



Meridian Public

School District

Where Learners Become Leaders

Returning, Reimagining, Revamping
2020-2021

The Meridian Public School District is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and families. When developing the plan for a safe return to school, the Meridian Public School District consulted with parents, teachers, students, health officials, and community stakeholders to better understand their concerns and seek counsel to ensure we were taking all precautions and following CDC guidelines. We have developed, and continue to refine, our safe return to school plan. The plan will be reviewed monthly and revised as necessary.

PHASE ONE

- School will start on August 10th for all students in a Blended learning model.
- A Blended learning model combines face-to-face and online (virtual) instruction into one learning experience for students.
- Back to school orientation will be provided to all students the first week of school to ensure they understand how to keep themselves and others safe.

****Subject to change based on updates and recommendations from the CDC.****

Phase 1 Communication

With safety measures in place, do you feel comfortable bringing your child(ren) back to school?

No

Full virtual learning is available for those who do not feel comfortable bringing their child to school or if the child has a medical condition.

We encourage parents of PK - 3rd grade students to consider the blended model.

YES

OUTBREAK

All students

Students will participate in a blended learning model which blends face-to-face instructions with online virtual instruction for a well - balanced learning experience.

Elementary Pre-K - 5th grade

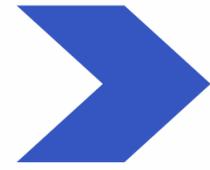


Elementary students will attend school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.



Drop-off time: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Dismissal: 2:00 p.m.



Wednesday will be virtual (online) learning for ALL students in Meridian Public School District.

- Deep cleaning of all common areas and classrooms will take place on Wednesdays.
- Teachers will be on campus offering virtual learning through Zoom and Google Classroom.

Phase 1 Communication

Secondary 6th - 12th grade

➤ Middle school and high school students will attend school 2 days a week for face-to face instruction and participate in virtual learning 3 days a week. Each school will group students into A or B group and provide parents with a schedule for their child. Group A will attend Monday/Thursday and Group B will attend Tuesday/Friday.

➤ Drop-off time: 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Dismissal: 1:10 p.m.

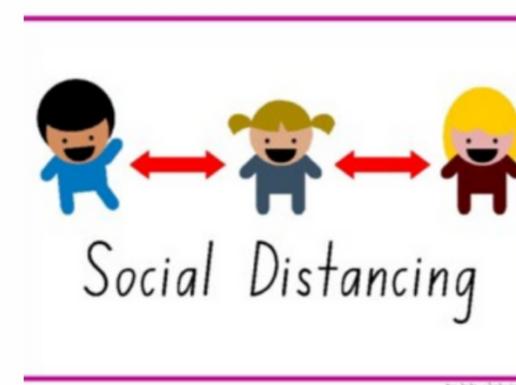
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Phase 1 Communication

Safety Precautions

- The district will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the CDC and MDE.
- Additional daily cleaning by all custodial staff members and teachers.
- Temperature checks done daily when staff and students enter the building.
- All students and staff are expected to wear a mask throughout the day when social distancing is not possible.
- Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom and sanitizing stations in the hallways.
- Washing hands multiple times a day.
- Students will be spaced 6ft apart from each other in each classroom.



Phase 1 Communication

Technology

- All students grades PK - 12th grade will have a technology device available to them at the beginning of the school year.
- Daily sanitation of technology will occur.
- All learning platforms used can be accessed with a single sign-on through PowerSchool Student Portal.
- Additional technology is being purchased with CARES funds.



Phase 1 Communication

Curriculum and Instruction

- All necessary school supplies will be provided by the Meridian Public School District. Each student and classroom will be equipped with supplies when school starts in August.
- Bookbags, nap mats, and other types of bags will not be allowed in the school building to help the school decrease the chance of the virus being transferred from home to school or school to home.
- A mask is required for all students. Due to the financial strain of Covid-19, the uniform policy for 2020 - 2021 school year will be waived. However, students are still expected to follow the dress code guidelines in the Code of Conduct.
- Parents should discuss with the school administrator if they have concerns with their child(ren) returning to school.
- Elementary (PK-5) will have 4 face-to-face learning days and Secondary (6-12) will have 2 face-to-face learning days on their schedule.



Phase 1 Communication

Transportation

- Parents are encouraged to check their child's temperature before they leave home.
- Parents who are able are being encouraged to drop-off and pick-up their child(ren) from school.
- All students must wear a mask on the bus. If they do not have one, the bus driver will provide a mask before they enter the bus.
- Adjustments to bus drivers schedules are being made to accommodate the bus stops with large student numbers.
- Buses will be sanitized daily and in-between drop-off and pick-up routes.
- Buses will load from the front and students will proceed all the way to the back of the bus to assist with social distancing and decrease student interaction.



Food Services

- All desks will be wiped down with disinfectant wipes before and after each meal.
- Students will be given hand sanitizer before eating.
- Grab and Go breakfast and lunch will be delivered to the classroom by cafeteria staff. When social distancing is possible, students will eat in the cafeteria.
- If a student brings a lunch from home, it must be in a brown bag or something similar that can be disposed of daily. Drinks should not be brought in a thermal mug or cup. All food and drink items must be disposable.
- A plan for feeding students on virtual learning days will be released before the start of school in August.



Phase 1 Communication

FAQ for Parents

- Is the district prepared with enough cleaning supplies to ensure every school is cleaned properly? Yes, the district has been preparing since March and has been able to purchase a large supply of sanitizing products on top of the surplus we already had available.
- What if I do not have a mask for my child(ren)? Although a mask is required for all students, MPSD is prepared to give masks to those students who do not have one.
- Will my child be able to attend school on the same day as his/her siblings? Yes. School administrators are working on scheduling siblings in the same group for students grade 6th-12th.
- Why do elementary students have a longer day than middle and high school? The district wanted to consider working parents and older siblings that help get their younger siblings on and off the bus every morning and afternoon.

Phase 1 Communication

Additional Information for Parents

- MPSD will take attendance when students are in the building AND when students receive instruction via virtual learning.
- Due to possible outbreaks, the superintendent may be required to close a school or schools to prevent further spread. Students will receive instruction online during these closures.
- MPSD will grade work submitted through Canvas or Google Classroom when students are receiving instruction online or in the building.
- There will be no large assemblies beyond the number recommended in CDC guidelines. Social distancing practices will be used with any assemblies.
- To protect the safety of our students and staff, MPSD will not allow visitors in the school building.
- Anyone entering the building must call the front office before entering. Temperature screening will be done on all visitors, including parents. Each visitor will also be required to wear a face-mask.
- Parents will need to call the office before checking their child in or out of school. If the parent must enter the building, they must have their temperature taken and be wearing a mask.

Phase 1 Communication

Additional Information for Parents

- Students will be grouped to optimize CDC guidelines. On average, there will be 20 students in PK-12th grade classrooms. Classroom design will be arranged to achieve social distancing recommendations.
- Each school administrator will place students in class cohorts that will stay together through out the day.
- Due to the highly individualized nature of accommodations, all services will be managed through the IEP process with the IEP team.
- Routes are being redesigned to achieve the maximum social distancing. Face coverings will be expected and encouraged where unable to achieve social distancing.
- Purses will be allowed for young ladies who may need them for personal hygiene products.
- Student lockers will not be used.
- Each site administrator will develop a plan for recess that allows for a reduced number of students in any one location at the same time, to the extent feasible.
- We will conduct virtual parent teacher conferences by appointments with individual teachers.

Phase 1 Communication