



2021-2022 Safe Return & Continuity of Services

Maryetta Public School

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PROTECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

The following guidelines are shared with our school communities, including students, families, and staff, in an effort to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Over the past several weeks, representatives from the various district's stakeholder groups, as well as leaders in specialized areas of the school district's service areas, have been researching the constantly evolving literature from the education, medical, and public health sectors. The goal has been to create carefully layered, flexible, and developmentally appropriate practices that will ensure the strongest advice given by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): **All policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.**

A host of reasons support this AAP recommendation, from the importance of in-person learning to the damage of social isolation; and Maryetta Public School is in complete agreement. The truth remains, however, that ensuring this goal will require all of us to work together.

The information presented in this document is shared so that our district community can begin school with a shared understanding of our responsibility in keeping our students and staff safe from COVID-19. We know we cannot eliminate the virus; but with wise choices and layers of protection we can mitigate it.

The CDC, Oklahoma State Health Department and Cherokee Nation Health Services recommend everyone ages 12 and older get the COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccinations are readily available through the Adair Co. Health Dept. and Cherokee Nation Health Services. Our school nurse can help answer any questions regarding the vaccination and recommend services.

LAYERED MITIGATION PRACTICES

SCREENING AND MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS - Each morning, families are asked to take their children's temperatures, as a fever of 100 or greater may be an indication of an active case of COVID-19 and/or other viruses. While many children will present with fever initially, many will not. Other symptoms that may develop initially include the following: chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Any of these are cause for keeping a child home from school.

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE - Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Signage is posted throughout the buildings as a reminder to wash hands often. Students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when not wearing a mask. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating. Students will also have access to an alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the school building when hand-washing opportunities are not readily available.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - Facilities utilize the recommended 3 feet of distance in seating and standing areas wherever possible. In classrooms, when possible students are seated in pod areas to minimize exposure and assist in contact tracing. Students have assigned seating on buses to assist in contact tracing.

SCHOOL CLEANING/VENTILATION PRACTICES - High-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected multiple times throughout the day by the site custodial staff and/or grade-level teachers/assistants. Portable disinfectant foggers are used to sanitize surfaces and large areas.

Increasing circulation of outdoor air/ventilation is an ongoing priority to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Outdated HVAC units are being replaced and HEPA air filters have been installed in existing units district wide. Air Curtains are being installed in the school cafeteria to increase airflow. Classroom teachers will intermittently open doors to allow for fresh air to circulate in their rooms and are encouraged to take their devices and hot spots to utilize outdoor classroom areas.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

As students arrive at school in the morning, they will be directed to go to their classrooms or a general area in which social distancing is feasible. Students will not be gathered in large groups to wait for their school day to begin. Parents will not be escorting their children into the building. No parents are allowed in the hallways of any building. All parents will be asked to remain in their cars and drive through the drop-off line to ensure a safe exit from and entrance into their family vehicles. While awaiting dismissal, students will be in their classrooms, still following social distancing guidelines by not waiting in large groups. Below is the chart to indicate where your student will be dropped off / picked-up (note: no student in another grade will be permitted to walk into or leave the building in the same area—especially if they are located in another building):

Morning Drop Off: 6:30 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. **Afternoon Pick-Up:** 3:00 p.m. -3:15 p.m.

GRADE LEVEL:	Designated Pick-up/Drop off Area:
Preschool 3 & 4's	EAST Preschool Porch Area (look for DARK BLUE banner) *Afternoon pickup begins at 2:50 p.m.
Kindergarten	WEST Preschool Lobby Doors (look for RED banner) *Afternoon pickup begins at 2:50 p.m.
1 st Grade	Pool Doors by the Flag Poles (look for WHITE banner)
2 nd Grade 3 rd Grade	Boys & Girls Club West Entrance (look for BLACK banner)
4 th Grade 5 th Grade	West Preschool <u>Parking Lot</u> (look for YELLOW banner)
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Grades	Activity Center Front Lobby Area (look for LIGHT BLUE banner) *Morning drop off at 6:30 a.m.- 7:45 a.m. *Afternoon pickup at <u>Jr. High Bldg</u> beginning at 3:00 p.m.

BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

Before and After Care programs in each building will follow the guidelines established by MPS. If a heightened level of protocol is deemed necessary, extended day programs including Boys & Girls Club will be provided through distance or remote learning activities such as Grab & Go Packets or Remote STEAM activities. If you are wanting your child to be a part of the extended day program, they will be given enrollment documents with further instructions of how to proceed. These extended day services will provide tutoring, STEAM programming, social-emotional mentoring, physical education, healthy snacks and much more.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students will wash hands prior to eating. As much as possible, the children will be seated in a manner to allow for distancing. Students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten will be eating in their classrooms and classroom teachers will establish meal procedures. All personnel distributing & serving food will be required to wear a mask and gloves. All other grades will eat in shifts in the school cafeteria. No guests will be allowed to have breakfast or lunch on-site this school year with students to ensure a continual safe return. Meals will be available for pickup or delivery for Remote Learning and Distance Learning students.

SUPPLIES

The district will provide each student with his/her own clear, plastic box with supplies. Sharing of supplies such as crayons, markers, scissors and pencils will not be allowed. Students will keep their individual supplies separated from those of others in individually labeled containers or cubbies. Any manipulatives needed for instructional purposes will be sanitized prior to use for students.

RECESS

Each grade level classroom will develop a recess schedule that allows daily outdoor playtime for all students. Recess schedules will vary in each grade due to limiting the number of students in any one area.

MASKS FOR ELEMENTARY or JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

The voluntary wearing of face masks will be allowed by all students and staff. If a State of Emergency for Adair County is declared by the Governor of Oklahoma, the Maryetta Board of Education could implement a mandate to wear a mask or any other medical device. In a mask mandate, properly fitted masks covering the mouth and nose will be worn on buses and in situations where students are not able to social distance. This mandate must be reviewed at each regularly scheduled board meeting. Additionally, the district will ensure proper ventilation throughout each school building to aid in maintaining a healthy and safe learning environment for all students.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

If a teacher suspects that a student may have COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will contact the office to arrange for an adult to come to the classroom and escort the student to an isolation room. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child and seek a medical opinion. A parent/guardian **MUST come immediately** to pick up your child from school.

EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES & RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19

In regard to exposures, diagnoses, and positive tests, the CDC recommends the following:

- ❖ Anyone who has had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 should ***quarantine*** at home for 10 days after exposure, unless you are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 3 months and do not have any symptoms.
- ❖ Any child who tests positive **or** has COVID-19 symptoms will ***be isolated*** at home for 10 days from onset of symptoms **AND** may not return until respiratory symptoms diminish **AND** must be 24-hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).
- ❖ **A negative** COVID-19 test taken on day 7 after exposure **AND** the student being symptom free for three days would also indicate that a child may return to school on the 8th day. The negative test results will need to be provided to the school by the parent if the child is home for fewer than ten (10) days.

For more information regarding COVID-19 guidelines, visit the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

As always, be sure to call the school or contact your child's teacher to report any absences.

ALL-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

All school assembly decisions will be based on current COVID-19 data for Adair County.

WATER FOUNTAINS

As school opens, all traditional “bubble up” water fountains will be disconnected. The entire school now has water bottle filling stations; these will remain connected and available to students and faculty. Students and staff are encouraged to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable water containers to school with them. Classroom teachers will have their own procedures for water bottle sanitation and cleaning.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/SPORTS

Extra and co-curricular activities such as band, PE, athletics of all descriptions, and Service & Leadership are vital elements of an elementary student's experience. Responses to COVID-19 in these environments will vary, always with a keen eye to proven practices in prevention and protection. Research is ongoing by the Organization of Rural Elementary Schools (ORES), Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to help us know and apply the best precautions to take in order to protect our students and staff involved in extracurricular activities. Our hope is that fans will be able to enjoy a comparatively healthy setting by following safety precautions set forth by the school district.

Open House, Family Engagement Activities, Parent Orientation & Parent-Teacher Conferences

For the 2021-2022 school year the district will host a more traditional type Open House on August 4, 2021 informing students of their classroom assignments, answer questions about the different enrollment options, share digital connectivity information, designated drop off/pick up areas, extended day procedures, class schedules and much more!

The district will host a parent orientation for all Remote learning families and students. This *mandatory* orientation meeting will be Monday, July 26th, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, July 27th, 2021 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Boys and Girls Club.

Additionally, decisions regarding in person or virtual Family Engagement Events and Parent-Teacher Conferences this school year will be based on current Adair County COVID-19 data.

FALL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

For the fall 2021-2022 school year, families of our students will need to contact the front office to obtain an enrollment packet for students in Preschool through the eighth grade. A PDF version can be printed, completed and turned in to the front office. Also, all traditional students will receive an enrollment packet on the first day of school. Parents/guardians will have the option of choosing for student/s to be Traditional (onsite) or Remote (online distance learning) based upon approval from the building principals and teacher.

ALL enrollment documents need to be returned no later than Monday, August 9th, 2021.

STUDENT LEARNING OPTIONS

Parents/guardians will have the option of choosing for student/s to be Traditional (onsite) Learners or Remote (online) Instruction based upon approval from the building principals and teacher. Read below specific information about each of these options and the district's plan for distance learning to determine which plan will meet the needs of your family and/or to ensure that your student is safe and healthy.

Distance Learning or Remote Learning

Distance learning is NOT the same as remote learning. Distance learning will be put in place for students who are enrolled in the traditional model when the district closes the school building(s) or the student is in quarantine or isolation. Students' teachers remain in the classroom and record lessons for students to receive.

Students will be at home working remotely on their Chromebooks or Ipads.

Teachers will deliver lessons using Google Classroom or Seesaw with a variety of delivery options.

The remote option takes place entirely at home. Remote learning is self-led with teachers providing instruction, checking on the emotional well-being of students and hosting "live classroom" options daily.

Students work on lessons individually and submit their work through Google Classroom. With this model, teachers will be available to answer individual questions at designated times. Hot spots are available for checkout for students/families with unreliable internet access.

Traditional Model of Instruction

This type of instruction will be onsite with CDC and OSDE guidelines in place to ensure the most layered approach to safety & precautions. This school year each classroom and grade level will be following the “bubble” approach and will continue to be in educational pods, as much as possible. In class, the teachers will have the autonomy to make the decision how best to social distance within the room. The overarching goal will be to contract trace students, isolate infection rates, and close a classroom to go on distance learning while allowing the remainder of the school to attend in person. Students will practice daily using distance learning virtual options in order to be prepared for remote learning at any time throughout the school year.

Remote Model of Instruction

This model has three major components: Content Delivery, Digital Resources, and Instructional Supports.

- ❖ Content Delivery defines the online resources students will be using for core instruction and the supplemental resources utilized to enhance student learning. The district will use Google Classroom and Seesaw as our Learning Management Systems (LMS). The district will utilize the following tools as Content Management Systems (CMS): Edmentum Exact Path, Study Island, Alpha Plus Math, USA Test Prep and/or district purchased digital curriculum reading textbooks to supplement learning. All content and curriculum is based on the Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS).
- ❖ Digital Resources provides the steps the district is taking to ensure that all students have access to devices, the Internet, and digital tools to engage and implement the Remote Model of Instruction. Connectivity will continue to be a priority this school year for the district.
- ❖ Instructional Support defines the expectations and supports the district will provide for staff, families, and students to support learning at home.

Families selecting this model of instruction for their student/s will need to complete and sign the District Virtual Policies & Procedures Contract and will need to attend a mandatory Parent & Student Orientation meeting to review technology agreement documents and assignment requirements.

Failure to attend the mandatory Parent & Student Orientation will disqualify the student from the Remote Learning option for the first semester. Students will automatically be considered Traditional students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

At times when school is moved to remote learning due to COVID-19, students with disabilities are offered the option to learn in person in classrooms that have been deep cleaned and sanitized. Students with specific learning plans, receiving speech and language services and/or who suffer with any disability will have included in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) a contingency plan regarding remote and distance learning. ESSER COVID Relief funds have been used to purchase adaptive technology for use in remote learning. Acceptance into the virtual program for students with an IEP or 504 will primarily be based upon the decision of the IEP/504 team as they determine the best educational placement and health and safety modifications for the individual student. Additionally, all accommodations and modifications that are made to ensure a safe return to school for general education students will be in place for students with disabilities or requiring special education/professional services.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL and MENTAL HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the well-being and mental health of students, families, teachers and school staff. The district realizes the importance of having in place mental health supports, social and emotional learning experiences and safety procedures to reduce anxiety related to crisis situations caused by the pandemic. Maryetta will provide Second-Step SEL enrichment classes for all grades as well as provide access for all students and families to report mental health or safety issues to administration by using the STOP It! app. Plus, district staff will be given training in Olweus Bullying Prevention and Rave Panic Button to report crisis or threatening situations. Maryetta School will provide counseling services, a School Psychologist, a Family Engagement Specialist, Family Liaison, a School Based Specialist/social worker and a school nurse. Above all, the district board of education and administration believe that by meeting the social/emotional and mental health needs of students, families and school staff, we will aid in addressing students academic needs or learning loss due to COVID-19. It is impossible to improve or move forward into the 2021-2022 school year without first addressing essential basic needs of each of our members within the Maryetta community.

FINAL NOTE

Maryetta Public School understands that information surrounding COVID-19 continues to rapidly evolve. We will continue to take a measured and flexible approach to ensure we adapt to situations as new information arises. Simply put, we will adapt to changes and plan accordingly throughout this school year. We know that it will take effort on the entire Maryetta community. There will be some inconveniences due to an untraditional school environment and patience will be needed as our district strives to meet the needs of all our students, staff, and families. We are grateful to begin school again and are planning for a positive, productive year in spite of COVID-19!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Ms. Lori Means (Superintendent) at 918.797.0208 or 918.696.2285 Ext. 3000

Mr. Chad Harp (Principal) at 918.728.1685 or 918.696.2285 Ext. 3015

Mrs. Carlene Yell (Asst. Principal) at 918.797.0238 or 918.696.2285 Ext. 3010

Plans above are subject to change as new information becomes available or as new situations arise related to COVID-19.