



MDCV BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

2020-2021

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USD 456

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PURPOSE



On March 17, 2020, public education within the state of Kansas was forever changed as Governor Laura Kelly closed schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, students, parents, and educators scrambled, planned, developed and implemented a course of direction to sufficiently finish the end of the school year. However, we now are faced with a new challenge: conducting a full school year while in the midst of a continued pandemic. This is that plan.

As stated this past Spring, the “Continuous Learning” plan set forth was never meant to be a long range plan. Simply put, the plan was a bandage for a much bigger issue: how do you effectively educate children during a pandemic? Therefore, a host of questions needed to be answered as we begin a new school year:

- How do we keep our students, staff, and stakeholders safe in the midst of a pandemic?
- If in-person education is best, how can we safely conduct in-person classes?
- If we experience another short term or long term district closure, how would we conduct learning?

Thus, this plan was developed with three purposes in mind:

- Maximize the ability of the district to keep students, staff, and stakeholders safe.
- Maintain operations of the district so it can be as normal of a learning environment as possible.
- Have the ability to be flexible and effectively continue student education if a mandated district closure is given.

To be clear, this plan is not the final draft of this plan. It is almost certain that circumstances and understanding will change during the course of the school year. However, this plan gives the district base-line direction on how it intends to begin the school year.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



OR



In-Person Learning

The main focus for the district is to begin, continue, and maintain the opportunity for in-person learning. In-person learning will look a bit different as steps will be taken to provide a safe and healthy place for students to learn, and is detailed later, but it will also be a bit different in the style upon which our students will learn. Each student will have a specific laptop or tablet that will be assigned to them. New programs and platforms have been purchased to assist students and staff this year. Lessons may be geared more toward the technology they will be using. Resources may be geared more toward technology as well. However, our staff will still be providing in-person guidance, mentorship, and the leadership that our district has grown accustomed to.

Remote Learning

As situations dictate, whether an individual request, health issue or quarantine, a large group isolation, or a district-wide closure, our district will rely upon the resources being gathered now to provide a full-fledged remote learning environment. Students will utilize their assigned device, the already familiar platform or programs provided, and the virtual guidance, mentorship, and leadership of our staff. Students would receive contact daily, appropriate lesson planning, and inventive use of online resources. This will be a different setup than previously, but one that will be appropriately rigorous and provide the opportunity for relative growth as compared to the classroom. UPDATE: Please refer to "Remote Learning Plan" for more information.

No matter the venue, whether in-person or remote, it is the goal of USD 456 - Marais des Cygnes Valley to continue to meet our "WE BELIEVE" statements.

All students will attend school regularly. All students' well-being will be supported.

All students will achieve academic growth. All students will achieve ACT success.

All students will graduate. All students will achieve postsecondary success.

All students' stakeholders will be engaged.

HEALTH



**Wash hands often.
Avoid close contact.
Monitor health daily.**

Hygiene

Students, staff, and visitors will utilize appropriate hand washing, hand sanitizer, and social distancing techniques. Students will be directed by staff to wash hands throughout the day.



**Routine cleaning.
Routine disinfecting.**

Cleaning

The district will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. Supplies will be available to classrooms and other common areas to receive individual cleaning multiple times daily.



**Maintain limited
contact. Avoid
secretion exposure.**

Social Distancing

Where possible, students, staff and visitors will be reminded to maintain 6ft of distance between others. Avoidance of secretion exposure (sneeze, cough, etc.) will be encouraged.

All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks or approved personal protective equipment while on school property or at school functions.

As recommended by numerous health agencies and the Osage County Health Department, masks and other PPE serve as a beneficial measure to mitigate the spread of disease when combined with or when unable to fully perform social distancing. Given the emphasis on in-person schooling, masks can slow the spread of the disease person-to-person, provide individuals a means to limit mandated quarantine in cases of casual contact with a positive case, and serve as the last line of defense when considering a school closure. This will be an adjustment, but one that is necessary so that we can continue to conduct schooling as preferred.

EXPOSURE RESPONSE

In order to continue with in-person learning, maintaining a safe and healthy environment will be required. This includes individual responsiveness by all and the responsible recourse by school employees.

It is important to understand the symptoms of COVID-19 in order to guard against the spread. They are listed below. Students, staff, and stakeholders need to recognize the symptoms and take appropriate steps to limit the spread of disease, whether experienced personally or observed within another.

In the event of confirmed cases within the district, the county health department will conduct appropriate tracing and dictate quarantine/isolation measures, contacting those affected directly. The district will only update the general population as necessary and appropriate. A single case or even multiple cases at one time will not necessarily result in the closure of schools. The closure of schools will be a last resort if it becomes apparent that community spread is occurring at a rate faster than manageable.

● COVID-19 Symptoms

- Fever (100.4 or higher)
- Chills
- Rigors
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Lower Respiratory Illness (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing)
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Diarrhea
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Nausea or Vomiting



Screening

Any person entering a school building will have their temperature checked and screened for symptoms. Individuals exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are asked to not to come school or will be sent home.



Exclusion

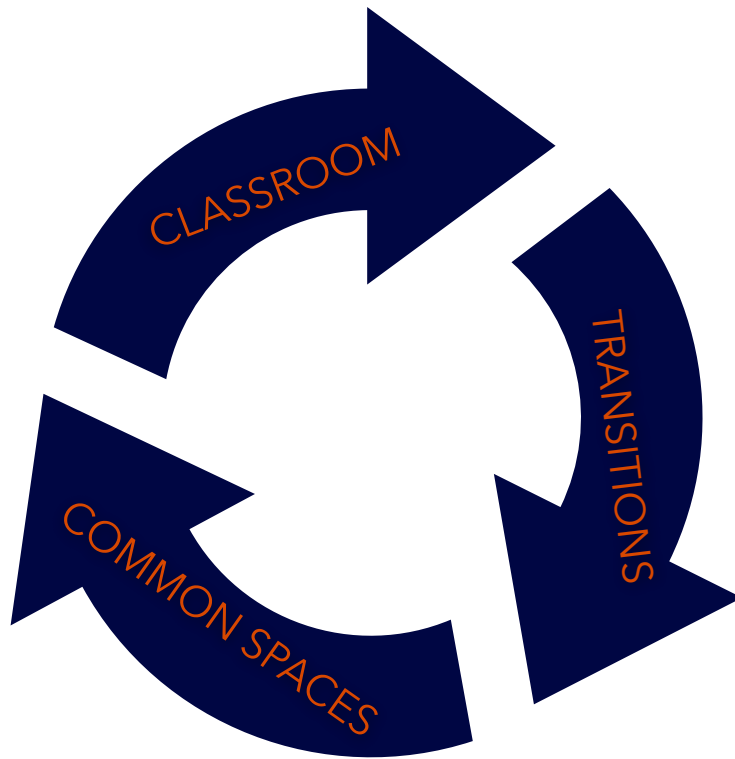
If exhibiting symptoms at school and sent home, only after a period of 72 hours symptom free are individuals allowed back to school. All are asked to assess health at home, before coming to school, to avoid a potential extended exclusion period.



Quarantine/Isolation

In cases of an individual tested positive or direct exposure to one, individuals can be quarantined for an extended length of time as determined by the county health department. For more information, contact your county health department officials.

OPERATIONS



● Classrooms

Proper hygiene practices will be directed by staff, social distancing will be observed as much as possible, and masks will be required at all times. Students will be directed to practice safe interactions.

● Food Service

Social distancing will be observed as masks will not be worn while consuming food. Additional tables will be available and modified lunch schedules may occur. All group service practices will be eliminated.

● Facilities

Signage or markers will be posted to remind of social distancing, mask wearing, and proper hygiene. Barriers may be installed in visitor areas. Thorough cleaning, sanitizing, and housekeeping will occur.

● Transitions

Whether arrival, dismissal, movement in hallways, or other transition moments within the school, steps will be taken to ensure social distancing is observed and masks are worn. Mass gatherings will be avoided.

● Transportation

Masks will be required while riding on the bus. Surfaces will be cleaned daily. Groupings and seat locations will be assigned. Social distancing will be observed when possible.

● Sports

For many sports, social distancing is incredibly difficult. For that reason, masks will be required when not performing strenuous activity. UPDATE: Please refer to Lyon County League Guidance on "Resources" page.

REMOTE LEARNING PLAN

1. A licensed teacher for each grade level or each subject area will be assigned and available as expected during in-person learning. Teachers will perform the following duties:

- Ensure that the district's curriculum, and scope and sequence for instruction is followed.
- Provide daily lesson planning, associated assignments, and other activities for each student.
- Ensure that each student will be assessed on the same standards and competencies as on-site learning.
- Daily check in and check out sessions with students via Zoom or other teleconferencing platform to assess daily attendance, provide learning opportunities similar to in-person learning, and provide any instructional support needed by students.
- Maintain a log of communications with the student and parent.
- Monitor student progress and grade student work.
- Provide weekly grades/progress reports to parents and school administration.
- Serve as the point of contact for the student and parents for all questions and concerns, answering questions within 24 hours, but preferably the same day if asked during normal operating hours.
- Serve as the student's liaison and advocate for any additional services needed by the student.
- Allow time for special education, school counseling or social work services provided via Zoom.
- Allow time for social/emotional learning lessons and opportunities provided via Zoom.

2. Students will be expected to continue their education, although within a remote environment, as expected during in-person learning. Students will be required to:

- Attend daily class sessions via Zoom or other teleconferencing platform with teachers during scheduled "in-session" days as assigned. The student must participate in a minimum of 360 minutes of learning activity each day.
- Fully participate in all class sessions in order to receive direct instruction, remote learning support, and other necessary assistance.
- Meet the typical expectations of classroom instruction, assignments, activities, assessments, etc. while in a remote learning environment.

3. Parents are asked to establish engagement, support, wellbeing, and responsibility with their student as they navigate the changes involved with remote learning. Parents can:

- Emphasize the importance of the learning, ask about the learning, celebrate the successes of performing remote learning.
- Maintain clear lines of communication with the district, monitor assignments and activities, and monitor grades/progress reports.
- Emphasize a healthy mental/physical lifestyle with their student while remote learning, provide moral support, and seek assistance from school resources when needed.
- Reinforce resiliency with their student by asking them to "own" their learning, provide structure to do so, and provide accountability when needed.

4. The district will provide the following supports to meet the needs of remote learning:

- Use of an online learning platform to assist in organizing instruction materials along with providing asynchronous access to curriculum and instruction. Any online platform will reflect the use of the same curricular standards and scope and sequence of the district's face-to-face instruction.
- Supervision of online coursework, activities, assignments, assessments, etc., to ensure grade level appropriateness and learning environment effectiveness.
- Professional development on any technologies used to deliver remote learning.
- Professional development on engaging students in a remote learning environment.
- Clear, consistent communication and outreach to students/parents on a regular basis and on an individual basis to support remote learning.

RESOURCES

- Kansas Department of Education, "Navigating Change": <https://www.ksde.org/Teaching-Learning/Resources/Navigating-Change-Kansas-Guide-to-Learning-and-School-Safety-Operations>
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment, "COVID-19 Response": <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Childcare, Schools, and Youth Programs": <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- American Academy of Pediatrics, "Guidance for School Re-Entry": <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- Kansas State High School Activities Association, "Considerations for a Return to School Activities": <http://www.kshsaa.org/public/pdf/KSHSAAReturntoAct-General.pdf>
- Kansas State High School Activities Association, "Activity Specific Risk Mitigation Considerations": <http://www.kshsaa.org/public/pdf/ActSpecificConsiderations.pdf>
- Lyon County League, "LCL Return to Activities Guidance": https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bHIAZwc0xpmnCL43egO_Woti21gXtzyrBcCDQOvbENo/edit?usp=sharing