

Monmouth Academy - Return to School - Frequently Asked Questions

Latest Update - August 29, 2020

To begin the 2020-2021 school year Monmouth Academy will follow a hybrid schedule to meet the safety and health guidelines set forth by the Maine DOE. In this hybrid Group A will meet in person on Mondays and Tuesdays and Group B will attend remotely; Wednesday is a transition day when Group A and B will meet remotely and follow a different schedule; Group B will meet in person on Thursdays and Fridays and Group A will attend remotely.

The following are the most up-to-date answers to common questions:

Academic Assistance

Can students stay after school to receive in-person academic assistance?

- Yes, must it under the following guidelines:
 - After school only - **not before** school
 - Students will stay in their own group (Group A or Group B)
 - Students must follow protocols (i.e. Documentation on: Which teacher student worked with and in which classroom. What time did the student leave? etc.)
 - Parent/guardian and/or student is responsible for transportation
 - Students will be able to receive academic assistance on Wednesday's remotely during school hours. In addition, students can set up other times after school to receive academic support remotely.
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Athletics and Clubs Questions

RSU 2 superintendent, principals, and athletic directors met on Friday evening, August 28, to review the Maine Principals' Association's (MPA) process (that was voted upon on 8/27/20) and began to discuss a process for making local determinations once more information is released from DOE and CDC.

We recognize the emotional and psychological value of team, group and club activities. We want to do our best to continue to provide students access to these programs safely despite obstacles and barriers presented by the pandemic.

Will there be fall sports?

- This is to be determined. We know everyone is anxious and excited about the prospect of student participation in fall athletics.
- The Maine Principals' Association's Sports Medicine Committee and Interscholastic Division have both deliberated this topic and have forwarded their recommendations to the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) and Maine Center for Disease Control (MCDC).
- We expect the MDOE and MCDC will take a reasonable amount of time to review these recommendations after which they will issue their own unified set of recommendations and guidelines to Maine school districts.
- Once MDOE/MCDC recommendations and guidelines are issued to Maine school districts, we will be able to make decisions and move forward.

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- Mr. Stephen Bell, MA Athletic Director, and Principal Amero are in daily contact regarding this matter, and Principal Amero is also a member of the MPA's Interscholastic Management Committee. We will send out official information on how we will proceed as soon as possible.

Will co-curricular clubs, organizations, and academic teams be able to meet?

- It is our goal to safely provide students as many of these activities as possible.
 - We will begin the year with some of these groups meeting remotely (virtually).
 - We are encouraging advisors and students of those groups to be innovative in how these activities can continue under COVID-19 guidelines and regulations whether we are in-person, hybrid, or remote status.
 - School administration will meet with advisors to discuss plans for other clubs and organizations.
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Attendance Questions

Are students required to attend school five days a week?

- Yes, as per Maine truancy laws. The expectation is that students will attend courses and other learning experiences at their scheduled times Monday through Friday whether the experience is in-person or remote (virtual). Whether a student attends in-person or is attending remotely (virtual), the student is considered "in school" throughout the hours of the school day.

Do students need log in (via Google Meet) stay logged on (when attending class remotely) for the entire class period?

- Yes, the student must log in, on time, to each scheduled course and stay logged in throughout the scheduled class period. However, per the direction of the teacher, students may turn-off their audio and camera.

Can students work during school hours?

- No, as per Maine and Federal child labor laws unless in a state and school pre-approved apprenticeship or cooperative education program.

What if a student becomes ill and/or quarinteed?

The student will stay in their cohort, but will attend fully remotely.

Daily Health Screening PRIOR to Coming to MA

- Maine DOE (Department of Education) requires every student to be screened by the guardian each morning to determine if they are healthy enough to come to school.
 - [Student Daily Health Screening Tool](#)
 - If the screener indicates they should stay home, then you must use the [Return to School Flow Chart](#) to determine whether a doctor note is required to come back.

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Food and Drink

Can students and staff drink and/or eat during class periods?

- Yes, but note, this must be done briefly, and students must remain physically distanced, and facing the same direction, so that the student's facemask can be properly worn.
- Food is strictly limited to a light snack (i.e. an item that can be "popped in" to mouth - not yogurt, sandwich, etc.)
- Brief (3-5 minutes) structured staff-led breaks will be provided throughout the school day as well.

Where will students eat breakfast and/or lunch?

Breakfast

- If students drive themselves or are dropped off, and do not plan to access school food service, they should eat breakfast at home
- If students choose to eat breakfast provided by food service (fee and/or free), they will eat in the cafeteria
- If students bring their own breakfast, (i.e. yogurt, cereal, etc.), they will eat in the cafeteria

Lunch

- All students will eat in the cafeteria with their group (maximum of 25 students will be in the cafeteria)

Will a microwave be available during breakfast and/or lunch?

- No. If students bring their own breakfast and/or lunch, it must not require heating or refrigeration.

Will water fountains and/or bottle fill stations be available?

- Water fountains will be unavailable
- Students may bring their own water bottles and refill at bottle fill stations

Grading and Scoring

Will the proficiency-based scoring system continue to be used?

- Yes, with the exception of dual enrollment and CATC (Capital Area Technical Center) courses.

Will students receive scores on *Habits of Work (HOW)*?

- Yes, and scores will be communicated to learners and parents every two or four weeks depending upon how often the course meets
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Technology Questions

When will students receive laptops?

- Students will receive school-issued laptops prior to the start of the school year upon return of laptop paperwork and insurance payment. If you did not receive this information, please contact Becky Grant (bgrant@kidsrsu.org) or 933-4416.

Will students be required to use specific software?

- Yes, all students and staff must use Google Chrome, Google Classroom, Google Meet, and the Google suite of software (docs, sheets, slides). Note: Dual enrollment courses will use the online meeting platform provided by the university.
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What group (cohort) is my young adult in (Group A or B)?

- You should have received a call from us letting you know as well as answering any questions you may have
 - If you did not hear yet, please contact Sarah Knowlton, sknowlton@kidsrsu.org, 933-4416
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What is the daily schedule for MA? (as of 8/29/20 - subject to change)

Monmouth Academy Daily Schedule 2020-2021

Monday and Tuesdays: Group A attends in-person; Group B attends remotely

Thursday and Fridays: Group B attends in-person; Group A attends remotely

Time	Block or Activity	Additional Information
7:25-7:42	Breakfast in Cafeteria*	* If student chooses food service breakfast
7:45-8:47	Block 1/2 *	* Announcements at beginning of period (3-5 minutes each day)
8:50-9:52	Block 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First 5 minutes of class is a break; then, class begins
9:55-10:57	Block 5/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First 5 minutes of class is a break, then, class begins
11:00-12:00	Block 7/8	Half is scheduled for a class; while other half is in lunch or study
11:00-11:30	Lunch - Group A	Group B - Study
11:30-12:00	Lunch - Group B	Group A - Study
12:03-1:03	Block 9/10	Half is scheduled for a class; while other half is in lunch or study
12:03-12:33	Lunch - Group C	Group D - Study
12:33-1:03	Lunch - Group D	Group C - Study

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1:06-2:10	Block 11/12	
2:10-2:20	Staggered Dismissals	To allow for physical distancing when exiting building

Wednesday “Transition Day” Schedule - All students attend remotely

Time	Block or Activity
9:00-9:20	Block 1/2
9:25-9:45	Block 3/4
9:50-10:10	Block 5/6
10:15-10:35	Block 7/8
10:40-11:00	Block 9/10
11:05-11:25	Block 11/12
11:25-11:55	Lunch Break
12:00-1:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic Assistance Time - Teacher can require a student to attend sessions and/or a student can connect with a teacher (s) with questions and academic support ● Learning Sessions - Technology, organizational skills, etc. ● College & Career Counseling Time with Mrs. Knowlton
1:45-2:20	Various Experiences - Small group meetings with teachers and staff; Seminars and/or other learning sessions; and/or class meetings

What will teaching, learning, and classroom instruction look like?

Teachers have spent countless hours planning how to deliver instruction to students no matter which schedule MA may need to follow - fully in-person, hybrid, or fully remote. Here are some highlights:

- Each school day will follow a structured, master master schedule. Students are expected to:
 - Attend all scheduled classes and learning experiences
 - Attend scheduled classes on time
 - Be appropriately dressed for both in-person and if attending remotely
 - Be in the appropriate learning area when attending remotely (i.e. not in their bed, etc.)
 - Follow all RSU 2 and Monmouth Academy policies and procedures
- Teachers will provide a course pacing guide (syllabus) that will detail what learning activities will occur each day, assignments, due dates, assessment dates, etc. for a two week period.
 - Pacing guides may vary by student due to their unique academic needs

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- Students will be provided digital learning resources that they can access at any time (asynchronous) - instructional videos, foundational content material, hypertext links to specific learning target information from vetted resources (i.e. Khan Academy), etc.
- At the beginning of each class period, teachers will greet students and communicate the learning goals for the day to both in-person learners and remote learners at the same time.
- Teachers will use an instructional model that incorporates a balance of large and small group direct instruction, facilitated discussion, independent learning, and cooperative learning. This may look different in-person and remotely.
- Students will receive ongoing, specific, and timely feedback on their learning, including their *Habits of Mind (HOW)*
- The following describes what may take place during a typical class period with half of the students attending in-person, the other half attend remotely, and a few students attending fully remote: **Please note:** This may look slightly different between content departments (i.e. a lab science course - biology & chemistry compared to an English literature course, etc.)

During Class Periods:

Every day	Teachers will welcome both group of students (in-person and remote) and communicate learning goals for the day
Every day	Record attendance in IC for both in-person and remote students
Every day	Record students who are tardy (late) to class
Every day	Provide ongoing, specific, and timely feedback to students
Some days	Provide whole group direct instruction simultaneously (at the same time) to both in-person and remote groups
Some days	Provide direct instruction to students grouped in relation to their progress on the Learning Targets while other learners work on learning activities then teacher switches between groups during class period (a mix of in-person and remote students)
Some days	Provide direct instruction to in-person group while remote group works on a different activity, then switch groups (in-person will complete activity while remote group receives direct instruction).
Some days	Lead one activity with in-person students and provide different learning activities for remote learners that need to be completed and submitted by the end of the class period or prior to next class period

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Some days	Facilitate assessments (tests) that require supervision to ensure authenticity (i.e. non-project based, research-based, etc. assessments) with in-person learners and provide different learning activities for remote learners
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- Again, the “some days” descriptors will vary between different content departments and/or particular courses within those departments.

What will the first three days of school entail?

- We recognize that this school year will be anything but normal; however, we will do everything as a school community to make it a great one at Monmouth Academy! Typically, we begin the school year at MA with different activities and this year we will continue this tradition. We will begin the year with *Covid Academy*, which will take place Tuesday, Wednesday (fully-remote), and Thursday during the first week of school.
- What is *Covid Academy*?
 - It has been close to six long months since we have seen our students and we will be welcoming the members of the Class of 2024 and other students new to MA. It is important for us (students, teachers, and staff) to welcome everyone, get to know each other, share and celebrate our MA culture and values, and listen to students' questions and concerns as we embark on this school year.
 - In addition, we want to provide specific training in areas that will assist our students experience success throughout the school year.
 - We will facilitate a wide-array of seminars such as: organizational skills, stress management, email strategies, how to be persistent, how to use Google suite, yoga, outdoor physical activities, student leader meetings, procedures and trainings related to the pandemic that we will all need to follow, opportunities to get to know students in grades 9-12 as well as your teachers, staff, athletic director, principal, and much more.