

Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Community School Return-to-Learn Plan
2021-2022 School Year

Maple Valley-Anthon Oto (MVAO) Community School District has developed a Return-to-Learn Plan for the 2021-2022 school year as directed by the Iowa Department of Education. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, the MVAO Community School website (www.mvaoschool.org) will hold updated information regarding quarantine and isolation procedures and safety practices as provided by The Iowa Department of Public Health, Burgess Public Health, and Siouxland District Health.

Full-Time, In-Person Learning: Masks are OPTIONAL and NOT REQUIRED

MVAO Community School's adopted 2021-2022 School Calendar and assigned (normal) school hours for students and staff will be followed. Masks WILL NOT be required during school day activities, during before or after-school activities, or on school district transportation. Parents choose whether their children wear masks. *HF 847, signed by Governor Kim Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits school districts from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property. As such, masks will be optional for students, teachers, and visitors.* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that individuals wear masks indoors if not fully vaccinated. Therefore, students, staff, and school visitors who are unvaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask to school daily and students choosing to wear masks are encouraged to bring their own mask to school. Masks will be available to anyone who requests a mask and extra masks will be available at each building's main office and on every MVAO school bus. MVAO Community School administration and staff will ensure any student choosing to wear a mask feels comfortable with their decision and the district will take steps to insure an inclusive and supportive environment for all staff and students. Through opening week assemblies and in classrooms, conversations will occur that promote tolerance and acceptance for student and staff choices regarding optional mask wearing.

Cleaning Procedures

MVAO Community School successfully held in-person learning for students during the 2020-2021 school year and the 2021-2022 school year will commence with the same layered cleaning practices that were utilized last year. Cleaning supplies will be available for staff and students to clean desks and work spaces as needed. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and in all three building offices, and MVAO administration and staff will monitor CDC guidance and adjust procedures when needed. High-touch areas in the buildings and classrooms will be cleaned more frequently during the day and thorough cleaning will not be restricted until after the building is vacated.

Students feeling ill or exhibiting symptoms

Students who are sick should stay home while they are having symptoms. We continue to encourage parents to monitor children each morning before coming to school. During the school day, if a child is coughing and appears to have a fever (possible COVID symptoms), the child should be sent from the classroom with a mask to the nurse's office. Our nurses' offices will be equipped with PPE supplies and equipment to determine if the child should be sent home. If a child has COVID symptoms, a parent will be contacted. Students who are sick with other non-COVID symptoms will also be sent to the office when sick and calls home will be made accordingly.

Covid-19 Positive Cases and Potential Close Contacts

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, that student or staff member should report their illness to the building principal and should quarantine for a minimum of 10 days. After 10 days of isolation, if symptoms have improved and a fever is not present in the last 24 hours without fever reducing medication, the student or staff member can return to school.

It is recommended that fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 be tested 3-5 days after exposure and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test. It is also recommended that unvaccinated people who feel they are a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case should quarantine for 14 days.

School Routines to Help Promote Safety

School routines and procedures to help students promote health and safety include: proper handwashing techniques, desk and work space cleaning procedures, and promoting physical distancing where appropriate. Another safety precaution for the beginning of the year is limiting access to the buildings. Parents and volunteers will be allowed to enter the school building to visit the building offices, but will not be able to visit classrooms as a health and safety precaution. Access of outside agencies will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Social-Emotional Resources for Students

MVAO Community School will have a full-time, certified guidance counselor present at each building during the 2021-2022 school year.

Mapleton Elementary: Emily Low

Anthon Elementary/MVAO Middle School: Kristi Clark

MVAOCOU High School: Julie Hueschen

The additional guidance counselor presence will allow the district to best coordinate supports for students. MVAO Community School, through continued partnership with Burgess

Community Health, will also expand the number of school-based mental health therapists working in the buildings. The guidance counselors will partner with parents and Burgess Mental Health therapists as needed on a situation by situation basis.

Academic Achievement and Academic Monitoring

During the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, ISASP assessment data from Spring 2021 will be tracked and data analysis will be conducted to determine the educational level and proficiency of students. The following assessments will be used to make programming and placement decisions: IGDIs for literacy and math for preschool students, FAST literacy assessment for students in grades TK-5, FAST math assessment for students in grades TK-5. The district will also begin implementation of a second diagnostic to be determined during the Fall of 2021 to allow for a viable, universal assessment for reading, math, and science for 3-12th grade students. Assessment results will be shared with parents at the fall parent-teacher conferences.

Technology

MVAO Community School provides Chromebooks to all students in grades 2-12. The laptops are internet accessible and depending on grade level, district devices can be used at school and home. MVAO will not offer a virtual learning option during the 2021-2022 school year unless changes to the severity and nature of COVID-19 spread dictates such a decision from the Iowa Department of Public Health or Governor's Proclamation. Should such a circumstance occur during the 2021-2022 school year, MVAO will return to its 2020-2021 RTL plans, which will be communicated accordingly.