

## **Return To Learn Frequently Asked Questions** *(updated 8/24/2020)*

**1. *Have there been any updates to how PE is being handled this year?***

(Zero Hour: Students will be screened for COVID symptoms and temperatures each morning before class starts by their classroom teacher, while all other students will be screened upon entry into the building in the morning.)

PE: Students will be asked to be on time, virtually or physically, everyday except Wednesdays. Google Classroom and Google Meet will be the learning management system used to give instruction, take attendance, and distribute assignments. Students will be given a code or sent an invite from his/her instructor. Students who are in Group A and B will be asked to participate in moderate physical activity within their class period, even though the use of the locker room is not permitted at this time. All ISBE guidelines will be followed in regards to equipment use and cleaning. Questions may be directed to your child's instructor through email.

Fit for Life PE: [dobbertinm@mchs154.org](mailto:dobbertinm@mchs154.org)

PE for Athletes: [forsythe@p@mchs154.org](mailto:forsythe@p@mchs154.org)

Zero Hour Gen Ed PE: [halversong@mchs154.org](mailto:halversong@mchs154.org)

General Education PE (1st-8th): [robinsonj@mchs154.org](mailto:robinsonj@mchs154.org)

**2. *IDPH has released FAQ info as well. Will this be shared with MCHS families? For example, I was not aware if someone in my household was being evaluated for COVID, the rest of the household must be quarantined (dated 8/12). I realize the process continues to change rapidly and maybe you have left this guidance to the nurse to share as needed. I was just looking for a point of reference to better understand the protocol the school is taking when a parent, sibling, student or staff member is being evaluated or is a confirmed case. Thanks***

We have been watching information closely as it is released from the CDC and IDPH, then cross-referencing this information with the McHenry County Department of Health. Sometimes information is conflicting until the other agencies update their documentation, which can cause some confusion, but we have been able to confirm processes and procedures rather quickly between agencies. Due to the fast pace at which this information is being updated, we recommend that any households with a family member suspected of having or being evaluated for COVID stays home and contacts the school

nurse for additional guidance specific to the family situation. In addition we will continue our daily screening process of students that includes asking them about close contact with anyone with COVID-19.

**3. *Questions with welding class: how will that be taught if my child stays home or small engines?***

Based on required laboratory equipment and safety precautions associated with Career and Technical Education courses, some educational activities will not be adapted to the remote learning experience. Every effort will be made to ensure the instruction for remote students mimics the in-person instruction, however, some CTE courses lend themselves to remote instruction better than others. Welding specifically may not be one that is easily adapted to remote learning. Although teachers will make every effort to be creative in their instruction and provide suitable alternative educational experiences when they are able to do so, the remote experience may not be the same as in-person instruction. While it is not our intention to take opportunities away from students, please discuss your schedule with your counselor to assure the appropriateness of courses if opting an all remote learning experience first semester.

**4. *How many students will be in each classroom? Will passing periods be the same or staggered so not everyone is in the hallways at the same time?***

Classroom sizes vary depending on the number of students assigned to the A, B, and C cohort groups. While the A-K and L-Z alpha sort is 50/50 at the school-level, this is not necessarily true at the section level.

Passing periods are 5 minutes in length and will not be modified or staggered. Passing periods should not be considered close contact with others because they will be less than a 15 minute time period of contact. Staff and students will be advised to stay to the right while traveling through the building, and there will be staircases designated for one-way travel (up or down only). To help train and remind people of this there will be special marking and signage in the hallways and stairwells.

**5. *What is the maximum in person class size?***

Maximum class sizes vary by course and department. Typically core classes are larger in class size as compared to electives not required for graduation. The breakdown of the number of students assigned to an “A”, “B”, or “C” cohort will vary at the section level, however, all efforts are going to be made to identify the “A” and “B” cohorts with as close to a 50-50 ratio to balance classes as much as possible at the school-level.

- 6. Will the students in the hybrid option be keeping their same classes (subject and teachers) or are classes going to change due to needing limited numbers in all the classes and or to keep the same group of students together all day?**

We do not anticipate required schedule changes as a result of being assigned the “A” or “B” hybrid or opting into the “C” full remote learning experience.

- 7. Will the students in the all remote option keep all their current classes both subject and teachers?**

Please see #1 above.

- 8. If it takes 2 minutes for the desk cleaners to work how are all the desks going to be treated during a 5 minute passing period?**

Each teacher will spray and wipe down each desk during closure of each class. This process should take 1 ½ - 2 minutes. Teachers have been trained in the sanitization of desks and are prepared to accomplish this. The desks will then sit for two minutes to continue drying and be ready for students in the next class.

- 9. What are the district’s plans if my child has been in a class with someone who has suspected COVID or has tested positive?**

When a confirmed case is identified the school will be working with the McHenry County Department of Health to identify close contacts. Based upon this information the Health Department will make recommendations for students and staff related to continuation of activity or isolation/quarantine.

- 10. Fall Kickoff Schedule where are the students supposed to be from 8:25-10:25AM? 3rd hour is after 4th and 5th hour?**

Please [click here](#) to review our bell schedules. Periods are out of order on this date to accommodate the program schedule from 8:30 am - 10:20 am, and ensure period 4 and 5 lunch periods are facilitated at a reasonable time during the day. During the “program schedule” from 8:30 am - 10:20 am, multiple presentations will take place within Advisory classrooms to inform students of the following: general expectations, student handbook review, and the Return to Learn expectations and procedures for the 20-21 SY.

- 11. Will a student that has chosen the all remote option be able to participate in sports (Cross country) and other school clubs (FFA)?**

Yes, students who choose remote learning have equal access to extracurricular activities. Students will be screened and temperature checked before participating in any sport or activity.

**12. When do you plan to send this out to parents? I have received nothing from the school and only stumbled upon this information by chance. People need to know this.**

A mailing was sent to all households on July 29, 2020. If you did not receive the mailing please contact the Guidance Office to verify we have your correct address in our database. Our Return To Learn plan can also be accessed [here](#).

**13. Is remote learning 100% synchronous?**

The Monday/Tuesday group of students and the Thursday/Friday group of students will alternate from being in the school face to face and being online for remote instruction. The greater share of these days will be synchronous, or at the same time with students at school and at home interacting with the instructor simultaneously. There will be exceptions to this depending on the course and the lesson for the day however. An example may be if a group of students at school are doing a lab activity which the students at home may be doing when they come to school next. Attendance and check in at the beginning of each class. Attendance will be required each period regardless of the lesson.

**14. Will teachers be "live-streaming" the classrooms and students at home participating?**

Teachers will be live streaming themselves and providing direct instruction. They will also present with their computer screen, the white board, or variations of these. There may also be pre-recorded instruction and the use of other instructional practices during the remote learning and face to face instruction.

**15. What happens on Wednesdays?**

On Wednesdays activities and/or teacher interaction will be determined by each Instructor and will be communicated to students as determined by each class. There may be a new lesson or learning objective assigned on a Wednesday, or students will be given the additional time to complete activities previously assigned. Instructors may require synchronous activity or it may be independent. Students will still be required to account for their attendance for the day.

**16. Can a student come to school every day and take the seat of a student who is attending remotely?**

Students can only attend on days they are scheduled within their grouping or by special arrangement of the instructor or administration.

**17. I am choosing an all remote learning option for my student and have completed the survey. What happens next? Will I be contacted by the school?**

Surveys requesting an all remote option for first semester are due on Thursday, August 6th. All parents and students will be notified on Monday, August 10th whether their student is assigned to an “A” group (face-to-face instruction will take place on Monday and Tuesday, and remote instruction is Wednesday- Friday), a “B” group (remote instruction will take place Monday-Wednesday, and face-to-face instruction is Thursday and Friday), or the “C” group (remote instruction Monday-Friday).

**18. *How do we know who is part of group A and who is part of group B?***

See above.

**19. *What kind of academic support will the students get that are doing the first semester remotely?***

Students that are doing first semester remotely will have access to the same academic supports as other students at school.

**20. *Please explain how students who choose remote learning will "attend each class during their class time" and it is a live feed to the classroom, will a remote student be able to ask questions during class time?***

Students who will be receiving remote instruction will be attending class via online live streaming as well as other instructional activities. These activities will align with what students in face to face/remote hybrid sections will be doing however it will only be in the remote delivery. Lab experiences will vary from course to course, either doing a lab activity at home, virtually, or using other methods.

**21. *I am worried about home WiFi capabilities as we live out of town, especially with two children on at the same time. Are there plans to accommodate families that have poor WiFi? Could there be a designated space at MCHS where students can come to do their remote learning? Almost like an extended advisory class?***

The purpose of having two groups of students is to minimize the number of students in the building to ensure proper social distancing. Please be reminded students are able to utilize the school's WiFi from almost anywhere on our school grounds. We are investigating other locations around town to provide WiFi for students. If you have Internet issues please email our IT department at [helpdesk@mchs154.org](mailto:helpdesk@mchs154.org) with a description of your problem. We will make every effort to provide a solution for you.

**22. *What is happening with PE classes?***

PE and other lab type class activities and instruction is currently being reviewed for modification to adhere to guidelines and requirements as recommended by state agencies.

**23. Will students use lockers or carry their supplies via backpack from class to class?**

It is recommended that students limit trips to their locker to before and after school, and mid-day when the student has lunch. Students will be allowed to carry backpacks this school year to assist with minimizing traffic and congregating in the hallways.

**24. District 165 is having reduced hours for in school students. What hours are the high school students going to be in school?**

Currently there has been no change to the length of the school day when students are attending face to face instruction. When students are scheduled to attend class at MCHS, they are to follow the regular bell schedule from zero hour through 8th period, 7:55 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. On days that students are at school they should arrive no earlier than 7:15 and no later than 7:45 unless taking a Zero Hour course which they will receive specific directions for.

**25. If a student/family chooses in-person learning and decides that they are uncomfortable and would like to go all remotely, will this be an option?**

Yes, if a student and parent determines that an all remote option will be better suited for the child, this may be requested at a later time. Remote learning will continue for the remainder of the first semester.

**26. Per this plan it states every grade will matter. What time frame will teachers be required to post grades? It is imperative grades are posted in a timely manner for parents to review.**

Teachers are expected to have grades updated on a weekly basis, and are current on Thursdays, as that is the date we pull our eligibility report. The exception to this may be for larger projects and assignments due to extended due dates. If you have a concern regarding your child's progress in a class we encourage you to reach out to your student's teacher.

**27. If a student is scheduled for in person class on a specific day, are they allowed to attend virtually, without it affecting the students attendance?**

No, students must attend in person on the days they are scheduled, unless they are ill and then you must call the attendance office. 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. Please be reminded according to Section 26.2A of the Illinois School Code, the only legal reasons why a child may be excused for being absent from school are: illness, funeral,

observance of a religious holiday, family emergency, or circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent or guardian for the safety or health of the student. If your student is feeling ill, it is imperative that you keep them home from school. Students who are ill but still able to participate in remote learning are highly encouraged to do so to ensure continuity in their education.