



# Meridian Independent School District



Secondary Principal

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## In Person/Traditional Guidelines for MISD 2020-21 School Year

Meridian ISD is excited to welcome all of our students back to school on August 19, 2020. We have been away from you for far too long and have missed you. While we anticipate the majority of our families will choose in-person learning for their children, Remote Learning is also an option provided for you. Below you will find an overview of new/modified procedures that will be present at each campus this year. Hopefully this will help answer questions you may have and give you a peace of mind as you prepare to send us your students on August 19.

**School will start on Wednesday, August 19. Doors will open at 7:30 am daily and the tardy bell will ring at 7:55 am. The school days ends at 3:25 pm.**

### Buses

We intend to run our regular bus routes to transport students to and from school. To help us space students apart on buses, we do ask that you transport them whenever possible. As always, that information needs to be communicated to your child's campus. Below are items that will be included in our COVID transportation policies:

- Students will have and stay in assigned seats while on the bus. These will be designated in family/household groups.
- For anyone aged 10 or above, face coverings must be worn while on the bus. Face coverings for those under the age of 10 are recommended and encouraged.
- Students will be screened for temperature when entering the bus on morning routes. Students who have a temperature **over 100.4 will be refused entry to the bus and must return home**. Young children cannot be left alone at the bus stop as we don't want to return them to an empty house. If students are refused entry, parents will be notified by their campus.
- Buses will be disinfected after each route.

### Face Coverings

Currently, all students aged 10 and above are required to wear face coverings. These include masks, both fabric or paper, and face shields. Guidelines do permit removal of these for exercise and athletic activities. While face coverings under the age of 10 are not required, they are encouraged whenever possible.

## **Morning Routines/Visitors on Campus**

All persons entering the building, including staff, students and visitors will be screened for temperature prior to entering. Anyone with a temperature above 100.4 will be denied entry to the facility. To lessen the spread and exposure to our staff and students, we are also limiting visitors to those necessary to the educational process which are scheduled ahead of time. This will have an impact on morning routines, specifically at MES. Visitors to campus will be required to wear a face covering and be screened upon arrival. Students at both campuses will be eating breakfast in the cafeteria and we will be using other areas of campus and additional personnel to keep students distanced during those times.

## **Passing Periods/Switching Classes**

Students at each campus will be allowed to switch classes, attend PE and other electives. When a student's work area is "shared" among different students, it will be cleaned between each use. At the lower levels this will be done by staff and at the upper levels, we feel that students can handle that task. Each campus will also implement hallway procedures that enable distancing while changing classes.

## **Water Fountains**

Fountains at both campuses will be closed but students are allowed to bring clear water bottles for their own use.

## **Custodial**

We are reducing the number of surfaces students should touch during a school day. Additionally we are using a variety of products to disinfect classrooms daily and providing additional cleaning of commonly used surfaces during the day.

## **Lunches**

Each campus will run additional lunch periods to help distance students and provide for a safer environment. Student lunch schedules will be handed out when they receive their teacher information and class schedules.

## **Dismissal**

Students will follow the bus procedures listed above. Beyond that, routines within the school have changed to assist in distancing students during those times. For those who choose to pick up their students, we ask that you not congregate around school exits but rather wait in your vehicle for students to be released to you.

## **Remote Instruction**

We hope that you choose to allow your child to attend In Person learning this year. If at some point you believe that Remote Learning is a safer choice, you can switch. We do ask that you make that possible change during our 3-week grading intervals.

All routines are not listed here. The bulk of these effect both campuses and hopefully give you a good idea of what In Person will look like for your student. Additional question can be referred to your child's campus or to myself.

For grades PK-5<sup>th</sup> please contact MES @ 254-435-2731

For Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> please contact MHS @ 254-435-2723

I can be reached at 254-435-2081

Thank you so much! We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Mrs. Edwards