



July 24, 2020

MSD of Decatur Township's start of school has been modified due to the updated and most recent information from the Governor, Mayor of Indianapolis, and the Marion County Board of Health. The first day of school for students for the 2020-2021 school year has been moved from Monday, August 3rd to **Thursday, August 6th.**

Due to the recent increase of positive cases in Marion County coupled with the recommendation by Dr. Caine, Executive Director of the Marion County Board of Health, MSD of Decatur Township will also begin an in-person "hybrid" model for our secondary level, which includes Decatur Middle School, Decatur Central High School and Decatur Township School for Excellence. This will **replace** the full "in-person" option while the remote option will still be available. Our Elementary schools, grades K-6, will remain as a full "in-person" option or the Remote Learning option. Maintaining this current option for our elementary level has been reinforced and recommended by the Marion County Board of Health because the transmittal rate for children of this age group is minimal. Please refer to the specific building plans that are now available on each school's website.

Since there is a change with our start date and the in-person option at the secondary level, we have extended the window for ***selecting remote learning or reverting back to the in-person option through Wednesday, July 29th.***

As of July 23rd, the following data has been updated by the Marion County Board of Health:

- Positivity Rate - Has reached a daily average over seven days of 10%
- The State Death Rate has still consistently declined since April.
- There has been no consistent increase in hospitalizations due to COVID-19
- ICU Bed Usage as of 7/23:
 - 49.9% - Non COVID use
 - 13.5% - COVID use
 - 36.6% - ICU Beds available state-wide
- Use of Ventilators State-wide as of 7/23:
 - 15% Non COVID use
 - 2.9% COVID use
 - 82.1% 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.

The 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 are at risk. (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**
 - Per order by Governor Holcomb as of July 23rd, all students, teachers, support staff and administration are required to wear a cloth facial covering/ mask/face shield. All students who are in **grades 3 - 12 will be required** to wear a cloth facial covering/ mask at school. Masks are only **strongly recommended for students in grades K-2.** **All** students are also required to wear a face covering while on a school bus. Masks are also required for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, with exceptions for strenuous physical activity. Face Shields are not an option for students.
 - Exceptions will be made for medical purposes, strenuous physical activity, eating and drinking. Students with a medical and/or an educational disability that prevents them from wearing a mask will be exempt.

- ❖ **General Building Practices**
 - No visitors will be allowed inside buildings for any reason other than to pick up or drop off their child. 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 are now available on school websites.
- Back to School Nights will be virtual and more details will be forthcoming from your child's building Principal.
- 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 while riding on the school bus, so long as it does not inhibit the 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.
- 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 tested positive for 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/packaged.
- 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

COVID-19 Screening for Parents

Every morning before you send your child to school please check the following:

- 1** Your student does **NOT** have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees (*may be lower based on your school's policy*) OR lower if your child is not feeling well.
- 2** Other signs of illness such as:



CONGESTION
OR RUNNY NOSE



FEVER 100.4*
*or school board policy
if threshold is lower



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR
DIFFICULTY BREATHING



DIARRHEA



HEADACHE



NAUSEA
OR VOMITING



SORE THROAT



MUSCLE PAIN
AND FATIGUE



CHILLS



NEW LOSS OF TASTE
OR SMELL

- 3** Were you in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks?
- If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, begin quarantine of your child and contact your healthcare provider. Strongly consider COVID-19 testing.

Updated: 7/21/20



❖ 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=

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-Xo2CXacKak2daXfhmxJtx00a74V7c8UOfOaJMMk/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 has released 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 in person on Thursday, August 6th, 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.
- Remote Learning teachers 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 or 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, play in sports or attend extended day or clubs.

❖ **Decatur Middle School (7-8)**

- Students will return to school on Thursday, August 6th utilizing a hybrid model in order to meet the requirements of the Marion County Department of Health. DMS will run at half student capacity, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning Request via Skyward.
- DMS will run a traditional 6 period schedule on an alternating Blue/Gold day schedule.

- Students in the Blue Group (A-K) will attend live instruction at the school on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Students in the Gold Group (L-Z) will attend live instruction at the school on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- All students will work virtually on Wednesday.
- On days that students are not assigned for live instruction they will receive instruction and activities virtually.
- All protocols for arrival, lunch, hallway traffic, and dismissal created in DMS's original plan for students who selected face-to-face instruction (previously shared with stakeholders) will remain in place.
- If a parent chooses the remote learning option, they must be approved by District Administration.
- Remote Learning teachers 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 the 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 Thursday, August 6th utilizing a hybrid model in order to meet the requirements of the Marion County Department of Health. DCHS will run at half student capacity, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning Request via Skyward.
- DCHS will run a traditional 8 period schedule on an alternating Blue/Gold day schedule.

- Students in the Blue Group (A-K) will attend live instruction at the school on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Students in the Gold Group (L-Z) will attend live instruction at the school on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- All students will work virtually on Wednesday.
- On days that students are not assigned for live instruction they will receive instruction and activities virtually.
- All protocols for arrival, lunch, hallway traffic, dismissal created in DCHS's original plan (previously shared with stakeholders) will remain in place.
- If a parent chooses the remote learning requests, they 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 or 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 Thursday, August 6th utilizing a hybrid model in order to meet the requirements of the Marion County Department of Health. DTSE will run at half student capacity, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning Request via Skyward.
- DTSE will run on an alternating A/B schedule, that students will be assigned to.
- Students in the A group will attend live instruction at school on Monday and Thursday each week.
- Students in the B group will attend live instruction at school on Tuesday and Friday.
- All students will work virtually on Wednesday each week.
- On days that students are not assigned for live instruction they will receive instruction and activities virtually.

- All protocols for arrival, lunch, hallway traffic, and dismissal created in the DTSE original plan will remain in place.
- If a parent chooses the remote learning requests, they must be approved by District Administration.
- DTSE 7th & 8th grade students will utilize a teacher directed remote platform.
- DTSE 9th & 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.
- I pads 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.

- Call (317) 856-2221 to set up an appointment to drop off your iPad and receive an updated one.

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.

- Call (317) 856-2221 to set up an appointment to acquire an iPad

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.

Call (317) 856-2221 to set up an appointment to pick one up at the Tech Center.

*****Further information and clarification of the above items will be provided if needed or if something were to change. We look forward to supporting all of our learners beginning August 6th!**

