



Revised July 10 per Governor's statement

Revised August 5, 2020

Malvern Public Schools COVID-19 Guidelines for 2020-2021

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.

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.

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.

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

The district will provide one washable mask for each student.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.● Classrooms will be arranged to provide social distancing as much as possible● Concurrent credit opportunities available. (for high school students)● Students will continue to participate in their scheduled activity classes, check out library books, receive guidance, as well as special education and gifted education as long as ADH guidance can be met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students will learn remotely from home full time using Lincoln Learning (K-6) and Edgenuity (7-12).● 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.● Attendance and grading policies apply.● MSD will provide technology if needed. Parents are responsible for internet access or transportation to MSD provided hot spots.● Parents will provide transportation 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>*This is not an option that can be chosen but one that will be provided when mandated.</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.

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.

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.

**** 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.

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- **5th graders and students NEW** to the district grades 5-6
- Tuesday, August 11, 2020; 4-6 p.m.-MMS- **7th 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.**

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.

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.

Can I eat lunch with my child at school?

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

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 usage. 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.

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.

**** 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.

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.

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.

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.

Will visitors be allowed in the schools?

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

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.

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.

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.

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