

July 21, 2020

MVTHS District 201 Students, Parents, and Community Members:

The purpose of this letter is to provide families with a snapshot of our plans at MVTHS to start the school year. While there are still many details to be finalized, I wanted to give everyone an idea of where we are in the planning process. The following pages contain a conceptual framework of what school will look like in August. Highlights of the framework and important dates include:

1. Online registration for school is available now. In-person registration will take place July 29 and 30.
2. All students will receive a Chromebook. We will work with families on solutions for internet connectivity.
3. In order to observe proper social distancing, we will split the student body into two groups (A and B). Each group will attend school two days per week, with every Friday alternating attendance with the two groups.
4. The first day of school will be Monday, August 17, although not all students will attend this day due to the grouping.
5. In-person days will dismiss at 1:45.
6. Students, employees, and visitors will be required to wear a face mask at all times while on campus.
7. Daily health screenings and certifications will be required from everyone prior to entering campus facilities.
8. Remote learning days will look very different than they did in the spring. Weekly assignments will be posted online. Students will be expected to engage in simultaneous learning with in-person peers. Grades will be given for assignments and attendance will be taken.
9. A full remote learning option will be available with priority given to medically fragile, high risk students or those who live with a high risk individual. More information on this will be sent out in a few days.

Please review the attached framework. Again, we are still finalizing many of the details, but I wanted to be transparent with everyone on where we are in the planning process. I will continue to provide updates as the situation with COVID-19 evolves.

Sincerely,

Melanie Andrews
Superintendent

On May 5, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker announced the Restore Illinois plan, which explained a public health approach to safely reopen the state of Illinois. On June 23, 2020, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released its guidance titled Starting the 2020-21 School Year. In-person instruction is strongly encouraged during Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan. During Phase 4, the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines will require:

- Use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings
- 50 or fewer individuals gathering in one space
- Social distancing observed as much as possible
- Schools conduct symptom screening and temperature checks, or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering schools
- An increase in school-wide cleaning and disinfection

With guidance from ISBE, IDPH, the Centers for Disease Control and the Governor's Office, MVTHS 201 began developing its Remote and Blended Learning Plan to address the Phase 4 guidelines. The goal of the plan is to provide the highest quality of academic instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic, while prioritizing the safety and wellness of our students and employees. The plan has been divided into three areas: Instruction and Learning, Safety and Wellness, and Operations.

Instruction and Learning

1. Students will be split alphabetically into two groups – A and B. This split will allow for greater social distancing on campus. The A group will attend on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternating Fridays. The B group will attend on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternating Fridays. Groupings will be determined and parents notified in August. Siblings who live in the same household may attend the same group – please contact the guidance office to make those arrangements.
2. The daily schedule will be as follows:

EB	7:55 to 8:25
1 st	8:30 to 9:05
2 nd	9:10 to 9:45
3 rd	9:50 to 10:25
4 th	10:30 to 11:05
5 th	11:10 to 11:45
6 th	11:50 to 12:25
7 th	12:30 to 1:05
8 th	1:10 to 1:45

Remote learning check-in and planning will occur from 1:45 to 3:05.

3. Breakfast will be grab and go – students must report to their first hour classes upon arrival at school. Lunch will be served in classrooms. Students will be given a grab and go breakfast and lunch to be consumed on their remote day.
4. Special education students may receive modified in-person schedules to receive services per their individual need and program.
5. A remote learning option is available with priority given to medically fragile, high-risk, or students who live with a high-risk family member. Not all courses may be available for remote learning.
6. Daily attendance will be taken for all students. Staff members are currently developing the daily expectation for students on their remote learning days.
7. Grading will be traditional grading. Students will be accountable for completing all assignments, whether remotely or in-person.
8. Student supports (counseling, social work, etc.) will be provided.

9. Chromebooks will be distributed to all students. District staff will work on options for families who do not have reliable connectivity.
10. Driver's education will be offered.
11. Music courses will be offered. However, activities may be limited or restricted based on guidance from IDPH. If at all possible, courses will be moved outside. Face coverings must be worn unless removed to play an instrument. Strict social distancing will be followed at all times.
12. Students will not dress for PE. However, proper athletic shoes should be worn or brought to school.
13. There will be no outside field trips at this time. Sponsors may consider having activities in the district as long as they follow the IDPH requirements for the school setting.

Safety and Wellness

1. All staff and students will be required to wear face masks while inside the school and on buses.
2. Visitors to the school will be extremely limited. All visitors will wear face masks while inside the school.
3. MVTHS students and staff are to maintain social distancing (six feet) throughout the school day to the greatest extent possible. Classrooms will be organized to space students apart to the greatest extent possible while retaining educational function. Students will be required to move expeditiously in the hallways during passing periods.
4. Lockers will not be used.
5. Desks will face the same way in classrooms to the greatest extent possible.
6. Frequent hand washing and sanitation is key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Employees and students are encouraged to wash hands as often as practicable with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and in multiple locations in the building.
7. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Emphasis will be placed on high touch surfaces and common areas. Restrooms and common areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
8. Students will be limited to groups of 50 in any one area including buses. Hallway traffic patterns will be adjusted to maximize the flow of students.
9. Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school. Fountains will not be operational.
10. All students and employees will be required to have a health screening or self-certification of health upon entering campus. Students and staff must stay home when not feeling well. By entering the school building, students and employees are certifying that they meet the following criteria:
 - a. They do not have a temperature over 100.4F.
 - b. They are not taking fever-reducing medicines such as aspirin, ibuprofen, or acetaminophen.
 - c. They have not had close contact or cared for someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
 - d. They have not been self-directed to quarantine by a health care provider, or by the County or State Department of Public Health.
 - e. They do not have any of the following symptoms: chills, cough, fatigue, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, new loss of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
11. A quarantine area will be established on campus. Students who become symptomatic of COVID-19 while at school will be immediately directed to return home.

Operations

1. To the greatest extent possible, visitors will be restricted from entering the building. Face coverings are required to enter campus and must be worn at all times. All visitors must undergo a health screening prior to entering the building.
2. Facility use requests from outside groups will not be considered at this time. This will be reevaluated at the end of the first semester based on COVID-19 activity.
3. Transportation – Durham Bus is developing safety protocols to keep staff and students safe during the pandemic.
 - a. Students must wear face coverings at all times while on the bus.
 - b. Eating and drinking is prohibited on the bus.
 - c. Students will sit in assigned seats. Family members may sit together.
 - d. Students will be required to provide self-certification of health before boarding the bus, and may have their temperature checked before boarding.
 - e. Drivers will wear approved face coverings and perform hand hygiene.
 - f. Drivers will be screened for symptoms on a daily basis.
 - g. Buses will be disinfected after the AM and PM bus routes.
4. All custodians and maintenance staff will follow the established cleaning procedures for building cleaning and disinfection as recommended by the IDPH. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts in both low and high contact areas including:
 - a. Desktops
 - b. Door handles
 - c. Countertops
 - d. Handrails
 - e. Light switches
 - f. Water bottle stations
 - g. Restroom fixtures
5. MVTHS has purchased electrostatic sprayers that will be used each night as an extra sanitation device.