

2021-2022 Academic Year Planning

The Marathon School District is currently planning for the 2021-2022 school year with the goal of having all students in school five days of in-person instruction each week following a normal school calendar. We realize families have questions concerning what next school year will look like. We have done our best to answer the questions below based on the information we have available at this time.

Please note that these plans are subject to change based on the levels of positive COVID cases, the prevalence of new COVID variants, the rate of vaccination in our community, and revised guidance from federal, state, and local health officials. To keep our families apprised of plans for the 2021-2022 school year, this webpage will be updated as new information becomes available and monthly updates will be sent to families. As we near the start of the 2021-22 school year, schools will reach out to families with specific back-to-school information.

COVID PROTOCOLS FAQs

Q: Will masks be required?

A: As of June 9, 2021, masks will not be required indoors, but will be recommended for non-vaccinated individuals. Masks outdoors will be recommended, not required, when social distancing cannot be maintained for those not vaccinated. Athletics will continue to follow WIAA and Marawood Conference regulations.

The district's COVID protocols are subject to change based on guidance from federal, state, and local health officials. Any revisions made to our COVID protocols will be shared with families.

Q. Will students have to follow quarantine/isolation rules when ill?

A: Yes, students will quarantine/isolate per guidance from local, state and federal health officials. The District will continue to follow its established COVID protocols and will update those protocols as needed. Any revisions made to our COVID protocols will be shared with families.

Current guidance for quarantine/isolation include: Individuals identified as a positive case will be required to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms or from test date if symptom free. Any staff or student identified as a close contact to a positive case will need to quarantine for 14 days. Close contacts who choose to show proof of COVID vaccination will not need to quarantine, if asymptomatic.

Q. Will physical distancing be in place?

A: The district will follow physical distancing guidelines to the best of our ability knowing that in many classrooms and around the school students will not be 6 feet apart. The district will continue to follow its established COVID protocols and will update those protocols as needed based on guidance from federal, state and local health officials. Any revisions made to our COVID protocols will be shared with families.

Updated 7/15/2021

Revised 8/11/2021

Q. If my student is fully vaccinated, will he/she have to be isolated at home if identified as a close contact to someone with COVID?

A: If your student is fully vaccinated (an individual is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after having received the second of two doses or the first of a one-dose COVID vaccine) and is not symptomatic, your student can continue to attend in-person school. If the student develops symptoms, the student would then have to quarantine at home.

Q. Should students with illness be kept home?

A: If your student is showing COVID symptoms or if they are ill (fever, upset stomach, etc...), they should be kept home until 24 hours after symptoms subside. Students who come to school sick, will have parents contacted and be sent home.

Q. Will school bus transportation return to normal?

A: Yes, with some limits. The District is planning to return to single run bus routes similar to the end of last school year. There will be continued seating charts on buses. Single day bus passes will not be utilized for the start of the school year.

Please be aware that guidelines for school buses follow Federal (Mass Transit) Rules. Mass Transit governs public transportation. School buses are considered public transportation, and the District will honor any requirements established by our bus contractor. **Masks are required on public transportation (buses) due to this Federal requirement.** The current requirement is currently set to expire, September 13th. This will be monitored by the bus company and District.

Q. Will visitors and volunteers be allowed in buildings?

A: Volunteers and visitors will be admitted on a limited and invitation-only basis.

Q. Can students bring birthday treats?

A: Yes, students will be permitted to bring birthday treats following the district's standard policies. Current research indicates surface-to-surface transmission of COVID is very low, therefore this protocol has been modified accordingly.

Q. How will the district adjust to changing COVID rates of infection in our area?

A: The district will closely monitor the spread of COVID in our community and within our schools and potentially adjust the mode of instruction as needed which could include blended or a fully virtual model.

Q. What mitigation steps will the district take if COVID numbers increase?

A: The district will continue to monitor COVID cases and continue to work with the State DHS and Marathon County Health Department. If it is determined to be necessary to return to standard COVID mitigation protocols the district may return to social distancing, cohorting, masking, or short term closures. All mitigation measures will be reviewed for a length of time and the goal will be to return to the least restrictive learning environment as soon as safe for all students.

SCHOOL DAYS FAQs

Q. Will students have different start and ending times to the school day?

A: No. All schools will return to their standard set start and end times for all students.

Q. Will students be able to complete remote lessons if they are quarantined/ill at home?

A: There will not be a virtual option for students that are out for illness or quarantine. However, teachers will continue to ensure lessons and materials are available for students online who must remain at home, and will provide support as needed. Many HS classes will continue to record video lessons and will upload them to their Schoology Class Pages.

Q. Will breakfast and lunch be free again during the 2021-22 school year?

A: Yes, breakfast and lunch will be free at both buildings. Extras will continue to cost money at school board approved rates. Even with the federal government subsidizing meals again for the coming school year, it is very important that our families who qualify for Free or Reduced Meals to complete the necessary paperwork. This information is also used for other funding sources for our District receives or may apply for during the school year.

Q. Will parent-teacher conferences be held in-person or virtually?

A: Schools will offer parents the opportunity to participate in conferences in-person or virtually.

Q. Will band classes be allowed to play instruments?

A: Yes, students will play instruments as they would on a normal year. The district will continue to monitor COVID suggested protocols and make adjustments to this policy if needed.

Q. Will students take field trips?

A: We hope to start the school year with as many opportunities as we can allow. We have high confidence that local field trips will be able to be offered safely. Trips with more complex travel involved may require adjustments and/or alternatives.

Q. Will student lunch time return to normal?

A: Yes, at this time the District is planning to have lunch serving and eating time return to pre-COVID normal. Students at MAES/MVA will be requested to sit with their class during lunch.

Q. Will students at MAES/MVA have recess?

A: Yes, students will be allowed to return to pre-COVID, normal recess time.