees who test positive.
- MCSD will follow the advice and guidance of the Mississippi Department of Health in determining if an entire classroom and/or school must close due to the positive results. Mississippi State Department of Health now has personnel assigned to us to help us with each case. Proper guidelines from the CDC will be followed for cleaning the contaminated areas.
- Students who are ill should be picked up no later than 30 minutes from the time the parent has been contacted by the campus.
- MCSD advises sick staff members and children not to return until they have met the CDC/MSDH criteria to cease home isolation.

Marion County School District Lunch K-12



All students of Marion County School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to your household each day of the 2021-2022 school year. Your child will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application.

Each School will develop and implement a plan for breakfast and lunch whereby social distancing guidelines are met while in the cafeteria.

- Staff will wear proper PPE to prepare and serve meals.
- Wash hands before and after breakfast/lunch.
- Provide alcohol based hand sanitizers at all cafeteria entrances and exits
- Develop a path of travel with social distancing marked for entering the cafeteria
- Use disposable lunch utensils (plates, forks, spoons etc.)
- Conduct cleaning throughout the lunch blocks of high touch surfaces and complete a thorough cleaning of all surfaces after the breakfast and lunch blocks are complete.

Lunch will take place in various places to help reduce group size.

- Students may eat in the classroom, outside patio, cafeteria, or other areas.
- Lunch schedules will be staggered to accommodate longer periods to serve.
- If necessary, deliver breakfast/lunches to the classroom.

Students will be allowed to bring water bottles to school.

What is the plan for school closure?

- Provide meals to students.

USDA Waivers have been issued to accommodate various schedules.

Marion County School District Athletics



The Marion County School District will follow all MHSAA and recommendations as it pertains to athletic events and activities. School districts must abide by MHSAA rules and regulations as a member of the organization. If we choose to do otherwise, our students would not be allowed to participate in any sanctioned MHSAA event.

- Those who participate in school activities through the MHSAA do not have an option for online (distant) learning unless quarantined or tested positive. They must be a traditional student.
- Locker rooms and facilities will be accessible with modifications. Additional sanitizing will be deployed in these shared spaces.
- Shared equipment will be sanitized before and after each practice or class. Gym floors shall be cleaned daily.
- Indoor assemblies and rallies will be held and follow guidelines for social distancing by the CDC, MSDH, and Governor's Executive orders recommended for indoor facilities.
- Facilities use is prohibited to the public.

Marion County School District Visitors - Parents, Vendors, Etc.



- Visitors to the school will continue to be limited.
- We recommend you call the appropriate school and make an appointment so we can help serve you in a timely manner.
- Visitors will check-in/out at the front office and will not be allowed to proceed any further than the front office area unless given permission.
- If a parent meeting is scheduled for any reason, the meeting will be held via multiple online platforms set up through our email system to minimize the need for face-to-face parent contact.
- ALL visitors (including vendors, substitute teachers, or anyone working in buildings) will be screened [Health and Travel Information] prior to entrance with temperature taken.
- Classrooms, playgrounds, gymnasiums and cafeterias will be limited to the number of participants according to CDC, MSDH, and the Governor's executive orders for indoor and outdoor social distancing.

Marion County School District CLEANING



Cleaning

- **Standard cleaning will continue.**
- **Targeted cleaning of high touch areas will take place during the school day.**
- **Hospital grade, EPA-approved, low-odor disinfectants will be used at the end of each day to disinfect yet avoid airway irritation of higher risk staff and students.**
- **School custodians will isolate and deep clean any impacted classrooms and spaces.**
- **Buses will be cleaned with hospital grade, EPA-approved, low-odor disinfectants after each route.**
- **Signage will be located throughout the building reminding students about social distancing and what to do if they are showing symptoms.**
- **Age-appropriate signage will be posted throughout the building with tips for proper hygiene and preventive measures.**

Marion County School District

This plan is being released on this date for purposes of planning for all stakeholders. The plan is subject to change as more information or more updated guidelines become available from the various agencies providing guidance. Updates about any further restrictions or strategies will be communicated to parents as they take place.

Everyone must be prepared for intermittent closures. Parents must have plans that can be activated immediately if there is a school closure or if their children are not able to attend school because of a quarantine situation. Parents are urged to be prepared to change plans within 24 hours if needed, and it is critical that parents have updated email addresses and phone numbers on file with their child's school.

WE

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