



READY FOR LEARNING-CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Revised July 10 per Governor's statement

Revised August 5, 2020

Revised September 21, 2021

Revised April 11, 2022

Revised October 7, 2022

Malvern Public Schools COVID-19 Guidelines for 2020-2021, 2021-2022, Fall 2022-2023

Malvern Public Schools will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning report issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in planning for re-opening in the fall. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

Our goal will be to provide as safe an experience as possible that includes a rich educational experience with opportunities for social interaction and extra-curricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

What is the first day for students?

School will begin on August 24, 2020, per the governor's statement. Kindergarten will begin on August 24, 2020 as well with placement testing being conducted the week prior. These dates will only change if ADH sends updated guidance with this requirement but that is not anticipated.

First day August 16 with kindergarten starting on August 20, 2021.

The first day for 2022-2023 will be August 22, 2022.

The first day of school was August 22, 2022 with kindergarten starting on August 26.

Has the district chosen a Learning Management System (LMS)?

We will use a variety of platforms in the case of a pivot from school to home. We are working to ensure that all teachers understand Google Classroom and are ready to use it if needed. We will also use Lincoln Learning in grades K-6 and Edgenuity in grades 7-12. Teachers will also have the option to use Zoom.

These services will continue with more Google classroom and zoom in the lower grade levels to provide more teacher instruction.

We have continued to provide online instruction through zoom and Google classroom. Our virtual numbers are very low this year.

It was our goal to get as many students as possible back on site. We currently have no students who are virtual in K-6. Our upper level students who are virtual are using Edgenuity and Google Classroom.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

If we were to start school today, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is recommending all individuals 10 years old and over wear a face covering. **Per the ADH, we are requiring**

students in grades 4 and up wear face coverings when physical distancing cannot be achieved. Students under 10 years of age and those with health issues and special needs will not

be asked to wear face coverings. Students will be required to wear face coverings in areas with high concentrations of students where social distancing cannot be maintained.

As of September 7, 2021 all students and teachers are required to wear masks due to the rise in COVID numbers. Students with medical conditions may be exempt from this requirement.

Mask mandates have been dependent upon COVID numbers for Hot Spring County and the state of Arkansas. We are currently not under a mask requirement but some students and faculty do continue to wear masks.

We will continue to follow CDC guidelines and possibly mandate masks based on COVID numbers for the county. We are currently not under a mask mandate but students and faculty may wear them by choice.

Do we need to provide masks for our students or will one be provided?

The district will provide one washable mask for each student.

Again we provided cloth masks to all students. Students who report to school without a mask will be provided a disposable one.

We have continued to provide masks when we mandated it.

We will provide masks if there is a mandate.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students. The district will follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidance for bus transportation. We are currently not planning any changes to bus schedules or bus stops; however, we will continue to review and make necessary changes as needed. All students' temperatures will be screened with a touch-free digital thermometer prior to boarding the bus. If the student has a temperature of 100.0 or higher they will not be allowed to board the bus. **Due to the inability to fully social distance on the bus, all students will be required to wear a face-covering** (except students with health conditions or special needs). The district is asking all parents to follow the ADH guidance and screen their child prior to sending him/her to the bus

and to keep them home or seek medical attention if they are displaying any of the symptoms listed in the ADH guidance.

Transportation is being provided. As of September 7, students are required to wear masks on the buses. More buses have been added to the routes to decrease the number of students on some routes. We are in the process of purchasing more buses. Temperatures are not being monitored at this time.

Students are not required to wear masks while on the bus.

Transportation is provided to and from school. Students are not required to wear masks.

How normal will the day be for a student?

Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. Grades 5-12 students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another. Extra safety precautions will be taken on a regular basis.

Students are transitioning from class to class in all grades.

School has continued as normal as possible. Students have transitioned between classes and participated in extracurricular activities.

We have returned to a normal school day. We have continued to have smaller groups of students on the playground and in the cafeteria.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance, and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction. In some cases, the teacher may present their lesson in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning as much as possible. In other situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to their classrooms.

Students are going to their pullout classes such as PE, art, music, guidance and library.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes. Elementary students will have outdoor recess with restrictions that limit the number of students with whom they come in contact.

This practice is being continued. We have fewer students on one playground at a time.

...Continued

Yes. Smaller groups are on the playground together.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible, but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be

maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students will be expected to wear face coverings. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but cannot always guarantee it will be 6 ft.

Social distancing is being maintained where possible.

...extra space has continued in the cafeterias. If extra space is not available, students are allowed to eat outside (MMS and MHS). No face coverings are required.

We are not social distancing.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches, or comfy chairs being removed. It might include dividers between students who are seated at a table. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students' ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom.

Classrooms are back to normal arrangements.

Classrooms are continuing in a normal status.

Will students attend school every day or will we have some type of alternative schedule? We plan for students to attend school daily following a very similar schedule to the traditional school day.

There is an expectation for students to be at school unless they are virtual. Virtual students are expected to complete their assignments.

Students are expected to be at school daily.

Traditional Learning	Remote Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular school day while adhering to ADH guidance. • The learning management system will be incorporated into the day-to-day instruction to prepare students in case the district transitions to blended learning. Students are aware of google classroom and some classes work in it on a regular basis. Some teachers have continued to use Google Classroom on a daily basis. • Classrooms will be arranged to provide social distancing as much as possible. Students have returned to a normal arrangement. We are no longer social distancing. • Concurrent credit opportunities available. (for high school students) Continued Students can receive concurrent credits through Arkansas State University Three Rivers. • Students will continue to participate in their scheduled activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance, as well as special education and gifted education as long as ADH guidance can be met. Continued Continued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn remotely from home full time using Lincoln Learning and/or Google Classroom (K-6) and Edgenuity and/or Google Classroom (7-12). Continued • Parents will be asked to sign up for this option and commit to a minimum of nine-weeks. Students must have parental support for at-home learning. Expect to dedicate 4-6 hours per day for instruction. Students are allowed this option with medical documentation. Continued • Attendance and grading policies apply. Continued Continued • MSD will provide technology if needed. Parents are responsible for internet access or transportation to MSD provided hot spots. Chromebooks have continued to be provided. Some students were issued state provided hot spots. We are one-to-one with chromebooks. Parents are responsible for internet access. • Parents will provide transportation for extra-curricular activities. Continued Bus transportation is provided for 7-12 grade students for extra-curricular activities.
<p>Blended learning will be provided in the case schools are required to pivot to total at-home instruction. Teachers will provide instruction through various resources to meet the needs of the students.</p> <p><i>*This is not an option that can be chosen but one that will be provided when mandated.</i></p>	

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the ADH. We will be in direct contact with ADH. This could result in a brief closure of a single school within the district to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation.

[We have continued to follow ADH guidelines.](#)

[We will continue to follow ADH and CDC guidelines in regards to positive tests and isolation.](#)

Will students and adults be screened daily?

Both students and adults will complete a daily screening tool. Students should be asked the following questions prior to arrival at school. If any result in a yes answer, the student should not come to school.

- 1.) Have you had a fever of 100.0°F or greater in the last 2 days?
- 2.) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?
- 3.) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 with the previous 14 days?

**** All students will be screened daily.** Students who ride the bus will have temperatures taken before getting on the bus. They will also be given hand sanitizer when getting on the bus. Students who are car riders will have their temperatures taken upon entering the buildings each morning.

Students and staff are not having temperature checks. We are depending on parents to monitor their students and not send them to school if either of the three questions above are answered or noted to be yes.

Temperature checks are not completed.

Students are not screened daily.

If I don't want my student(s) to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

The District has provided a survey to all parents to collect information regarding their interest in a digital option for students. This would provide a total online educational program for students who do not feel comfortable returning to onsite instruction. Parents will be asked to sign up for the virtual education program and commit to a minimum of a nine-week period. **Parents and students should commit to the remote learning option and notify the building administrator no later than July 31, 2020.**

*Remote learning will be through an educational platform and will not be instructed by MSD teachers.

Because of the need for students to receive in-person instruction, students K-6 can go virtual only if they have medical documentation. Students in grades 7-12 have the virtual option if they have a GPA of 2.0 or higher, proficient on ACT Aspire, ACT, or NWEA, and were engaged if they were virtual previously, or have medical documentation.

Continued

Virtual is only offered for students who have medical documentation showing it is medically necessary.

**** What if my student is a virtual learning and he or she is struggling?**

Virtual learners can attend after school tutoring on their respective campus from 3:30 to 4:30. The parent will be required to call the building the day before the requested tutoring day to schedule the tutoring session. Please be prepared to provide the learners name, grade, and subject the tutoring is being requested in. Please make sure to arrive on time as the session is a limited amount of time. **Tutoring has continued to be offered. If students are struggling and not utilizing the tutoring services, it has been recommended that they return to school for in-person instruction. Tutoring services are still available.**

Will we have Open House?

We are currently designing a modified version of our open houses and will be sending more information soon. The dates are as follows:

- Monday, August 10, 2020; 4-6 p.m.-MES- **only students NEW** to the district grades 1-4
- Monday, August 10, 2020; 4-6 p.m.-WIS- **5 th graders and students NEW** to the district grades 5-6
- Tuesday, August 11, 2020; 4-6 p.m.-MMS- **7 th graders and students NEW** to the district grades 7-8
- Tuesday, August 18, 2020; 4-6 p.m.-MHS- **9th graders and NEW** students to the district grades 9-12
- Kindergarten Student Open House-Wednesday August 19 students last name A-M
- Kindergarten Student Open House-Thursday, August 20 students N-Z

***Face to Face open house will be for new students and new grades to a building.**

August 12th for K-6. 7-12 had previous dates to pick their schedules up. All 9th grade met August 5th in the high school auditorium.

Sneak Peek and Open House were offered this year.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall? Yes, senior high athletes returned to campus on June 2 to begin practice. We anticipate sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by ADH. At this time, we are still awaiting guidance on both band and choir.

Extra curricular activities have continued this school year. This is the first year in two years to have a school sponsored prom.

Yes

Will my student eat lunch in their classroom?

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias to limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We anticipate this may either mean we will be required to adjust lunch schedules or use alternate areas, such as large gathering spaces or potentially have lunch in their classroom on a very limited basis. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account for the purchase of ala carte items at the intermediate and secondary levels so no cash is exchanged. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.

No. Students eat in the cafeteria. There has been attempts made to reduce the number of students in the cafeterias at the same time.

No

Can I eat lunch with my child at school?

During this time guests will not be allowed to eat lunch in the cafeteria.

No. We are continuing to limit the number of guests in the buildings.

No

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. Constant attention will be given to clean high-touch surfaces. We have also purchased disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize rooms between usages. We will also provide time for handwashing and hand sanitizer throughout our campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter new spaces.

We have continued to sanitize our buildings monthly while also providing the classrooms with hand sanitizer.

Students are still taught proper hand washing technique. Air purifiers have been purchased for all classrooms and student areas.

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If the temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever-free for **48 hours** without medication before returning to school.

...continued

continued

**** What happens if we have a student or staff member who tests positive?**

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we will immediately call ADH.

Following current ADH guidance when a person tests positive, we will track that person's travel

throughout the day to identify who has been within 6 feet of that person for a cumulative 15 minutes. If your child falls into that category, you will receive a call from a district personnel of possible exposure. You will then be notified by someone for ADH. If you receive a call from someone in the district, please answer any follow-up calls from an unknown number as that may be someone from ADH with more information on your next steps. Other parents will be notified via the district's call out system. Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date in the school office.

ADH guidelines will continue to be followed. Quarantine and isolation status will be determined depending on the student or staff member's vaccination status.

ADH guidelines are continued to be followed.

ADH guidelines will continue to be followed.

How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return. Additionally, students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. These assessments will determine if students need additional support. At the secondary level, missed skills from a previous course will be embedded in the next course in the sequence. For example, a student enrolled in geometry would have geometry skills embedded in their Algebra II course.

Teachers are diligent working to form small groups to provide interventions for students who need them. The RTI assignments are also being made. Before and after school tutoring is also being offered.

All of the above is correct. We are also having a daily required tutoring for a select group of students.

Teachers are continuing to provide small group instruction. K-4 aides have also gone through training to help them with interventions. Specialists are having WIN time with students to help close achievement gaps.

What happens if we have school closures again?

If schools close again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed. This plan includes K-12 using Google Classroom to submit assignments. Teachers will utilize online methods such as Zoom to deliver live lessons. Students will learn how to use these Learning Management Systems by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school.

...continued

We will meet the needs of students through Google Classroom, zoom, and Edgenuity.

Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

Yes. However, depending on guidance from the ADH, arrival and dismissal times may be varied, in order to increase social distancing and to decrease the number of students in the cafeteria and gym before school starts.

Arrival and dismissal times are on our normal schedule.

Yes

Will visitors be allowed in the schools?

Not at this time. Parents may volunteer to read online to their child's class.

...continued

We are starting to allow visitors back into the buildings.

What advice do you have for students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, etc.) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions? The district will be prepared to accommodate students through onsite and offsite instruction with special needs. Our Special Education instructors will be taking extra precautions when working with students. If parents have concerns about their students who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, they may explore the virtual learning option and/or other options that allow the students to continue their education from the safety of their own home.

...continued

Virtual learning is available when it is medically necessary.

In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, etc.)?

In the event of a school closure, students will participate in live instruction with scheduled Zoom sessions as well as alternative methods based on the students IEP.

...continued

In the case of school closure, students will participate in instruction via scheduled zoom sessions during the regular school day.

If my child chooses remote learning, how long will he/she have to remain in it?

Anyone that chooses remote learning, must remain in it for a minimum of a nine-week period.

Remote learning will be instructed using an educational platform and not MSD teachers. If a student must return to school, he/she must enroll in a lateral course to the one they were taking in order to receive credit for the course.

Students must remain in virtual learning until a doctor's notice is received stating that they may return to in-person instruction.

Remote learning is not being offered.

***GUIDELINES MAY BE CHANGED ACCORDING TO CDC GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.**

Parents and stakeholders are welcome to comment at any time at covid@malvernleopards.org.