

## **MCE's Fall 2020 Back To School Plan: 20 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **#1) Is MCE going back to school “in-person, everyday” in the fall?**

Yes. MCE is located in MERC Region 2. At present, Region 2 is in Phase 4 of the Governor’s MI Safe Start Plan. Phase 4 allows in-person instruction while requiring schools to follow certain safety protocols and procedures.

### **#2) As a parent, if I am not comfortable with my student going back to school “in-person, everyday”, will there be a remote learning option?**

Yes. MCE recognizes that some families may not be comfortable returning students to a traditional classroom until a vaccine for COVID-19 is widely available. As a result, MCE will offer families two options for fall 2020-21:

- Traditional schooling (“in-person, everyday”). This option requires the district to follow certain guidelines designed to protect the health and well-being of students and staff.
- MCE School@Home (remote learning from home). This option will emphasize maintaining a level of instruction and set of learning expectations equal to that of a traditional schooling environment.

### **#3) In formulating the district’s back to school plan, has MCE sought parent and staff input?**

Yes. On July 17th, a parent survey was sent out to district families seeking their input regarding MCE’s back to school plan for this fall. Over 50% of the district’s families responded and completed the survey. Additionally, the district met with teachers and staff from both the Elementary and MS/HS buildings the week of July 27th to also gain their input.

### **#4) Will bus transportation be offered this fall?**

Yes. Phase 4 of the Governor’s MI Safe Schools Plan provides for bus transportation with additional, mandatory safety requirements. Three of those new requirements are:

- social distancing (siblings may sit in the same bus seat together),
- complete sanitization of the bus interior (before/after each run),
- the wearing of face coverings by both students and the driver.

### **#5) How will bus transportation be different this fall?**

Along with the three requirements listed above, Phase 4 will include two more additional requirements:

- Any student who becomes sick or runs a fever during the day will not be allowed to ride the bus home after school
- Bus transfers (requests to ride a different bus home) will be prohibited. Regular scheduling changes due to joint or shared custody arrangements will be allowed.

### **#6) What additional safeguards is the district putting into place to help keep students and staff safe?**

- Every classroom will be supplied with a hand sanitizing station
- Students will be taught proper handwashing techniques
- Custodial staff will walk the building wiping high-frequency usage areas four (4) times per day and following evening activities.

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- Student desks will be wiped down every time elementary students exit the classroom and after every period at the secondary level
- Signage will be posted related to cleaning/hygiene strategies
- Training on cleaning materials and protocols will be provided to staff

### **#7) If my student is enrolled in MCE's School@Home remote learning option this fall, how will that be different than the program offered this past spring?**

Students will not be able to shift back and forth between the Traditional Schooling and MCE School@Home models. The commitment to the MCE School@Home option will be as follows:

- High school students: one semester (two nine week periods)
- Middle school/Elementary students: one grading period (nine weeks)

### **#8) If my student is enrolled in MCE's School@Home remote learning option this fall, will he/she need a computer and internet access to participate?**

- No, for grades K-2. Yes, for grades 3-12.
- Students in grades K-2 will be provided with a tablet device (One Tab) that does not require internet access. This tablet will come pre-loaded with daily math and reading/writing lessons for easy access by the student.
- Students in grades 3-12 will access their lessons through the internet via the MCE School@Home landing page available on the MCE school website. Once there, students will be able to access their daily lessons via Google Classroom (grades 3-5) and Edgenuity (grades 6-12).

### **#9) If my student is enrolled in MCE's School@Home remote learning option this fall, will he/she be eligible to participate in sports and other extra curricular activities?**

Yes, provided the student is in good academic standing and meets all the eligibility requirements listed in the student handbook.

### **#10) If my student is enrolled in MCE's School@Home remote learning option this fall, will there be a packet option?**

Yes. Hard copy instructional packets will be available for mail delivery to families. However, unlike this past spring, students will be required to return their completed packets back each week for teacher review and grading.

### **#11) If my student attends MCE's fulltime option in the fall, will they be required to wear a face covering at school?**

Yes. Students in grades PreK-5 will be required to wear a mask while riding on the bus or walking in the hallway. PreK-5 students will not be required to wear a mask while in the classroom unless a classroom activity places them in close proximity to other students.

- For students in grades 6 - 12, the expectation will be that students wear a face covering both in the classroom/hallway and while riding on the bus. Students will not be required to wear facial coverings during meals.

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- Any student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering should not wear one. Any student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance should not wear one.

### **#12) As a parent, if I am not comfortable with the fulltime program's face covering requirement, what options do I have?**

Your student may enroll in the MCE School@Home option.

### **#13) Will every student attending MCE's fulltime option have their temperature taken at school each day?**

No. The expectation is that a parent/guardian will monitor their student for symptoms prior to school arrival. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher should stay home from school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to continuously monitor their students for symptoms of COVID-19 that include coughing, fever or shortness of breath.

### **#14) What happens if my child becomes sick at school?**

- It is critically important that parents/guardians provide the District with accurate cell phone numbers and contact information
- Any student who becomes sick or develops a fever at school will: 1) be removed from the classroom, 2) wear a mask and 3) be placed in a secluded room to have their temperature taken by a staff member
- The parent / guardian of any student that becomes sick or develops a fever will be called and asked to pick up their child from school .
- Any student who becomes sick during the day will not be allowed to ride the bus home from school
- Any student with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or has symptoms consistent with Covid 19 should be kept at home until they have tested negative for Covid 19 or have been released from isolation according to CDC guidelines .

### **#15) What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

The District will cooperate with the District Health Department #10 if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified. The District will work with DHD #10 and initiate contact tracing. The District will collect the information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he/she showed any symptoms to the time when he/she was last present at the school. Anyone who was within close contact (less than 6 feet apart for 15+ minutes) will be asked to self quarantine for up to 14 days after exposure. Employees with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be allowed to return to the workplace after they are no longer infectious.

### **#16) If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, will the entire school be shut down and quarantined for 14 days?**

No. Families will be notified if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and will be encouraged to monitor family members for any symptoms from home. The District will initiate contact tracing. Anyone who was deemed to be within close contact of the case (less than 6 feet apart for 15+ minutes) will be contacted and asked to self quarantine for 14 days.

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### **#17) Will MCE share the names of students or staff members who test positive for COVID-19?**

No. Student health information is protected by state and federal privacy laws. The District will notify the District Health Department #10, staff, students and families of any possible case of COVID-19 (without mentioning any individuals by name) while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The District will assist the District Health Department #10 in initiating contact tracing. Any student or staff member who was within close contact (less than 6 feet apart for 15+ minutes) of a possible COVID-19 case will be notified and asked to self quarantine for 14 days after exposure.

### **#18) What if my student comes home from school one day and informs me that a classmate went home sick? As a parent, sending my student back to that same classroom the next day makes me nervous. What are my options?**

The District understands the difficulty and stress that COVID-19 has imposed on our school families. Keeping our students and staff safe remains our most important priority. MCE believes that judgements about student safety are best made by a parent or guardian.

As such, MCE is providing a "3-day Wait" option to our families. This "3-day Wait" option allows a parent/guardian to keep their student home from school in the event of a classmate illness. Students will be able to access the MCE School@Home course work during this time and will not be penalized academically for their absence.

### **#19) Will Juniors and Seniors be participating in Career and Technical Education at WSESD this fall?**

MCE is in weekly contact with WSESD. Their current plan is to offer CTE classes to eligible high school students this fall.

### **#20) As a parent, what can I do to help keep my family safe?**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer.
- Practice Social Distancing - put 6 feet of distance between yourself and other people inside and outside your home.
- When you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sneeze/cough into your inside elbow.
- Wear a face covering in public places and when around people who don't live in your household.