



Back to School Plans for 2021-2022

July 26, 2021

Dear Manton Consolidated School's Families and Staff:

We are so happy to see our local COVID-19 numbers decline and restrictions greatly reduced. We are looking forward to the upcoming school year!

The district has received a number of questions about what "school" will look like for the 2021-2022 school year. This update will provide you with our plans as of today, which may change should we receive public health orders from CDC, MDHHS, and/or District Health Department #10. Athletics will adhere to rules set forth by MDHHS and MHSAA.

General Information

What will our instructional model look like?

All students will attend school, from 8:20 a.m. – 3:10 p.m. five days per week, following the published school calendar: [Calendar here.](#)

When does school start?

Our first full day of school is on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

When are the first "Back to School" events?

Open House: Monday, August 23, 6:30-7:30

Freshmen Orientation: Monday, August 23, 6:00 – 6:30

What is the cost of breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year?

Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge to all MCS students.

Will Manton Consolidated Schools offer a virtual option for students?

The district will offer a virtual option for requesting parents. If you would like more information about the virtual option, please contact your building principal.

COVID-19 & Communicable Disease Protocols (As of June 22, 2021)

Are face masks required at school?

No, face masks will be optional. Masks will be available to students and staff if needed. The local or State Health Department may mandate masks if the community has an outbreak. If this happens, we will have to follow their rules.

Will my child be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school?

No, the COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List. For information on required vaccinations, please see: [School Required Vaccines for Parents by MDHHS](#).

Will you separate students who are vaccinated from students who are unvaccinated?

No, vaccination status is a personal choice.

Will students be in cohorts in the classroom or on the playground?

No, but teachers may keep the same group together to aid with contract tracing if necessary. As of June 22, 2021, MDHHS has discontinued all gathering limits for residential and nonresidential settings.

Will contact tracing continue?

Contact tracing information will be provided closer to the beginning of the school year as we receive guidance from our local Health Department.

Will Manton Consolidated Schools quarantine students?

Student quarantine information will be provided closer to the beginning of the school year as we receive guidance from our local Health Department.

Will student athletes need to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?

No, not at this time, but Manton Schools will follow required MHSAA mandates for participation.

Will students continue to be required to wear masks and use hand sanitizer on our buses?

Yes, according to Federal Mandate all passengers and drivers riding public transportation (including school buses) are required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth regardless of their vaccination status. Once your student exits the bus, masks are optional. Hand sanitizer will continue to be provided as an option for students.

What will sanitization practices look like this year?

We will continue to be committed to high level disinfection practices. MCS custodial staff will continue to use antibacterial and antiviral products to disinfect commonly touched surfaces.

MDHHS prevention strategies in schools include:

(THESE ARE SUGGESTIONS ONLY.)

Promoting COVID-19 *vaccination* [for eligible staff and students](#).

Correctly and consistently using [well-fitted masks](#) that cover the nose and mouth. CDC recommendations for [when to wear a mask in school settings](#).

Social Distancing - [Physical distancing](#), including cohorting children together to reduce potential exposures.

COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Contact Tracing

Encouraging students and staff to stay home if sick or having [COVID-19 symptoms](#).

Encouraging students and staff to get tested for COVID-19 if having [symptoms](#) or if they are not fully vaccinated and are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.

Conducting [screening](#).

Implementing [contact tracing](#) and quarantine, collaborating with the local health department.

Maintaining Healthy Environments

Promoting [handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes](#).

Routine [cleaning](#) to help maintain healthy facilities.

Avoiding crowded and/or poorly ventilated indoor activities (e.g., engaging in outdoor activities when possible and increasing [ventilation](#) for indoor activities).

The staff and students appreciate all the support we have received during this pandemic. We are thankful to finally be able to return to some sense of normalcy. Again, please realize this is the current plan as we move forward and hope there are few to no changes needed as we start up the new school year. We are so excited to welcome everyone back this fall. We are also planning on bringing back a full schedule of events and activities missed over the last 16 months! I look forward to seeing you at the open house on August 23rd! GO RANGERS!!!

Sincerely,

Leonard G. Morrow, Superintendent