

Marengo Union Elementary CSD # 165
Return to School Plan
IN-PERSON
July 28, 2020

I would like to thank the parents and guardians for the continued patience as we have worked to develop this Return to School Plan. This plan was developed in collaboration with a Transition to School Committee.

The District will be offering a synchronous platform for the fall. Parents may choose from one of the two following platform:

1. In-Person Instruction
2. Remote Learning –Remote In

Your Back to School Information Packet, which will be mailed on August 13, will contain specific information about classroom teachers, busing, supply drop off and other important documents. Please note—Students are required to have their own mask (s). If this presents a financial difficulty, please contact tweidner@marengo165.org and one will be provided. It is also strongly recommended that students have a water bottle that can be reused.

Within this document are the guidelines that the District will be using to ensure the safety and wellness of our staff and students that choose to return to in-person instruction this fall during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This plan was developed in accordance with the IDPH/ISBE's document "Starting the 20-21 School Year". These guidelines are required of all public school in Illinois.

1. Providing in-person instruction for students

The District will be providing in-person instruction for the 2020-21 school year. Parents who opt out of in-person instruction may choose a remote learning platform. Our remote learning platform will allow parents to "remote in" to the classroom.

A separate guiding document has been developed to discuss the specifics of the **"Remote In"** platform.

2. Students and staff wear face masks at all times while indoors.

(Exceptions include: medical conditions that preclude wearing of a face mask –requires a doctor note, while eating lunch or a snack or drinking water and during PE class)

Students who refuse to wear a mask will receive disciplinary actions which may include student being sent home for the day and possible automatic transfer to Remote-In Learning Platform.

3. Maintain social distancing whenever possible.

4. No groups larger than 50 at one time.

5. Avoid mixing of groups of students.

6. Hands are washed or disinfected prior to leaving class each time and upon returning to class.

The following physical measures have been taken to increase student and staff safety.

- Each student will be given one (1) cloth mask and the District has purchased 6,000 disposable masks that will be distributed to bus drivers and staff in the event that a student forgets to wear a mask or they need a new mask.
- Installation of plexi-glass in offices, classrooms where small group instruction must occur, and kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms
- Purchase of tri-fold desk shields for every student
- Installation of hand sanitizers in classrooms that do not have running water and other high traffic areas in the buildings
- Only the bottle filling stations will be accessible on our water fountains
- Purchase of five (5) temperature stations for staff and students
- Hand sanitizer stations at student entrances
- One-to One Devices for grades K-8. K-2 will be issued IPADS and 3-8 will be issued laptops
- Classrooms have been staged to maximize social distancing requirement as much as possible.
- Purchased 5 (five) additional electrostatic disinfectant aerosol sprayers

General Information

First Day of School*	Grades 1st – 8th	Monday, August 24, 2020
	Grades K	Tuesday, August 25, 2020
	Pre School/ECE	Wednesday, August 26, 2020

***NOTE—THIS IS A NEW DATE**

School Day	Pre School/ECE	9:00 – 11:30	12:30-3:00
	Locust Elementary	8:30 – 2:00*	

*This is a staggered dismissal process so students will start to be dismissed at 2:00.

Car riders and walkers will not be dismissed until 2:20 pm

Grant/MCMS	7:35 – 1:05*
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*This is a staggered dismissal process so students will start to be dismissed at 1:05.

Car riders and walkers will not be dismissed until 1:25 pm

Fall Sports	There will be no summer or fall sports. An assessment based on the recommendation of the IESA will guide decision making about Winter and Spring Sports.
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Schedule Design	To avoid mixing of groups, all students will remain in their same classroom throughout the day except for pull-out groups that receive: special education services including direct instruction or supporting services such as speech, OT, etc.
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All students will continue to have daily PE. Some opportunities for art and music grades K-6 and advanced band.

Accelerated classes for 7th and 8th grade per teacher recommendation.

Transportation

Students will

1. Will be required to wear a mask upon entering the bus. Students who do not have a mask will be given one to wear. **Refusal to wear a mask may result in students losing their transportation privilege.**
2. Have assigned seats and be seated back to front with some exceptions made for Kindergarten students
3. Pre-school will be bused separately.
4. Will exit buses front to back at the direction of the bus drivers
5. Be staged by staff to social distance as entering the building

Buses will:

1. Be sprayed with an aerosol disinfectant between each route
2. Be completely wiped down at the end of the am/mid-day/pm routes
3. Have daily log sheets indicating time of cleanings

Parents may:

1. Drop off at Locust beginning at 8:00 am (K-3), 8:45 (AM PREK), and 12:15 pm (PM PREK)
2. Drop off at Grant beginning at 7:00 am (Front of the building—Grant Entrance)
3. Drop off at MCMS beginning at 7:00 am (Off of Prospect Street-MCMS Entrance)
4. Pick up at Locust beginning at 2:20 pm
5. Pick up at Grant beginning at 1:25 pm*
6. Pick up at MCMS beginning at 1:25 pm*

***Cars will stage for pick-up in the MCMS parking lot adjacent to the bus barn. More information to follow on this.**

Entering the building

Students will:

1. Be directed to social distance by staff as they exit buses or cars
2. Disinfect their hands at the door as they enter the building
3. Be required to wear facemasks at all times while inside.
4. 3. Have temperature taken at temperature station (s)
 - a. If a student's temperature is over 100.4 degrees they will be sent to the health office for further screening
5. Drop coat/backpacks into lockers
6. Report to homeroom

Leaving the building:

Students will:

1. Be loaded on buses by routes
2. Be directed by staff as they exit the bus to ensure social distancing
3. Go directly to their assigned seat on the bus
4. After all buses have been loaded and dismissed, safety cones will be removed and allow parents to queue up and students will be brought out to load into cars or be safely crossed to walk home.

Classroom

Teachers will:

1. Space desks as far apart as possible to accommodate social distancing
 - a. Students will face all the same direction if possible.
 - b. Assign seats for each student so seats are not shared.
2. Keep classroom windows open as much as possible to allow for natural air flow
3. Institute a regular cleaning schedule and hand washing routine
4. Institute non-communal supplies
5. Limit non-essential visitors
6. Limit use of paper (age appropriate) and utilize technology platforms such as Google and Apps on the IPAD.
7. Use virtual field trips, events, etc when educationally appropriate
8. Direct **BRIEF** mask breaks as appropriate for environmental conditions and at the direction of the teacher.
9. In grades 7th and 8th, teachers will go to the classroom. Students will remain in the same room for at least the first quarter. A determination will be made at the beginning of the 2nd quarter to allow some sections of 7th and 8th to move from class to class with proper disinfecting processes.

Lunch

Students will:

1. Clean their desks and wash hands before eating and put away their tri-fold desk shields
2. Have lunches delivered to classroom by staff wearing masks
3. Allow for students to go outside if time and weather permits

Physical Education

1. Students will not change clothes for PE
2. Students will not be required to wear a mask during PE as long as they are able to maintain 6 feet social distancing requirements.
3. Activities must follow 6 ft. social distancing requirements when possible.
4. Communal equipment use of equipment will be avoided but if it is necessary then it will be cleaned between uses.

Signs and Messages

1. Signs and messages will be posted throughout the building on how to stop the spread.
2. Announcements will be made to remind students of safe practices.
3. Failing to intentionally not follow safety measures will be considered insubordination and the student may be sent home.

Cleaning

1. Flat surfaces in all classrooms will be washed daily
2. All rooms (classrooms, restrooms, locker rooms, hallways, entry ways, and common tables) will be disinfectant fogged each night.
3. Daily-door knobs and other high contact areas will be cleaned throughout the day
4. Restrooms will be disinfected frequently during the school day.

Health and Wellness

1. Parents will be required to sign a Health and Wellness Certification Form that they will daily monitor their child (ren) before sending them to school. There will be additional information on this in your mailing.
2. Staff will be required to self-certify and take daily temperature
3. All students will be screened for temperatures upon entering the building. Students with of (or greater than) 100.4 will be sent to Health Office for additional screening.
4. Parents and staff member must notify school office anytime someone tests positive for COVID.
5. School secretary will ask specific questions about a child's absence
6. A student who presents symptoms of illness during school hours will be immediately sent to the Health Office for screening and separated if symptoms warrant possible COVID. Parents should take their child to their primary care physician for a COVID test for further evaluation.
7. Health Office will report any COVID diagnoses to the McHenry County Department of Public Health.
8. Students and/or staff sent home with suspected COVID symptoms may not return to school unless one of the following occurs
 - a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **OR**
 - b. **Negative results of initial COVID test**
9. Siblings, even those who present no symptoms, of a student who present COVID symptoms must also be sent home. They may return to school when one of the following has occurred:
 - a. Negative initial COVID test of student sent home with symptoms **OR**
 - b. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
 - c. An additional 14 days have passed
10. The District Website will have a link that reports the number of all active COVID cases
11. The MCDH will determine when a class or occupants of a bus must be quarantined
12. Students who cannot attend in-person instruction for extended periods of time due to illness or quarantine will receive accommodations to continue to attend school using an electronic platform. This will be arranged on a case by case basis.