



MARENGO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

District #154

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David N. Engelbrecht, Ed.S.
Superintendent

Dr. Angela M. Fink
Principal

July 29, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy. We have been developing plans to have students and staff return to school safely, and because of the limitations placed on us due to COVID-19, there is not a simple solution. Our focus, therefore, has been on the safety of our students and staff as our number one priority when developing a Return To Learn Plan. **This plan is subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions.**

Return To Learn Plan/Calendar

Our plan was developed by a variety of focus groups and is based on guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education, the CDC, the Illinois Department of Health, and various surveys conducted by the district. The Board of Education reviewed our Return To Learn Plan on July 27, 2020. In order to maintain a six-foot distance between students, we have devised a plan of alternating in-school attendance days. The "A" group will attend school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays and the "B" group will attend school in person on Thursdays and Fridays, with the exception of the first week of school and Thanksgiving week. Wednesdays will be Remote Learning Days for all students, with the exception of October 14th, which is the National SAT Test Date. A and B groups will be designated alphabetically by last name. Students will be notified of their group on August 10th. The District will make accommodations for families with different last names so they may attend school in person on the same days. Please contact Dr. Angela Fink at finka@mchs154.org by August 6th to request this. On days in which your student is not scheduled in person at school, they will be expected to attend all classes remotely. A first semester calendar is enclosed for your reference. Please be prepared to transition to remote learning at any time with little to no notice if required by the McHenry County Health Department (MCDH) and/or the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH). **If you wish your student to attend all school days remotely, you must commit to remote learning for the entire first semester, and you must complete the survey by August 6th that can be found at www.mchs154.org and click the "Return To Learn" button. Students who have a contraindication to wearing a mask and/or are high risk are strongly encouraged to attend remote learning during the first semester.**

Health

All students, staff, and visitors are required to wear an appropriate mask as defined by the CDC at all times in the school building, even when social distancing, except while eating and during band. Face shields may be used for instruction requiring facial expressions such as speech therapy, therapist sessions, etc. Students who are insubordinate regarding the wearing of masks will be required to leave campus. **Those with medical contraindications to wearing a mask must have their doctor complete the Medical Certification For Student Face Covering Exemption/Accommodation form and return it to the school nurse by August 10th if the student is not opting into an all remote learning experience.** Forms are available on our website under Documents>Student Forms>Medical Forms or in the Student Services Office. All staff will self-certify their symptoms and will be temperature checked daily before entering the building. Student's temperatures and symptoms will be screened as they enter the building. Students who have a Zero Hour class will have temperature and symptom screenings by their Zero Hour

"Where learning is valued and excellence is the standard"

teacher (teachers will tell students which entrance to use). Students who are not scheduled for Zero Hour will not be admitted into the building; all other students may not enter the building prior to 7:15 a.m. through the Student Services Entrance, the Athletic Entrance, or the Bus Drop Off/Pick Up Entrance. If a student has one or more of these symptoms (a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or have one or more unexplained symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) and is a suspect case of COVID-19 they will be asked to self-isolate for up to ten days and longer if they become a confirmed case. Also, if you have been in close contact or cared for someone with COVID-19, you may not attend school until you have been released by the school nurse. Upon investigation of suspected/confirmed cases, criteria for isolation, quarantine and release to school will be based upon recommendations from the McHenry County Health Department. If your student stayed home for school for one or more of the symptoms listed, you must contact the school nurse at 815-568-6511 x1102 before your student returns to school. MCHS will follow MCDH guidelines regarding symptomology for isolation and quarantine, which may change throughout the school year. MCHS reserves the right to revise our health guidelines based on MCDH recommendations. If your student is ill and will not be in attendance, either in-person or remotely, you must contact Mrs. Seemann at 815-568-6511 x1302 to report their absence and the specific symptom(s) which your child is experiencing so that we may monitor illness trends and report to the MCDH. **If your student is feeling ill, it is imperative that you keep them home from school.** If a student becomes ill with Covid-19 symptoms while at school, they must report to the school nurse, who will assess them and contact the parent/guardian for immediate pick up. They will be kept in isolation until their parent/guardian arrives. Students who are ill but still able to participate in remote learning are highly encouraged to do so to ensure continuity in their education.

Sanitization/Safety

Classroom desks will be cleaned after every class using a hospital grade cleaner (Multi-Clean 256 Century Q), which is on the approved lists by CDC and EPA. This product will be sprayed on, let sit for two minutes, and then wiped off with a microfiber cloth. At the end of each day, a rotation of three cleaning agents (256 Century Q, Diversey-Morning Mist, and Bru Tabs 6S) will be applied with Victory Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayers (VED Sprayers) through every classroom and hallway. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms as well as in areas throughout the building. Students and staff will be reminded of frequent and proper hand hygiene multiple times, throughout the day, including before and after food consumption, after contact with a high-touch surface and after restroom use. Hands should be washed for 20 seconds with soap and water. Restrooms will be disinfected each class hour using a rotation of these same three cleaning agents, applied with Victory Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayers and there will be limited numbers of students allowed in the restrooms at a time. Restrooms will be deep cleaned each night. The exterior of the hallway lockers will be cleaned each evening using a rotation of these same three cleaning agents. These will be applied with VED Sprayers, focusing on the handle area. Students will be allowed access to their lockers before and after school, and during the lunch passing period only. Students may carry bags/backpacks from class to class during the day. Signage will be placed on the floor to remind students to remain six feet away from one another. PE lockers and locker rooms will not be used; PE instruction will take place outside as much as possible and will not require changing clothes. Busses and transportation vans will be cleaned after the morning route using a hospital grade cleaner (Multi-Clean 256 Century Q) which is on the approved lists by CDC and EPA or Bru Tabs 6S (rotation between these two products will be daily). These products will be applied with VED Sprayers. After the afternoon route/run and/or at the end of the day, the busses and vans will be disinfected by the driver of the vehicle with Diversey-Morning Mist. This product will be sprayed on, let sit for two minutes, and then wiped off with a microfiber cloth.

Class Schedule

Students have received their preliminary 2020-2021 class schedules; however, schedules are subject to change based on room changes, availability, course offerings, etc., and will be finalized on August 10th. The Advisory period (formerly after 2nd hour) will be moved in between the lunch hours (after 4th hour) to allow for a deep and thorough cleaning of the cafeteria between lunch periods. **Students, please print your final schedule from your portal account (click on the Documents tab and then on Student Schedule) on August 12th, prior to the first day of school.** Student requests for schedule changes are allowed during the first 5 days of school and are permitted only for specific reasons: drop a class to add a study hall (only one study hall per day); drop study hall to add a class; level changes (ex: general to honors); add late start/early release to schedule (must meet GPA requirement). Please call the Guidance Office at 815-568-6511 x1303 to schedule an appointment with a counselor.

Grading Expectations and Graduation Requirements

The “Do No Harm” from the Governor’s lockdown plan last spring does not apply to our Return To Learn plan for the upcoming school year. In addition, the modifications to the State of Illinois graduation requirements are no longer in effect. Graduation requirements have reverted back to the original MCHS requirements. If you have any questions regarding this, please speak to your student’s guidance counselor. Grades are not based on previous work and will be starting anew at the beginning of the first semester. All work will be counted toward grades, whether it is in person or remote. The focus will be on learning required standards and benchmarks within all content areas. Students and staff will be reflecting and receiving feedback on progression of these standards during both face to face and remotely.

Attendance

Last spring’s remote attendance requirement of logging in attendance by 11:00 a.m. is no longer in effect. Students are required to attend each class **during their class time** either face to face or remotely. Parents are required to call their students out absent if they are not attending school, both face to face and remotely, and must follow the attendance procedures as outlined in the Parent and Student Handbook. If no phone call is made by 10:30 a.m. the student will be marked absent unexcused.

Lunch and Breakfast Program

The price for a hot lunch will be \$2.85 for the 2020-2021 school year. **New This Year: To achieve a touchless purchase process, students will scan their School ID to subtract their meal purchases from their lunch account. Students therefore must bring their School IDs to school every day.** Parents are encouraged to pay for their child’s lunches online through their parent portal or by sending a check to cover lunch costs for at least two weeks. We will continue to offer a breakfast program from 7:25 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. The cost of breakfast is \$1.50. Students will be spaced six feet apart at cafeteria tables. There will be no more than 50 students in an area of the cafeteria at one time. Lunches will be pre-packaged with two selections to choose from; students will not be given a la carte choices.

Applications for Free and Reduced Meals can be found [here](#). Free and reduced meal eligibility applies to both breakfast and lunch. If your student qualifies for free or reduced price meals, they may purchase one breakfast and one lunch per day. Five components are included in meals. They are grain, meat, fruit vegetable and milk. In order for a lunch to qualify for free or reduced pricing, your student must have three of the five components offered and one of the three components must be a fruit or vegetable. **If a student purchases a second meal or extra milk they will be charged at the per item price regardless of free lunch eligibility.**

Wednesdays will be designated as Meal Delivery Days for students who receive free or reduced price lunches beginning August 12th. Parents must complete a google form to request delivery. Bus drivers will deliver three breakfasts and lunches to student’s home addresses Wednesdays.

Transportation

Students and drivers will be required to wear masks while riding to and from school on the bus. Students will be given assigned seating on the bus, and attendance will be taken daily. Please contact Dena Montgomery in the Transportation Office at 815-568-0778 or at dmontgomery@marengo165.org if you have any questions regarding transportation.

Registration

All school fees/lunch deposits may be paid online through your parent portal or by check or cash in Student Services. If you need help with your username or password, please contact the district office at 815-568-6511 x1501.

If you did not complete Online Registration a letter is enclosed. If you plan for your student to attend Marengo Community High School, you must contact Mrs. Debbie Gorter at 815-568-6511 x1303, as your student's information and class schedules have been removed from our system.

Visitors/Guests

Visitors and guests may only be on site for meetings for essential services when the meeting cannot otherwise be scheduled virtually. In order to assure the safety of our staff and students, all outside visitors/guests must:

- Enter through the Student Services Entrance and sign in
- Sanitize hands using the sanitizer provided in the Student Services Office
- Wear an appropriate mask as defined by the CDC
- Submit to temperature and symptom screenings
- Only one member per household may attend meetings/conferences

New Staff

We would like to welcome two new science teachers, Rayne Hoey and Sam Watt. Rayne has relocated to Illinois after teaching last year at Benton Community Middle High School in Iowa. She will be teaching chemistry. Sam will be teaching Earth Science and Physics. He most recently worked as a STEM Educator at NIU in the STEM Outreach Center.

Back To School Fall Conference Night

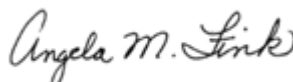
Our back to school Fall Conference Night is tentatively scheduled for August 28th from 7 – 9 p.m. We will send information in the near future regarding the format of this evening, as it may be via virtual meetings with each of your student's teachers, who will give an overview of expectations for the upcoming school year.

We sincerely appreciate your assistance and cooperation as we work through the many details of returning to learn in a safe, healthy manner. While we still have many challenges ahead of us, please know we are confident the District is headed toward a successful school year. We are looking forward to working with your student!

Sincerely,



David N. Engelbrecht, Ed.S.
Superintendent



Dr. Angela M. Fink
Principal