

Return to In Person Instruction Plan
Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township
2021-2022

MSD of Decatur Township Culture Guide

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](#).

Safeguards for In Person Learning

MSD of Decatur Township's plan to return to in person instruction will constitute a return to "normal" instruction, or pre-pandemic instruction, as much as possible. This will be a five-day a week opportunity for all students, fulfilling the 180 day requirement as mandated by Indiana law for a full instructional year. However, in order to do so, there are several aspects to our 2021-2022 plan that will be included, required and added to the learning environment of all our schools. They are as follows:

All nine schools, K-12, will require the necessary safeguards for our students to attend school in a safe manner. The requirements are:

- Every school will have hand sanitizer available in all classrooms and common areas in the building.
- Students and staff will be expected to wash their hands as much as possible without compromising the instructional day. Elementary students will be walked to restrooms for this while secondary students will be offered opportunities during appropriate times throughout the day.
- Masks will be available and worn if and when our Marion County Board of Health deems it appropriate, as they will work with the state board of health and the CDC for appropriate safety guidelines throughout the year. The degree of wearing masks will be a fluid situation and, as a school district, we will err on the side of caution to ensure students are safe; therefore, wearing masks will be expected when deemed appropriate by our medical experts listed above. Masks will be expected on buses. All buses and schools will have masks available for those individuals who are identified as needing to wear a mask.

- Social distancing will still be an expectation for all grade levels, with either three to six feet of spacing between students and staff, depending on the guidance allowable by our board of health.
- Contact tracing will also be the norm as we will quarantine any students or staff who are not vaccinated while those who are vaccinated will be notified of the contact tracing; however, they will be able to return to school immediately due to their vaccination status.
- Ventilation for all schools have been upgraded and maintained to hospital grade quality. Maintenance of these systems have been serviced routinely and ongoing.
- Outside visitors will not be allowed into the building without administrative authorization.
- All facilities will be cleaned and sanitized according to usage and any indication of virus spread. Day shift custodians will prioritize cleaning of all student and staff traffic areas throughout the day. All facilities will be modified to accommodate social distancing when needed.
- District communication of any changes or adjustments will be effectively done through phone messaging, email, social media and district/building websites.
- Student interaction will be done with specific grouping of students to allow for contact tracing to be as effective as possible.
- Assigned seats will be utilized in the cafeteria, bus and in the classroom to help trace students/adults in case of a positive COVID case.
- Parents are encouraged to conduct self-assessments/screenings of using the checklist provided by our county board of health.
- In partnership with Community Health Care, we have provided onsite vaccinations for all eligible students, family members and staff.

Instruction for the 2021-2022 School Year

Instructionally, in person instruction will be the core method of instructional delivery. However, MSD of Decatur Township will supplement in person instruction with several different methods and/or strategies:

- Remote learning will still be provided for the 2021-2022 school year. The number of students who participate in remote learning will depend on the current “COVID climate.”
- Remote learning will be allowable for any student with a compromised health condition that would put them at risk in a full in person learning environment. Other students and/or families that desire remote learning must apply and have their request approved by school administration in order to be considered for remote learning. All situations will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

- Remote learning at the elementary level will consist of a licensed teacher, per grade level (K-6), who will teach only by means of remote instruction. All students at MSD of Decatur Township are issued iPads for learning. Therefore, students who are approved for remote learning will be able to work with one teacher for each specific grade level. If the number of students requires additional staff, that will be determined at the beginning of the school year and will be adjusted accordingly.
- For the secondary level, grades 7-12, remote learning will be synchronous learning with teachers who will be teaching in person learning while utilizing an iPad and swivel device to contact and teach remote students at the same time. Therefore, remote students will be added to typical class lists and assigned to teachers who will interact with them just like in person students. The difference will be the remote capability through a constant classroom interaction with the means of an iPad that will follow a teacher around the classroom as they teach class.
- In some certain circumstances, asynchronous learning will be provided for students that have been approved by administration. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

The specific criteria for the elementary level is as follows:

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 2nd, 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 (unless deemed medically necessary) for Kindergarten remote learning to occur.
- There must be a minimum of 30 students (unless deemed medically necessary) 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 semester minimum. Moving back to the traditional classroom option will only take place at the conclusion of each semester 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.

Decatur Middle School

- Students will return to school on Monday, August 2nd, 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 (unless deemed medically necessary) 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.

Decatur Central High School (9-12)

- Students will return to school on Monday, August 2nd, 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.

Decatur Township School For Excellence (7-12)

- Students will return to school on Monday, August 2nd, 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.

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.

Social and Emotional Needs/Resources

We recognize the importance of providing students and staff with extra social and emotional support as they return to full in -person instruction this school 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, Behavior Source therapists, CIS site coordinators, and school psychologists will be ready to assist students and staff in need of support.

ESSER Funds Summary

- This ESSER plan supports the necessary funding for learning loss through summer school, extended day and modifications for the school year.
- This plan will be under consistent review for accuracy and revisions will be made when appropriate and necessary.