



February 12, 2021

Dear Tilden Family,

As we prepare for the partial in-person reopening, our goal is, as always, to provide high-quality learning experiences for our students in a safe and welcoming environment. Our plans are being developed based on instructional and operational needs of the school in order for us to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of our students who have opted for in-person instruction.

When some students return, school will look and feel much different from what they previously experienced in school buildings. Face coverings, physical distancing, and frequent hand-washing will be required to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, how frequently a student attends school in-person and how they engage with their teacher, other staff members, and peers will be different. We understand and respect that each family will need to take this into consideration as they make their decision about the possible in-person return to school.

Below, I have included a general overview of what students can expect when they return to school this spring. Over the next couple of weeks, we will share with you detailed plans and virtual orientation videos. Should there be any changes at the district level, I will let you know right away.

We will be hosting a virtual town hall meeting to discuss the partial re-opening and to give you an opportunity to ask questions. Please join us at 7:00 pm on February 24th.

- To join the webinar:
<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/88133319255?pwd=UGpwcGxrQzEyUzI5bjRySzdkYTRZZz09>
Webinar ID: 881 3331 9255
Passcode: 818731
Or iPhone one-tap :
US: +1-301-715-8592,*818731#

Important Calendar Dates

- February 15: Holiday – Presidents’ Day, Schools and Offices closed.
- February 25: Last day for families to contact school to request changes from their original selection
- February 24: Virtual Town Hall meeting at 7 pm
- March 8: No School for Students, Professional Day for Teachers
- March 9 and 10: Asynchronous days for students

In-person Instruction Starting Dates and Groups:

March 15 Start Date: Students in our **Learning For Independence Program (LFI) ONLY**

- All three grade levels of students in the LFI Program will begin on this date
- Students will attend every week, no A/B weekly rotation
- Detailed letter will be sent to LFI families

March 15 Start Date: Only **6th grade students** who receive **special education services through our Learning and Academic Disabilities (LAD) Program**

- 6th grade students in the LAD program will follow the weekly A/B rotation (students will attend in-person on alternating weeks)
- Detailed letter will be sent to 6th grade LAD families

April 6 Start Date

- **6th grade students who have opted for in-person instruction return**

April 19 Start Date

- **8th grade students who have opted for in-person instruction return**

April 26 Start Date

- **7th grade students who have opted for in-person instruction return**

General Information

- Students who continue with virtual instruction from home will not experience any schedule changes.
- Students who return for in-person instruction will still follow their virtual schedule, and they will be in school every other week, following an A/B weekly rotation.
- Students who return for in-person instruction will need to bring their Chromebooks to school **every day** in order to participate in virtual learning, as we do not have extra Chromebooks available.
- All classes will still begin at 9:00 am, follow the same lunch schedule, and end at 2:40 pm.
- Wednesdays will remain virtual check-in days for all students in MCPS. On these days, our building service team will thoroughly clean the building. Students and staff will not report to the building on Wednesday.
- Students will not have access to lockers.
- Virtual tour and safety videos will be posted and shared with students at a later date.

In-person Instruction

- The in-person school rotation/day will look and feel different from a traditional school day. Students will be grouped alphabetically, and they will follow their current virtual school schedule.
- Every classroom will have a teacher and a paraeducator who will collaborate to support students in the classroom and those who are remaining in the virtual environment, at the same time.
- Students will experience multiple instructional approaches which will include virtual, simultaneous, support, and direct instruction.
- Given capacity restrictions and staff availability, students may experience the following:
 - Academic interventions or small group instruction in English Language Arts/Math

- Direct teaching
- Re-teaching and review of concepts
- Structured class discussions or peer-to-peer collaborative learning opportunities
- Social-emotional learning or well-being activities (i.e., classroom community building)

Arrival, Lunch, and Dismissal

All of these processes will be explained in greater detail in the virtual orientation videos.

- **Arrival**
 - Students who ride the school bus will follow the pre-Covid bus schedule. They will arrive at school between 7:50-8:15 am. Between arrival and the first class, they will be assigned a seat in either the gym or the cafeteria.
 - Walkers and car riders should arrive closer to 9:00 am.
 - Students will have three entrance points where we will take attendance and ensure hand sanitization and proper mask wearing.
 - Students will be expected to socially distance in hallways, which will be marked for one-way traffic.
- **Lunch**
 - Students will have a thirty-minute lunch in their classrooms.
 - Bagged school lunches will be available to students at no cost. More breakfast and lunch information will be shared as we get closer to March 15th and as plans are finalized.
 - At the end of lunch, students will clean their desks and then go outside to one of the grade-level designated areas (weather permitting) where they will also be expected to wear masks and socially distance at all times.
- **Dismissal**
 - Classes will end at 2:40 pm. Walkers will be dismissed first, followed by the car riders, and finally bus riders. Buses will start arriving at 3:00 pm.

Family Preference Changes

- Families who wish to change from virtual to in-person instruction need to email me directly.
- All additional requests for in-person learning will be based on availability, as each class only holds a maximum of 15 students. Students may be placed on a waiting list.
- We will be confirming with families who selected in-person instruction the week of February 23, 2021, and will know if spaces open up once our confirmation process is completed. Should a space become available in the grade you are requesting, we will contact you.
- Families who did not make a selection were defaulted to virtual instruction.

Wishing you a restful three- day weekend.

Warmest Regards,

Irina LaGrange
Principal