Updated December 1, 2021

- Eric Holcomb announced Executive Order 21-24. In this order, Governor Holcomb directed Indiana State Health Commissioner Dr. Box to evaluate and modify COVID-19 quarantine protocols. Dr. Box and the Indiana Department of Health then shared new COVID-19 quarantine protocols for schools. If everyone is wearing a mask in school, only the COVID-19 positive case would need to be quarantined. Anyone that was deemed a close contact would be asked to self-monitor and would not have to quarantine if symptom free.
- The purpose of this change was to lower the number of students that must quarantine with each positive case. Governor Eric Holcomb’s announcement this past fall has allowed us to eliminate almost all quarantines and thus keep our students in school.
- MSD of Decatur Township started wearing masks on Tuesday, September 7th, and this will continue until further notice, and will be reevaluated as COVID-19 numbers change. All students and staff are still REQUIRED to wear masks during the school day.
- Parents will still be contacted via parent square if their child is deemed a close contact; however, a child masked under the Governor’s executive order will NOT be quarantined.

In addition to the change in our mask policy, we are still encouraging all families, students and staff to vaccinate.

MSD of Decatur Township Culture Guide

MSD of Decatur Township 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 of returning to in person instruction was to constitute a return to “normal” instruction, or pre-pandemic instruction, as much as possible. This is a five-day a week opportunity for all students, fulfilling the 180 day requirement as mandated by Indiana law for a full instructional year. There have been several aspects to our 2021-2022 plan that have been included, required and added to the learning environment of all our schools. They are as follows:

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

- Every school has hand sanitizer available in all classrooms and common areas in the building.
- Students and staff are expected to wash their hands as much as possible without compromising the instructional day. Elementary students are walked to restrooms for hand washing while secondary students have been offered opportunities during appropriate times throughout the day.
- Masks have been readily available and worn daily. The degree of wearing masks has been a fluid situation and, as a school district, we have to err on the side of caution to ensure students are safe; therefore, wearing masks as expected when deemed appropriate by our medical experts. Masks are still expected on buses and this Federal mandate has been extended through March 2022. All buses and schools continue to have masks readily available for those individuals who are identified as needing to wear a mask.
- Social distancing is still the 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.
- Ventilation for all schools have been upgraded and maintained to hospital grade quality. Maintenance of these systems are being serviced routinely and ongoing.
- Outside visitors are still not allowed into the building without administrative authorization.
- All facilities are cleaned and sanitized according to usage and any indication of virus spread. Day shift custodians prioritize cleaning of all student and staff traffic areas throughout the day. All facilities will continue to be modified to accommodate social distancing when needed.
- District communication of any changes or adjustments will continue to be effectively done through phone messaging, email, social media and district/building websites.
- Student interaction is done with specific grouping of students to allow for contact tracing to be as effective as possible.
• Assigned seats are still utilized in the cafeteria, bus and in the classroom to help trace students/adults in case of a positive COVID case.
• Parents are still 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 continued to provide 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 is still being provided for the 2021-2022 school year. The number of students who have participated in remote learning has depended upon the current “COVID climate.”
• Remote learning continues to be allowable for any student with a compromised health condition that puts 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 District 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 consists of a licensed teacher, per grade level (K-6). 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 ever requires additional staff, that will be determined and adjusted accordingly.
• For the secondary level, grades 7-12, remote learning continues to be through synchronous learning with teachers who are teaching in person learning while utilizing an iPad and swivel device to contact and teach remote students at the same time. Therefore, remote students are added to typical class lists and assigned to teachers who interact with them just like in person students. There is 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 is provided. Choices for pre-school are to either pay tuition and attend in person at Liberty, or choose not to participate in the preschool 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 is convened to discuss appropriate accommodations for individual students.

**Elementary (K-6)**

- Students returned to school on Monday, August 2nd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning request via Skyward, and will return for the second semester on January 6, 2022 under the same conditions.
- All remote learning requests must be approved by the District Administration.
- Remote Learning teachers are designated by grade level to deliver instruction to students.
- Students 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 are not offered through the remote learning option.
- Delivery of instruction continues to be provided via WebEx through a blended model of recorded lessons and whole group check-ins.
- If a student is designated to the remote learning option, the commitment to this option continues to be a semester minimum. Moving back to the traditional classroom option will only take place at the conclusion of each semester grading period.
- iPads have been and will continue to be disseminated to students who choose the remote learning option.
- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees will remain the same for students who have chosen the remote learning option as the traditional building option.
- A case conference is conducted for any student who has an IEP or 504 to determine specific accommodations.

**Decatur Middle School**

- Students returned to school on Monday, August 2nd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning request via Skyward, and will return for the second semester on January 6, 2022 under the same conditions.
- All remote learning requests must be approved by the District Administration.
- A remote Learning teacher is designated by grade level to deliver English Language Arts & Math instruction to students.
- Science and Social Studies is offered via APEX Learning. This is an independent study option that is not teacher directed.
- Related Arts classes are not offered through the remote learning option.
- Delivery of instruction is provided via WebEx through a blended model of recorded lessons and whole group check-ins.
- If a student is designated to the remote learning option, the commitment 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.
- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees remain the same for students who have chosen the remote learning option.
- Any exceptions to courses or Middle School Offerings will be discussed on a case by case basis by District Administration.
- A case conference is conducted for any student who has an IEP or 504 to determine specific accommodations.

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

- Students returned to school on Monday, August 2nd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning request via Skyward, and will return for the second semester on January 6, 2022 under the same conditions.
- All remote learning request forms must be approved by district administration.
- DCHS Core teachers will live stream lessons for their classrooms while students, approved for remote learning, watch from home.
- A mix of APEX Learning and remote learning is 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.
- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees remain the same for students who choose the remote learning option.
- A case conference is 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 returned to school on Monday, August 2nd, unless otherwise designated by the parent through the request and completion of the Remote-learning request via Skyward, and will return for the second semester on January 6, 2022 under the same conditions.
- All remote learning request forms must be approved by the District Administration.
- DTSE 9th and 10th grade students will continue to utilize a teacher directed remote platform.
- DTSE 11th & 12th Grade students will continue to 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.
- All Textbook Rental and Student Fees remain the same for students who have chosen the remote learning option.
- A case conference is 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 have recognized the importance of providing students and staff with extra social and emotional support as they returned 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. Please continue to expect to see activities, continued additional time for relationship building and a focus on coping strategies.

Our guidance counselors, Behavior Source therapists, CIS site coordinators, and school psychologists continue to be readily available to assist students and staff in need of support.
ESSER Funds Summary and Usage of Funds

- This ESSER plan continues to support the necessary funding for learning loss through summer school, extended day and modifications for the school year.
- This plan continues to be under consistent review for accuracy and revisions are made when appropriate and necessary.
- Staffing: Lead teachers will continue to model lessons on the TAP rubric for classroom teachers to positively impact student achievement. The use of research based tools provided by the E3 Grant will allow lead teachers the ability to train and support additional teachers as well as specifically support our targeted students. This will be provided during the 2021, 2022, and 2023 SY.
- Staffing: 150 teachers - This will be teachers hired as extended day teachers to support accelerated learning to deal with a learning loss program for grades K-12 to extend the school day. This will be provided during the 2021, 2022, 2023 SY.
- Supplies: Hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, hand soap, disinfectant, plexi-glass, air filters.
- Property: Install air purification equipment in common areas (cafeteria, auditorium, gym, nurse office, etc.
- Property: Labor to install air handling units in various buildings.
- Property: Cost of air handling units at various buildings to accommodate MERV 13 filters.
- Support Services - Instruction / Description of services offered by ed consulting firm.