



July 17, 2020

The 2020-2021 school year at the MSD of Decatur Township will begin on Monday, August 3, 2020. Our School Board approved this re-entry plan at the July 14th Board Meeting based upon the data provided by Dr. Virginia Caine, Executive Director of the Marion County Board of Health. As of July 13th, the following data supports the rationale for both an “In-Building” and a remote learning option as shared by the Marion County Board of Health:

- Positivity Rate - The percentage in Marion County in April was 42%
  - The percentage at the end of June was down to 9%
  - As of 7/13, the percentage in Marion County was down to 6%
- The State Death Rate has consistently declined since April.
- There has been no consistent increase in hospitalizations due to COVID-19
- ICU Bed Usage as of 7/13:
  - 51.6% - Non COVID use
  - 10.8% - COVID use
  - 37.6% - ICU Beds available state-wide
- Use of Ventilators State-wide:
  - 14.3% Non COVID use
  - 2.4% COVID use
  - 83.3% ventilators available state-wide

*We will continue to work daily with the Marion County Board of Health to monitor the data and adjust accordingly if and when necessary.*

Therefore, as of the 7/14 Board Meeting decision, we will offer face-to-face, in school instruction every day (Monday-Friday) for students who are able to return to school. **Decatur Township will assume your student(s) will be returning in person unless you complete the formal request for the Remote Learning option by Friday, July 24, 2020. This remote learning option is accessible on our Skyward system. Directions are [here](#).** Online learning will be available for students whose risk factors or health issues or those who have immediate family members with health issues.

**If you have any questions, please contact our administrative office, 317-856-5265.**

The reopening of our schools will have the following stipulations and additional measures for student and staff safety as we begin the 2020-2021 school year:

- ❖ [Symptoms of COVID-19 self screening](#) - This is the CDC link for self screening. The phone number for Marion County Board of Health is 317-221-2000 if you feel you or your child is at risk. ([www.marionhealth.org](http://www.marionhealth.org)) We encourage all families to utilize the self screening process to determine if your child should or should not come to school.

- ❖ **Cleaning & Disinfection**

- Increase access to cleaning supplies for each classroom
- Increase accessibility to hand sanitizer for staff and students
- Extended bathroom breaks for adequate handwashing
- Clean and disinfect “high-touch” areas throughout the day
- Clean and disinfect playground equipment

- ❖ **Cloth Facial Coverings/Masks/Face Shields**

- Cloth facial coverings/masks or face shields are **required** (Per order of Mayor Hogsett as of July 9th), for all students, teachers, support staff and administration when outside or in any indoor area where social distancing is **not** possible. This order by the Mayor came out as of 7/02/2020. This may be subject to change as we approach the beginning of the school year. We will keep you posted if there is a change as soon as possible.

- ❖ **General Building Practices**

- No visitors will be allowed inside buildings for any reason other than to pick up or drop off their child beginning on the first day of school. This includes walking your child to class, eating lunch with your child, class parties, events and convocations. Masks must be worn at all times by parents or anyone that is able to enter the building.
- All Parent meetings will be held via phone or virtually. This includes parent/teacher conferences, or IEP/504 meetings.
- There will not be attendance incentives for students.
- Students will be together throughout the day as much as possible using a team approach.
- Water fountain use will be restricted.
- Classrooms will be less ornate- less furniture, less wall decorations
- School buildings will adjust Instructional spaces within the building and classrooms
- Learning will occur outside as much as possible as weather conditions permit
- Backpacks will be allowed, but nothing additional should be attached to the backpack.
- Specific Building Plans will be available on July 17th.
- Back to School Nights will be virtual and more details to follow.
- Students who do not attend school in person, will not be allowed to participate in any Extracurricular Activities or play in any sports.

## ❖ Transportation

- Transportation by personal vehicle is encouraged
- Bus drivers and students are expected to wear face coverings
- Students will be given assigned seats when riding the bus
- Students will be spaced apart as much as possible
- Siblings will be assigned seats with each other.
- Facial coverings will be required during loading/unloading of students at schools and encouraged all other times so long as it does not inhibit ability to safely operate the school bus.
- Bus Monitors will wear face shields. They will sanitize hands before and after each physical interaction with a student.
- Assigned seats will be required, families seated together and spacing as far apart as possible
- High traffic surfaces will be sanitized after each group of students is released from the school bus.
- Specific windows and roof hatches will remain open on the bus to facilitate good airflow.
- Schools will dismiss students to and from buses one bus at a time to encourage social distancing while entering and exiting the schools.
- Every bus surface will be sanitized a minimum of once per week with an electrostatic sprayer.
- Monofoil has been applied to every bus.
- In the event that someone has been Covid19+ on a school bus, that school bus will be disinfected and inactive for 24 hours.

## ❖ Cafeteria

- Assigned seats will be used.
- Social distancing will be implemented, and may look different at each building, based on size and schedule of classes.
- Students and building staff will follow social distancing guidelines in the serving and seating area.
- All foods will be completely enclosed/package.
- Eliminate communal access to napkins and silverware.
- Eliminate food sharing and share tables
- During lunch time, water will be provided for all students, per USDA guidelines.
- Students and staff must thoroughly wash hands and/or sanitize hands before entering the cafeteria and upon leaving the cafeteria.
- The kitchen and serving area will be cleaned every 2 hours or when visibly dirty with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Sanitizer will be checked for effectiveness before use and replaced every 2 hours or when soiled.
- Between every group of students seating areas will be cleaned and sanitized.
- All high contact surfaces in the kitchen, serving line, and seating area will be regularly sanitized.

- At the end of the day, germicidal detergent will be applied to disinfect seating areas and all high-contact kitchen surfaces.
- Germicidal detergent will be applied to the staff bathroom twice daily, once at closing.

### ❖ Playground

- Kids are encouraged to wear face masks.
- 6 feet Social Distancing when possible.
- Hand sanitizing before and after each use.
  - Hand sanitizer on fences, if applicable
  - If no fence, pedestal brought out by custodian in the AM and brought in each PM

### ❖ Health Service Plan



**FROM A SCHOOL NURSE:  
BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH TIPS**

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**1 Hand Washing**  
Regular hand washing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. For younger students, practice at home by counting to 20 seconds, while scrubbing between fingers and the front and back of hands.



**7 Change Aerosolized Medication**  
According to the CDC, nebulizers should not be administered in school at this time. Inhalers may be used. Speak with your child's physician to obtain the proper medication to have at school and an updated Asthma Action Plan for the school year.



**2 Masks**  
Your child will need to wear a mask at school during times where social distancing is not possible. It is helpful to work with them at home on proper mask wearing. Masks should only be used one time before washing, so consider making or buying multiple masks to allow time to wash between use.



**8 Purchase a Reusable Water Bottle**  
Reusable water bottles are to be brought to school. Water fountains will not be in-service, but there will be access for water bottle refilling. Hydration is encouraged.



**3 6 Feet Social Distancing**  
We will encourage practicing 6 feet of social distancing at school. Help your child at home by measuring this distance and practicing social distancing at home.



**9 Verify/Update Emergency Contacts**  
If your child presents with COVID-like symptoms, they will be placed in an isolation room and will need to be picked up immediately. **Please make sure Skyward contacts are up to date to ensure a contact can be reached at any given time.**



**4 Daily Temperature Check**  
Check your child's temperature every morning. If 100 degrees or higher, they must stay home until fever free (without the use of medication). Call the school to notify the absence. If they develop a fever at school, they will be sent home.



**10 Symptoms to Look For**  
Please do NOT send your child to school if they exhibit one or more signs of COVID-19 including but not limited to:

- Fever at 100 degrees F or above
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste/smell
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Nasal Congestion/Runny Nose

**5 Immunizations**  
It is a requirement that your child is up to date on their vaccines prior to attending school. If you are not sure if your child is up to date, contact your child's pediatrician or school nurse.



**6 Health Concerns**  
If your child has any health concerns, please let your school nurse know. It is important to discuss how the nurse can support your child at school.



**Medications**  
Please make sure you are familiar with the school's medication policy. If medications are needed while at school, please contact your school nurse to discuss the medication and to set up a time for drop-off. Medications must be delivered to the school nurse by a parent/guardian along with a signed parent permission form. This form can be found at [www.decatuproud.org](http://www.decatuproud.org) under "Health Services."

### ❖ Social Distancing

- Desks placed 4-6 feet apart facing one direction.
- Eliminate the use of pods or table style seating as much as possible.

- Arrange for the teacher to maintain 4-6 foot distance from students; use facial covering if needed to do direct, individual student instruction.
- Arrange for some classes to take place outside.
- Do NOT allow for non-essential visitors.
- Do NOT use attendance incentives for students.

### ❖ **Social and Emotional Needs/Resources**

We recognize the importance of providing students and staff with extra social and emotional support as they return to school this year. We will continue to utilize our Second Step SEL Curriculum K-8 and Newsela 9-12 daily. Expect to see welcome activities, additional time for relationship building and a focus on establishing new routines as well as coping strategies.

Our guidance counselors, CUMMINS therapists, CIS site coordinators, and school psychologists will be ready to assist students and staff in need of support. Please see the links below for additional resources. We will be sharing additional resources throughout the year as well.

Be Well Indiana

[https://bewellindiana.com/?utm\\_campaign=awareness&utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://bewellindiana.com/?utm_campaign=awareness&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

8 Fun Activities to Practice Social Skills with Your Child

<https://educationandbehavior.com/fun-social-skills-activities/>

Common Behaviors and Reactions from COVID-19

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s11-Xo2CXackKAK2daXfhmxJtx00a74V7c8UOfOaJMMk/edit>

Indiana Youth Institute Virtual Training for Parents (July 28 or August 3)

<https://web.cvent.com/event/59c92fe1-eb16-4db5-868c-10c0776c2257/summary>

Supporting Children's Mental Health: Tips for Parents and Educators

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/mental-health/prevention-and-wellness-promotion/supporting-childrens-mental-health-tips-for-parents-and-educators>

Helping Children Cope With Changes Resulting from COVID-19

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19>

### ❖ **MSD of Decatur Township Culture Guide**

In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, MSD of Decatur Township will have a written document of what represents the core Beliefs, Behaviors and Outcomes for our students, staff and families of our school community. Our vision is to prepare students

to be “Tomorrow Ready”. We do that through our mission pillars of Learning, Safety and Customer Service. Our Culture makes MSD of Decatur Township a special place to learn, work, and grow. To be an elite culture, MSD of Decatur Township articulates the priorities necessary for the benefit of our children. Please refer to our Culture Guide [here](#).

### ***The following are our MSD Decatur Township K-12 Remote -Learning Options:***

#### ❖ **Pre-School**

Due to the fact that there is not a state requirement for children to attend pre-school, NO remote learning option will be provided. Choices for pre-school are to either pay tuition and attend in person at Liberty, or choose not to participate in the pre-school program.

For students with medical and/or educational based disabilities who are not able to attend their preschool program due to COVID 19 considerations, a case conference committee will be convened to discuss appropriate accommodations for individual students.

#### ❖ **Elementary (K-6)**

- Students will return to school on Monday, August 3rd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning Request via Skyward.
- All remote learning requests must be approved by District Administration.
- A Remote Learning teacher will be designated by grade level to deliver instruction to students.
- Students will receive instruction in the areas of English Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- Special Area classes such as PE, STEAM, Music and Media will not be offered through this remote learning option.
- Delivery of instruction will be provided via WebEx through a blended model of recorded lessons and whole group check-ins.
- There must be a minimum of 20 students for Kindergarten remote learning to occur.
- There must be a minimum of 30 students district-wide per grade level for Grades 1-6 remote learning to occur.
- If a student is designated to the remote learning option, the commitment to this option is a nine week grading period minimum. Moving back to the traditional classroom option will only take place at the conclusion of each nine weeks grading period.
- Ipads will be disseminated to students who choose the remote learning option by the Technology department.

- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees will remain the same for students who choose the remote learning option as the traditional building option.
- A case conference will be conducted for any student who has an IEP or 504 to determine specific accommodations.
- Students who do not attend school in person, will not be allowed to participate in any Extracurricular Activities or play in any sports.
- Students who do not attend school in person, will not be allowed to participate in Extended Day or Clubs.

#### ❖ **Decatur Middle School (7-8)**

- Students will return to school on Monday, August 3rd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning Request via Skyward.
- All remote learning requests must be approved by District Administration.
- A remote Learning teacher will be designated by grade level to deliver English Language Arts & Math instruction to students.
- Science and Social Studies will be offered via APEX Learning. This is an independent study option that is not teacher directed.
- Related Arts classes will not be offered through this remote learning option.
- Delivery of instruction will be provided via WebEx through a blended model of recorded lessons and whole group check-ins.
- There must be a minimum of 30 students per grade level for Grades 7-8 remote learning to occur.
- If a student is designated to the remote learning option, the commitment to this option is a semester minimum. Moving back to the traditional classroom option will only take place at the conclusion of each semester.
- Ipads will be disseminated to students who choose the remote learning option by the Technology department.
- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees will remain the same for students who choose the remote learning option as the traditional building option.
- Any exceptions to courses or Middle School Offerings will be discussed on a case by case basis by District Administration.
- A case conference will be conducted for any student who has an IEP or 504 to determine specific accommodations.
- Students who do not attend school in person, will not be allowed to participate in any Extracurricular Activities or play in any sports.

#### ❖ **Decatur Central High School (9-12)**

- Students will return to school on Monday, August 3rd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning Request via Skyward.

- All remote learning request forms must be approved by district administration.
- DCHS Core teachers will live stream lessons for their classrooms while students watch from home if they choose remote learning.
- A mix of APEX Learning and remote learning will be utilized for student learning.
- Not all classes can be delivered remotely for grades 9-12.
- If a student is designated to the remote learning option, the commitment to this option is a semester minimum. Moving back to the traditional classroom option will only take place at the conclusion of each semester.
- Ipads will be disseminated to students who choose the remote learning option by the Technology department.
- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees will remain the same for students who choose the remote learning option as the traditional building option.
- A case conference will be conducted for any student who has an IEP or 504 to determine specific accommodations.
- Any exceptions to course offerings will be discussed on a case by case basis by District Administration.
- Students who do not attend school in person, will not be allowed to participate in any Extracurricular Activities or play in any sports.

❖ **Decatur Township School For Excellence (7-12)**

- Students will return to school on Monday, August 3rd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning Request via Skyward.
- All remote learning request forms must be approved by District Administration.
- DTSE 9th and 10th grade students will utilize a teacher directed remote platform.
- DTSE 11th & 12th Grade students will use the APEX Learning Platform.
- If a student is designated to the remote learning option, the commitment to this option is a semester minimum. Moving back to the traditional classroom option will only take place at the conclusion of each semester.
- Ipads will be disseminated to students who choose the remote learning option by the Technology department.
- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees will remain the same for students who choose the remote learning option as the traditional building option.
- A case conference will be conducted for any student who has an IEP or 504 to determine specific accommodations.
- Any exceptions to course offerings will be discussed on a case by case basis by District Administration.
- Students who do not attend school in person, will not be allowed to participate in any Extracurricular Activities or play in any sports.

❖ **eLearning**



In the event that a school or the entire district needs to close, we will move to eLearning, which will look different than the above options outlined. All teachers who conducted in-person learning will move to Canvas and WebEx to support the students they teach. The permanent eLearning option will continue as status quo since building closures would not affect the permanent eLearning option.

❖ **Technology/iPAD/ Mi-Fi Procedures for eLearning only**

Option 1: I registered in the Spring and already have an iPad to use for eLearning in the Fall.

- *Once you've selected online learning in Skyward, nothing more needs to be done.*

Option 2: I did not register in the Spring; yet, I still have my iPad which was deactivated.

- Drop your iPad off during registration on Tuesday, July 21 at the school and pick up on Monday or Tuesday July 27 and 28, if you chose eLearning option.

Option 3: I registered online after July 13 and have selected eLearning. However my iPad is deactivated.

- Call (317) 856-2221 to make arrangements to have your iPad reactivated.

Option 4: I am new to the district or returned my iPad and have selected eLearning.

- Pick up an iPad on Monday and Tuesday July 20 and 21 at the Technology Center.

Mi-Fi's Option 1: I do not need a Mi-Fi. I have internet access at home.  
(This does not include internet service via your phone)

Mi-Fi's Option 2: I do not have access to the internet and need to use a district Mi-Fi.  
Sign out a Mi-Fi on Monday and Tuesday July 20 and 21 at the Tech Center.

**\*\*\*Further information and clarification of the following items will be provided and updated as we continue to prepare for the opening of our school year.**

