



Monticello Community School District

Return to Learn Plan

As we prepare to open up the Monticello Community School District on August 24th we have considered many educational options. The district leadership team has spent several months of developing and refining a Return to Learn Plan. We have collected information from our parents and staff and utilized the guidance from the Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Jones County Department of Public Health to develop our Return to Learn Plan. We continue to see the safety of our staff and students as our top priority and are confident that we can create a learning environment in which our staff and students can return and be successful.

The Monticello Community School District will be offering education to all students through three models: **Brick and Mortar, Online Learning, and Hybrid Learning.**

Brick and Mortar Model (In Person Learning):

- Students are able to attend school all day
- When riding the bus, students/staff will be **REQUIRED** to wear a district or personal face covering. This includes shuttle bus routes. This option was selected because of the close proximity of riders, which will make it very difficult to maintain social distancing. **We encourage parents to transport their children directly to and from school each day to help lower the number of riders on the school bus.**
- All students/staff will be **REQUIRED** to wear a district or personal face covering during the school day. This option was selected because of the close proximity of students in and out of classrooms, which will make it very difficult to maintain social distancing. The following face covering exceptions will apply:
 - Medical exceptions will be allowed with the appropriate documentation.
 - Face coverings will be optional during physical activity in PE classes.
 - Face coverings will be optional during recess.
 - Face coverings will be optional during lunches.
 - In music classes, the principal and instructor will examine the options, given class size and space available, and determine the best practical solution at each grade level.
- If possible, students should bring their own water bottle, hand sanitizer, and school supplies for personal use.
- Students should practice good hygiene (such as sneezing or coughing into their sleeve) in addition to hand washing during the day.
- We are asking parents to do temperature checks each morning at home before sending their child to school.
- If a staff member or student shows any of the symptoms of the COVID 19 illness such as a cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea they should stay home.

Online Learning Model:

- Unlike last spring, online learning will be **required learning** and student attendance and participation is required.
- The expectation is that each class or subject will contain the same level of rigor as a brick and mortar class.
- Lessons will contain activities and assessments and feedback will be provided. Online lessons will be recorded and placed in SeeSaw or Google Classroom so students can access them anytime/anywhere. This would also make these lessons available to rewatch and gain better proficiency.
- Teachers will provide online learning and assessment to all students in grades K-6 through SeeSaw and students in grades 7-12 through Google Classroom.
- Technology devices (such as iPads or Chromebooks) will be sent home with students in grades K-12.
- If internet access is needed, please contact your building Principal for assistance.
- In the event of a school closure, every student will be required to participate in online learning during that time.
- If a student is absent, they can participate in online learning to make up the content and activities missed.
- **Parents will need to give permission if their child is not attending in-person.** Online learning will be used by students to provide a continuous educational program for each student.

Hybrid Learning Model:

- Hybrid Learning will allow students to participate in **both** brick and mortar and online learning classes. We want to support maximum flexibility for each student.
- **Parents will need to give permission if their child is not attending in-person.** Online learning will be used by students to provide a continuous educational program for each student.
- Students taking classes for part of the day will need to provide their own transportation home when not attending classes. Students may not be present at school if they are not attending an in-person class.
- If a student is absent, they can participate in online learning to make up the content and activities missed.

Other Relevant Information:

- **Registration:** Online registration will be open from August 3 - August 7, 2020: credit card fees are waived during this time. Parents unable to utilize the online registration will need to contact their school and set up a registration appointment by August 7th.
- **Open House:** The traditional open house, which is usually held the night before school starts, will be cancelled for this school year.
- **School Year Begins:** Monday, August 24, 2020
- **First Week of School, August 24-28, 2020:** We will be modifying the school schedule during the first week of school. **We will have brick and mortar coursework in the morning (8am-12pm) and online coursework in afternoon.** This schedule will help

our students better understand the expectations of online learning and allow teachers to work with students to better understand the online environment.

- **Every Wednesday will serve as an online learning day starting September 2nd. This means that ALL students will be required to participate in online learning at home, every Wednesday.**
 - This will allow the time for the development and implementation of quality online instruction.
 - Staff will have the opportunity to deep clean and sanitize in each school building.
 - Wednesdays will also be a day for our staff to contact and assist all students who may need additional help with online learning.
 - This schedule will reduce staff/student exposure by 20%.
 - We will transition all of our PD days, collaboration days, and early out days into instructional days to offset the online learning days. There are 20.5 PD, collaboration, and early out days that will transition into 35 online learning days (Wednesday of each week).
- Students participating in all three learning models are eligible for extracurricular activities. Students continued participation in extracurricular activities are dependent on meeting academic expectations (refer to the Academic Eligibility guidance in the student handbook).
- Entry to buildings will be restricted to only students and staff who attend that building; no parents, volunteers, or other visitors will be allowed beyond the office.
- Field trips and school activities such as Shadow a Student Day, Grandparents Day, and Veterans Day activities are suspended until further notice.
- If a staff member or student shows any of the symptoms of the COVID 19 illness such as a cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea they should stay home.
- Each day we will provide additional cleaning in all buildings.
- Implementation of the Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) will be pushed back and begin during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Teachers will only participate in essential Professional Development and the majority of our Professional Development time will be dedicated to online instruction.
- At the beginning of the school year, we will reorganize learning and welcome back activities for the staff to create social distancing and smaller groups.
- We are asking staff to complete several required trainings online before they report back to school.
- We will be purchasing masks and face shields for our staff on an as needed basis. We will have masks available for students on busses and in school offices.
- The nurses will be utilizing two rooms for students that come to the office not feeling well. One for those with COVID 19 related symptoms the other for everything else.
- We will require parents/guardians to update all emergency contact information so we can send students with symptoms home as soon as possible.
- We will be providing health and safety training to our staff.
- Throughout the year we will be looking at student data to determine who is on grade level and who is behind. We will also be developing summer school programs for K-8 Math and Reading to help students return to grade level.

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- Principals are working on developing campus specific plans to be used during the school day. This information will be sent out during the next week.
- We will continuously work to maintain the confidentiality of staff and students who are infected with the COVID 19 virus.
- We will continually look for guidance from the Governor, DE, Athletic Associations, CDC, IDPH, JCDPH and make changes as necessary to our Return to Learn Plan.
- **The Return to Learn Plan will be reviewed monthly at our school board meeting to determine if changes are needed based on our current data.**