

FAQ for Menasha ReOpening Plan

August 4, 2020

Hello!

Here are the answers to many of the questions that we have received thus far. Thank you for taking the time to ask. Please remember this is a fluid situation and likely to change over the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience.

Q. P - Will we be offering Before and After School Matters/ Blue Crew?

A. Yes. Enroll as usual for these programs. Blue Crew may be operated in cooperation with the Menasha Boys and Girls Club.

Q. P - Can students use their own devices when working from home?

A. Yes. We will provide Chromebooks and Hotspots as needed and/or as supplies hold out.

Q. P- Will students in grades 6-12 be placed in the same cohort so their schedules align?

A. Yes.

Q. P - When masks will be required for students? Both Elementary and 6-12. The letter states they're required but is this all day? When moving between classes?

A. Yes, masks are required by all students and staff. There will be time spent teaching and discussing proper mask wearing and we will work with students who have difficulty with this and ask parents to take the time to acclimate their children to wearing masks.

Q. P - How will lunches be handled in the 6-12 grades? Will my student, who have all packed lunches every year, be allowed to bring a lunch from home due to perceived concerns of 'contamination'?

A. Grades 6-12 will have lunch in cafeterias or other large spaces where they can spread out properly. Schools are still working on details for these plans. Yes, your children will be allowed to bring their own lunches to school as they always have. Elementary students will eat in the classrooms.

Q. P - For elementary students, will they be bringing home supplies each night or at least get the opportunity to collect supplies this time, should we be forced to go 100% virtual again?

A. We will hopefully have some lead time into a complete shut down and we will definitely send home all materials this time. You might recall that we had no idea how long or to what degree this would last in spring. If we have to switch to all virtual instruction, we will send home all materials with students.

Q. P - If a child has a cold, are they even allowed to attend in person classes? In the event a student is sick, is the opportunity to participate online with class that day an option?

A. We will continue to provide guidance to parents on monitoring their childrens' health and we will ask them not to send students to school if they are sick. The Menasha Health Department is working on some documents that will give us direction according to the different symptoms being displayed by a child. We are still discussing how we will handle individual absences along with possible whole class quarantines and how virtual learning will be used.

Q. P - When school starts back up can a student wear a face shield instead of mask? I've bought many different styles of masks & shields, to find one they wouldn't mind wearing. Not much luck, but I got him to wear an InstaShield. InstaShield attaches to a rim of baseball cap style hat. They allow this at his doctor appointment. I'm hoping this will be OK for school too.

A. Face shields alone are not considered proper face coverings according to the State Order and the CDC. Thank you for making the effort to see what your son will tolerate or not. We will work with you to find a way for him to be successful while at school.

Q. P - With the posting/email we received today... does anyone know if... we select in school to start the year, can we switch to virtual later on?

A. We need you to commit for the semester for planning purposes. Students in the virtual school will follow courses that are set up for the semester/trimester and switching will create gaps and holes in instruction.

Q. P - Will there be "mask breaks" or times when the kids are sitting that they won't be required?

A. Masks will be required and teachers will determine mask breaks or opportunities to work while not wearing a mask if students can be properly distanced from one another and/or can be outside.

Q. P - Can you please paint us a picture of how social distancing will be enforced in the classrooms/ outside (for example, are kids going to be required to stay 6 feet from each other while playing on the playground?).

A. We will physically mark out appropriate distances to help remind students and help them to learn activities they can do while maintaining proper distances.

Q. P - Will there still be outdoor recess?

A. Yes.

Q. P - Will there be restrictions on bringing lunch from home?

A. No. Students will be able to bring lunch from home as usual.

Q. P - If in-person ends up moving to virtual, will it still be bilingual?

A. Yes, if we make the move after we begin the year. If you start out virtually, the program will not be bilingual.

Q. P - If at any point in the school year, we become uncomfortable with the restrictions (or school moves to virtual learning for all students), can we opt out and decide to pursue homeschool?

A. You always have the option to homeschool your children. The DPI link for doing so is here <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/home-based>

Q. P - What specific plans are there for online instruction?

A. Online courses from the beginning of the year will be highly computer driven and a teacher will oversee the process. Live, recorded, and small group instruction will be elements of our online or in person for PreK - 5 students. Students in grades 6-12 who choose online from the start will be enrolled in APEX Learning, a digital curriculum, featuring lessons where content will be delivered to them virtually.

Q. P - If school is not canceled due to Covid and my child begins to struggle academically, what are our options?

A. Your child's teacher will continue to work with you and your child to help them be successful whether we are in session in-person or virtually.

Q. P - If we decide that the risk is low enough before school begins to attend using the two-day schedule and then we become uncomfortable with the social distancing at the school, could we switch to the online option?

A. We are asking for these changes to only happen at the semester for planning

purposes.

Q. P - What does a school day look like?

A. It will look a lot like it usually does although with facemasks, social distancing, and certain restrictions on movements.

Q. P - What does social distancing on buses look like? Assigned seats? Load bus in order of pick up so kids get on bus back to front?

A. We are still working on specific transportation plans.

Q. P - Plan for social distance as kids gather outside of school before the bell in the morning? Staggered entry to the building or long lines (like 4K) with spacing?

A. We will do our best to stagger both entry and exit from the building in order to keep social distancing in place. This will be an ongoing learning experience.

Q. P - How will locker social distancing be implemented? Staggered lockers for students of different classes with staggered class start times?

A. Single locker use by students and recommendations that students use their backpacks.

Q. P - Will teachers move from class to class or will students move through the school?

A. Elementary students will be predominantly in their classrooms for the better part of each day. We will work to minimize movement in middle and high schools, but students will change classes.

Q. P - How many students to a classroom?

A. Our classes are generally 20 or fewer at the elementary levels. Middle school and high school classes should be between 15 and 20.

Q. P - Will there be enough teachers in person?

A. We will staff in order to meet the needs of our students.

Q. P - Will Band percussion instruments be shared?

A. Any items that must be shared will be sanitized.

Q. P - Will Art supplies be shared?

A. No. Students should bring their own materials. Items that must be shared will be sanitized.

Q. P - Will gym equipment be shared?

A. Any items that must be shared will be sanitized.

Q. P - Why Schoology for virtual school 3 days a week when we are just getting comfortable with the Google Meet and Classroom functions and finally feeling productive?

A. Schoology is simply the learning management system that will coordinate the use of Google Meet, Zoom meetings, recorded lessons, attendance, grading, etc. Teachers will still be able to use the tools they have become familiar with. Schoology also provides us with a consistent format for communicating with parents.

Q. P - What benchmarks have been established to make sure the virtual programming provides comparable curriculum coverage to in person classes?

A. Our teams of educators have researched the selections we are using and feel they will provide an equivalent educational experience. Planning and preparation is ongoing.

Q. P - Are all the math workspaces and books removed from the classroom?

A. No. There will be plans to manage these.

Q. P - What else has been removed from the classroom?

A. Unnecessary furniture and materials have been removed so we have as much space as possible for people.

Q. P - Are the books they will be reading on the computer?

A. Some are, some are not.

Q. P - I would like to go to school and see my children, even if I have to make an appointment, especially considering what happened last year. Is that possible?

A. We will not be allowing visitors into the school buildings at this point.

Q. P - When will the school supply list be released?

A. We will make them available early in August.

Q. P - What happens if a student is confirmed COVID positive?

What happens if a primary teacher is confirmed COVID positive?

What happens if a specials teacher is confirmed COVID positive?

What happens if you or any other support staff is confirmed COVID positive?

A. We are waiting on guidance from MHD for these questions.

Q. P - What are the safety precautions and how will they be implemented?

A. We will have the following safety measures in place:

Daily cleaning and disinfecting of buildings

Desks spaced out in classes as much as possible (~6 ft)

Students/staff will wear face masks when inside the buildings

Reduce the number of people students will come into contact with daily

[Link to facilities operational guidelines](#)

Q. P - How is 6 feet apart going to be enforced?

A. We will have markings on the floors and signage indicating safe distances along with daily reminders from announcements and teachers.

Q. P - How will mask-wearing be enforced?

A. We will have signage indicating safe masking practices along with daily reminders from announcements and teachers.

Q. P - What is the threshold for closing school?

A. We continue to work with the Menasha Health Department and other State entities to determine and review these metrics.