



Step Into School - August 10-14, 2020

MPS Communicates <mpscommunicates@mpsomaha.org>
Reply-To: MPS Communicates <mpscommunicates@mpsomaha.org>
To: MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS Recipients <recipients@mpsomaha.parentlink.net>

Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 12:31 PM



July 27, 2020

Dear Millard Families,

We are two weeks away from the start of the year, and we are ramping up to return to school. We continue to monitor COVID-19 closely. I promised I would be back in touch with you before July 29th. It is important that every parent reads this communication as I am providing detailed information about the start of the school year and what the first week of school will look like. You can expect to also receive follow up communication from your child's principal.

This has been an incredibly difficult path to navigate, and we are quickly approaching the end of planning and the beginning of implementation. This will not be easy, and your help is needed. We are going to have successes and failures, and how we handle it together will make a big impact on your children. Please be patient with our teaching and administrative staff as they build something that has never been built before. Just like last spring, we are coming together as a community to make this work. It will require perseverance, grit, and ownership from all stakeholders. It will also require us supporting each other.

Safety Protocols

The situation with COVID-19 remains fluid. The Douglas County Health Department is currently reporting a rise in cases in west Omaha and other areas in our community. In order to open school we have:

- Required masks for students and staff members. The District is providing two masks per student, one to wear and one to wash. As we have previously communicated, students may wear their own mask.
- Developed enhanced cleaning procedures ensuring that high touch areas, desks, and other spaces are sanitized.
- Purchased specialized equipment to sanitize classrooms and other spaces should there be a positive case.
- Purchased thousands of gallons of hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies so that we can provide the best possible environment.
- Principals have worked on detailed opening plans for their buildings.
- Teachers have and will continue to participate in professional development focused on remote learning. They are also training on safety protocols.

COVID-19 Webpage

We recognize that communication is essential. We have updated our COVID-19 webpage. You can find it in the bright yellow banner at the top of our district website, www.mpsomaha.org Because information changes so quickly, a web page is the best place for updated information. The webpage has many resources on it, and I want to draw your attention to four specific links:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): These are continuously updated as we see new questions come up from the community. The FAQ has a topical index that makes searching quick and efficient.
- Return to School Safety Protocols: This link provides information about our safety protocols. These are items such as cleaning, lunch, masks, etc. Your building principal will also send building specific protocols prior to the start of school.

- Positive Cases & Exposure: This link explains how we will respond to positive cases and exposures.
- Health & Safety Quick Reference: We have created a sheet regarding symptom checks, mask wearing tips, hand washing, etc. This is a printable document that can be used as a quick reference.

Stepping into the School Year

We are unable to predict what will happen next with the COVID-19 virus, and we are developing an induction and training plan for all students so that we can change our delivery model efficiently should we need to do so.

We have over 20,000 of our students returning in person. We also have several thousand students who have chosen to enroll in our concurrent remote option.

Our teaching staff needs to be able to meet their students and spend some time with them preparing them for the days ahead. Our schools need to be able to deploy equipment and curriculum materials to our students as well. Regardless if you chose to be 100% remote or in person, we need to meet and greet each other and take care of important business.

Using technology requires us to distribute devices and train students on how to access curriculum and learning management systems. This takes time, and we need students to be in smaller groups to make maximum use of that time.

We are asking a lot of our teachers to onboard remote learners and welcome in person students. They need time to make this work so that it can be as seamless as possible. This will not be without challenges, and we are preparing to meet the challenge.

It is likely that all of us have emotions about the start of the year and how COVID-19 will impact it. The opening week schedule is set up as our best chance to:

- Meet and greet students
- Provide the most efficient way to onboard students with technology
- Hand out curriculum materials
- Utilize small groups to learn and practice safety protocols

This induction plan creates the safest and most manageable environment possible for students and teachers so that we can be prepared for whatever is next with the pandemic.

First Week Schedule

The schedule for the first week of school will involve students being assigned to a small group. **This means your children will attend only one day of school in person during the first week of school.** As I said above, this schedule is for all students - those who are choosing remote and those choosing in-person learning. We need the time to get your children set up for success. The design of this plan enables us to maximize time and practice safety procedures.

We will bring 25% of the student body to school on each of the first four days of school with Friday morning being set aside for our remote students. This will make class sizes small and allow for individual attention. **For this week only**, there will be no Wednesday early dismissal at the elementary or late start on Monday at the secondary level.

The schedule for the first week of school will be as follows:

Date	Last Name	Hours
Monday, August 10th	A-F	*Elementary: 8:30-3:45 Middle: 7:45-3:00 High School: 8:00-3:15
Tuesday, August 11th	G-L	
Wednesday, August 12th	M-R	
Thursday, August 13th	S-Z	
Friday, August 14th	Remote Learners	*Elementary: 8:30-12:00 Middle: 7:45-11:15 High School: 8:00-11:30

*Abbott Elementary hours will be adjusted accordingly (8:20-3:20 on Monday-Thursday; 8:20-11:50 on Friday)

Bus transportation will run accordingly and allow our drivers the opportunity to work with students on safety protocols.

The Second Week of School

We will make determinations about what the second week of school will look like as we get closer to that date so that we have the best possible and most up to date information. No matter what, the first week gives us options for the second week. The first week is the key to starting the year in the best possible manner and setting the stage for all of the weeks that follow.

I will continue to communicate with you regarding our response to the pandemic. As you know we have developed multiple plans for continuing your child's education. You can read more about each one of these plans on our COVID-19 Website by clicking [HERE](#).

I am so thankful for our amazing teachers and staff who have shown such flexibility and resilience throughout these past six months. There is simply no way we could do this without their dedication. I also want to thank you and our students. I know this time is not easy, but we share a common goal, and that is to make sure our children continue to learn throughout this time. Together, we can make sure that happens.

Regards,



Jim Sutfin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS. If you wish to stop receiving email updates sent through the Blackboard service, please [unsubscribe](#).
MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS | [5606 South 147th Street, Omaha, NE 68137](#) | 402-715-8200