Dear Monroe Public Schools Family,

First and foremost, I would like to express my wholehearted thanks to all of you for rallying around the importance of education for our Monroe children. Over the past six months, Trojans of all ages have served as reminders of the might, will, and strength that lives here. I am proud of our community.

The ideal educational team is comprised of students, parents, teachers, support staff, community stakeholders, and administrators. This is exactly the team that united to ensure that the 2019-20 school year was a success. Last school year started with a school and learning framework that looked very familiar to us, and it ended with a new model that was created in response to a world-wide pandemic. With this experience guiding us, this united community-school team has been hard at work developing a solid framework for safe, high quality learning for the upcoming school year.

Before last school year ended, we began collecting information from students, parents, and teachers about improvements and enhancements that could be made to remote and in-person learning environments during the pandemic. We listened, and you will notice great advancements. The enclosed plan provides information about the educational environment options in each phase of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. We welcome you to evaluate the choices, call to discuss them with our administration, and bring forward any additional strategies to support our Monroe children.

We know that the pandemic has changed what school will look like, but it has not changed our love for your children, our commitment to health and safety, and our insistence upon high academic achievement for all students. Within every option of these plans, all children are assured qualified certificated teachers, high quality grade level instruction, opportunities for academic remediation and acceleration, as well as social and emotional support. In addition to details in this plan, please know that Monroe Public Schools has rigorously followed and captured the recently released technologies to strengthen instructional strategies, remote learning, disinfecting, and hygiene practices. Every thread of science, data, guidance, perspective, and preference has been carefully woven into a comprehensive plan for the 2020-21 school year. Every member of the educational team — all of us — must work harder due to the pandemic.

We are ready.

Together, we are mighty and unstoppable. Although the launch of the 2020-21 school year will be different from any other, together, our mission, goals, and values are unwavering. Our children — their dreams, minds, and futures — are eager. Monroe, grab your oar, and put it in the water. Our children need us, and it is time to start school!


As always,

Dr. Julie M. Everly
Superintendent

Planning for the Unknown: Please Be Prepared

The health situation in our community, region, and state can change quickly. Increased community spread, localized cases, or school-specific exposures could mean rapid changes to school plans. Please be prepared.

- **Family Plans:** Make a plan now to cover childcare needs during school building closures.

- **Resources & Devices:** Make sure you have resources for at home learning at all times. When school buildings are open, assigned devices should be carried between home and school daily.

- **Illness:** Plan now for what to do if you or someone in your home gets sick. Inform the school immediately if this happens.
As always, Monroe Public Schools is committed to providing an excellent, high quality learning experience to every student every day.

In each phase of the Michigan Safe Start Plan, the student learning experience will include a personal connection and daily access to a highly qualified MPS teacher. All teachers will continue to establish individualized goals for each student and will monitor his/her progress toward mastery of grade level expectations. In addition to grade level achievement, support will be provided for both students who are ready to accelerate beyond their grade level and those who need additional support. Participation and engagement in school is critical and mandatory – attendance will be monitored, coursework will be graded/scored, and assessments will be administered. Consistent with pre-pandemic practices, families may schedule an appointment time to conference with a teacher, and students may be invited or may schedule a time for extra support. Regardless of our region’s phase in the Michigan Safe Start Plan, we pledge to remain firm and steadfast in these commitments to our students, families, and community.

Michigan Safe Start

Phases 1-3
In Phases 1-3, it is mandated that schools must engage 100% of students in a remote learning model. Per state order, there will be no in-person learning in school facilities. Classroom teachers will engage students with video lessons, online real-time lessons, and learning activities. Students will complete assignments, projects, and assessments. Whole class and small group discussions will take place online. Virtual individual and/or small group learning sessions may be scheduled to assure that the academic expectations are met. The Virtual School is also an option.

Remote Learning at Home  OR  Virtual School

Michigan Safe Start

Phase 4
In Phase 4, schools are required to follow set safety protocols, including wearing a mask, regular hand washing routines, and social distancing. We know that in this phase to best achieve the requirements of the state, the recommendations from health authorities, and the needs of our families and students, it is best to offer each family a choice in the school framework to which their children will attend. Three learning options are available.

Remote Learning at Home  OR  Learning Labs at School  OR  Virtual School

Michigan Safe Start

Phase 5
In Phase 5, students will transition back to classrooms in their scheduled schools. Many school learning routines will follow the pre-pandemic structure. Set safety protocols, including wearing a mask, regular hand washing routines, and social distancing will remain in place. School routines involving large gatherings of students will be reconfigured. Students who previously worked remotely from home or from a learning lab will come together to form an in-person class and school schedule. The Virtual School will remain an option.

Traditional with Protocols  OR  Virtual School

Michigan Safe Start

Phase 6
In Phase 6, school and community routines resume all pre-pandemic structures while maintaining those new improvements and strategies that yielded benefit to students and families. The Virtual School will remain an option.

Traditional with Protocols  OR  Virtual School
Michigan Safe Start Phases | School Protocols

Please prepare your family. Monroe Public Schools will always assess the current health and safety conditions of our schools and community as the chief factor in decision-making. The district will monitor the data reported online by the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) daily. A 14-day average for the resident zip codes within the district will be maintained. If this moving average reaches greater than 10 new cases per day, the district will be in consultation with MCHD regarding transitioning our educational practices to stricter mitigation and distancing. Any sort of onsite or community outbreak with high exposure will elicit the same response. With this in mind, this chart provides a reference of what is likely to be expected. However, in any given situation, the district may need to make a different decision in the best interest of our students, staff, families, and community.

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Remote learning program at home while buildings are closed

**Distance Learning**

**Connect virtually with teachers, peers**

**Students will:**

- Participate in discussions and learning activities during scheduled whole class and small group virtual meetings
- Engage in flexibly timed digital learning options as provided and assigned by their teacher(s)
- Complete assessments, assignments, homework
- Participate in scheduled Class Meeting or TFT/Knights United Meeting
- Work on the completion of assignments and online learning programs
- Engage in independent reading and writing
- Enjoy physical activity, hobbies, enrichment experiences (cooking, art, music, etc.)

**Assignments and Feedback:**
Teachers will post assignments and accompanying resources on Fridays for the upcoming week.

**Attendance:**
Participation and engagement in school is critical and mandatory. Daily student online attendance and participation will be monitored and tracked.

**Virtual Office Hours:**
Students should connect virtually with their teachers during office hours and communicate about questions and concerns as they arise.

Online engagement ends at 11:00 a.m. on Friday.
Digital resources for students and families

Technology Devices:
All Y5-12 students will be issued a technology device. Families who do not have internet access should contact their school office.

Caring For Your Device:
Students having difficulty accessing a technology resource site are encouraged to first seek assistance from their teacher.

If the teacher is unable to resolve the issue, families may contact the Technology Department at support@monroe.k12.mi.us or 734-265-3150.

Digital Tools & Resources:
Look for less clicks and easier access for all this fall. Your family can expect a simpler login process with single sign-on to websites and curriculum tools.

Seesaw for grades Y5-2 and Google Classroom for grades 3-12 will be used for streamlined communication with students and families.

Zoom or Google Meet will be used to conduct video and audio teaching/conferencing sessions.

Digital Tool Learning Opportunities:
A library of videos will be made available to provide training in effectively using our district digital tools and curriculum:

- **Digital Learning Platforms**: PowerSchool, SeeSaw, Google Classroom
- **Video Communication Tools**: Zoom and Google Meet
- **Digital Curriculum**: STEMscopes, DreamBox, iReady, TCI, McGraw Hill

Watch the district website!
Michigan Safe Start  
Phase 4

3 Learning Options to meet the needs of all MPS Families:

1. Remote Learning at Home
2. Learning Lab at School
3. Virtual School

ALL Phase 4 Learning Options include the following student experiences:

- curriculum aligned to state standards
- a district-issued technology device capable of accessing electronic instruction
- online lessons or assignments
- personal connection and daily access to a highly qualified MPS teacher
- a teacher who will establish individualized goals and monitor the student's progress
- attendance that is monitored
- coursework that is graded
- assessments that are administered
- access to a teacher during school hours when help or support is needed (virtual office hours)
- a teacher who will schedule an appointment for a family conference
- a teacher who will schedule time for extra support for the student
- special education services
- breakfast and lunch provided by MPS -- either in learning lab OR via meal distribution

MPS families will be asked to declare their students' choice.

**Watch for a message via School Messenger the week of August 9th.**
Remote Learning Plan Details:

- Remote Learning at Home students are assigned to their classroom teacher(s) at their elementary, middle, or high school.
- Classroom teacher(s) will remotely engage students with video lessons, online real-time lessons, and learning activities. Students will complete assignments, projects, and assessments.
- Students would have classmates who are learning at home and others who are in Learning Labs.

Small Group Sessions

Learning activities meet individual needs

- Whole class and small group discussions and activities will take place online.
- In-person, individual and/or small group learning sessions at school may be scheduled to assure that the academic expectations are met.
- On Fridays, students will participate in a scheduled Class Meeting or TFT/Knights United Meeting and enjoy physical activity, hobbies, and enrichment experiences.

Online engagement ends at 11:00 a.m. on Friday.
**Michigan Safe Start Phase 4 / Option 2**

**LEARNING LABS at School**

**In-person labs with remote learning**

**On-Site Distance Learning**

- Learning Labs are an in-person, multi-age, five days per week option at an MPS school.
- Students are assigned to a classroom teacher(s) at their school and a Learning Lab Leader (an experienced support member) who facilitates their day.
- Learning Lab students will have a daily structured schedule, engage remotely in online coursework with their classroom teacher, and have activity breaks, socialization, and meals under supervision of the Learning Lab Leader.
- Enrollment is limited due to space limitations.

**Multi-age Family Cohorts**

**Siblings stay together in class, on bus**

- Students from the same household are assigned to small group, multi-age cohorts.
- Limiting the physical proximity of students and staff to others in the same cohort decreases opportunities for exposure and allows for targeted testing, quarantine, or isolation.

**Cohorting is a mitigation strategy of forming groups of students that stay together throughout the school day to prevent the spread of COVID-19.**

- Students must follow all Phase 4 Safety Protocols. Classrooms will be assigned areas at recess. Masks will not be required for outdoor recess IF social distancing (8 feet) can be maintained.

**Parent transportation is recommended as the safest option to get to and from school.**

Parent Responsibility Zones within a one-mile radius of each school will remain, and the remaining Learning Lab students will be eligible for bus transportation following the state safety guidelines.

**Online engagement ends at 11:00 a.m. on Friday.**
Monroe Virtual has a decade of experience providing virtual education for high school students. In 2018, MPS became the first area school district to offer a K-6 virtual program.

Self-Paced Instruction
Online coursework, flexible schedule

Monroe Virtual School Details:

- Students work at their own pace in an online program that allows them to advance in their studies and accelerate their educational path.
- The curriculum resources used are specifically chosen to align with Monroe Public Schools curriculum.
- Each student’s school schedule is flexible, and students work during times that are best for them.
- Students work independently online at home and have access during school hours to their Virtual School teacher when they need help or support.

Available in Any Phase
Monroe Virtual is an ongoing program

- This program is located at the Riverside Learning Center. Students may be invited to come to the school for a scheduled appointment.
- During Phases 5 and 6, virtual secondary students attend Riverside 5 hours per week; elementary students attend 10 hours per week.
Michigan Safe Start Phase 5

In-classroom instruction at school with MDE/CDC protocols

Back to School

Traditional Class Schedules:

- In Phase 5 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan, students will transition back to classrooms in their scheduled schools.

- For the most part, school learning routines will follow the pre-pandemic structure. Students who previously worked remotely from home or from a learning lab will come together to form an in-person class and school schedule.

Virtual School Option:

- The Virtual School option will remain available.

- In Phase 5, Virtual School students will attend Riverside Learning Center for a minimum number of hours per week, depending on grade level: 5 hours for secondary students (grades 7-12), 10 hours for elementary students.

Safety Protocols in Place

Safety precautions continue:

- Set safety protocols, including wearing a mask, regular hand washing routines, and social distancing will remain in place.

- School routines involving large gatherings of students will be reconfigured.

Be prepared for closures:

- Families should ensure up-to-date contact info is on file and notify school office of any changes.

- Students should carry their technology devices to and from school daily to ensure access at home.

Updates during school year online at: COVID-19 Resource Page
Protocols for Phases 4-5

1. **Families Encouraged to Drive Students**
   To assist with social distancing and limited bus capacity, families who are able to drive their children to school are encouraged to do so.

2. **Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting**
   Cleaning/disinfecting protocols will be enhanced, with a focus on frequently touched surfaces.

3. **Windows Open, Weather Permitting**
   Weather permitting, windows may be kept open to increase air circulation.

4. **Temperature Check**
   Students' temperatures will be checked by an MPS staff member prior to boarding an MPS bus.

5. **Assigned Seats | Siblings Together**
   Seats will be assigned on the bus. Students will be seated with siblings when possible.

6. **Face Coverings/Masks Required**
   All students and staff must wear a face covering/mask which snugly covers the nose and mouth on the bus, if medically feasible.

7. **Hand Sanitizer**
   Students and staff will apply hand sanitizer as they enter the bus.

In Phases 1-3, while all school is remote, buses will deliver meals.
**Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting**
Desks, labs, hands-on classrooms, buses, and frequently touched surfaces will be targeted as part of enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

**Hand Sanitizer | Handwashing**
MPS will provide hand sanitizer for buses, classrooms, and sanitizing stations throughout the district, including the front entrance to each building.

**Health and Safety Supplies**
Supplies of soap, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques will be provided to all MPS buildings and school buses to support healthy hygiene behaviors.

**Ventilation**
Ventilation will be increased as much as possible at every school/worksite.

**Essential Visitors & Business Only**
Only individuals with essential business will be allowed to enter the schools. Please call your school office to discuss alternative ways to handle items (scanning and emailing documents, dropping off/picking up items outside).

**Bring Bottled Water | Drinking Fountains Off**
Drinking fountains have been turned off. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to stay hydrated.

**COVID-19 Officer**
Each building administrator will serve as that building’s COVID-19 Officer. Please contact them if you have any questions or concerns.
1. **Social Distancing | 8 feet**
   Everyone is expected to maintain social distancing of **8 feet** at all times that it is possible to do so. When social distancing isn't possible, staff will wear a faceshield in addition to a mask.

2. **Scheduled Hand Washing | Every 2-3 hours**
   A daily schedule of hand washing will take place for teachers and students at all grade levels. All students and staff should use **soap and water for at least 30 seconds**.

3. **Personal Storage | Non-sharing of Supplies**
   Students’ personal items will be kept separate and stored apart. Students will not share resources including electronic devices, books, and art supplies.

4. **Masks/Face Coverings | School Day**
   All Michigan Return to School Roadmap requirements for face coverings will be followed. Students will be asked to wear a mask, which snugly covers the nose and mouth, whenever possible. The staff understands the importance of offering students breaks without any type of face covering and will do so frequently. Individual and whole group accommodations will be made to assure that everyone is comfortable.

5. **Isolation Room | Symptoms at School**
   Parents will be notified immediately to pick up their child if the student becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school. The student will wait in an Isolation Room (quarantine area) until a parent arrives.

6. **Temperature Check**
   Students’ temperatures will be checked by a staff member prior to boarding a bus, as students are dropped off, or upon entry to an MPS building.
1. **Health and Safety Guidelines | Read & Sign**
   All staff, parents, and students in grades 1-12 will be required to read and sign the district’s Health and Monitoring Guidelines in order for employees to report to work and for students to return to school for in classroom instruction.

2. **Temperature Check & Symptom Screening | At Home**
   Staff should conduct a self-examination including temperature check before reporting to work. Families are also required to screen students for temperature and COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school.

   Those exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher must stay home.

3. **Symptomatic Students and Staff | Stay Home**
   Symptomatic students and staff must remain home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered and are released from isolation according to CDC guidelines.

   Students and staff must obtain a note from a medical professional to return to school.

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**Know the Symptoms: COVID-19**
- Fever (100.4° or higher) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath /difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
Monroe County Health Department Partnership

1. **Cooperation with Monroe County Health Department**
   Monroe Public Schools will cooperate with the Monroe County Health Department for screening, testing, quarantine, and contact tracing protocols.

2. **Symptoms at School | Isolation Room**
   Parents will be notified immediately to pick up their child if the student becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school. The student will wait in an Isolation Room (quarantine area) until a parent arrives.

3. **Testing**
   Per health department guidelines, the parent or guardian of the student will be instructed to call their health care provider, or to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center. A list of area test sites is provided in this guide.

4. **Positive or Clinically Diagnosed Cases**
   Families of students in the affected school building(s) will be notified of the presence of any lab positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for symptoms.

5. **Contact Tracing | Closure | Quarantine**
   MPS will collect contact information for any close contacts from 2 days before the individual showed symptoms to the time last present at school and will work with county health officials for quarantines and to determine whether the impacted school will need to close. The building will be deep cleaned.

See the information on the adjacent page provided by the Monroe County Health Department about the contact tracing process.
What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?

1. The school and health department learn about the case.

   Privacy is important. Only a select few at the school will know the identity of the person. Those few individuals are critical to helping the health department figure out who were close contacts to the case and determine what areas of the school need special attention for disinfection and cleaning. The person’s identity is kept confidential to respect their privacy as well as following regulations of FERPA (for schools) and HIPPA (for the health department).

2. Contact tracing begins.

   A person with COVID-19 is considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before they started having symptoms. If they never have symptoms, they are considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before their COVID-19 test was performed.

   Quarantine close contacts.

   What is a close contact?
   It typically is someone being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes.

   Close contacts to a person with COVID-19 are at risk of getting sick. They must be identified and be in quarantine.

   Close contacts in the schools can include:
   classmates, lunchmates, teammates, opposing teammates, entire classrooms, or others with similar exposure.

   Quarantine separates people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. The large majority of close contacts do not get COVID-19, but we must be cautious because it is so contagious.

   ...but what about contacts to close contacts? Since close contacts are not yet known to be infected, the contacts to those contacts do not need to be in quarantine and do not need to be identified or contacted.
You can catch COVID-19 by more ways than being 6 feet away from an infected person for 15 minutes.

**Risk factors include:**

**Intensity of Exposure**
The intensity of exposure refers to how much virus you were exposed to.

- Was the sick person really contagious when you were exposed to them?
- Were they coughing and sneezing without a mask VERSUS having no symptoms with a mask on?
- Did you kiss them?
- Did you share personal items such as a drink or eating utensil?
- Did you sit right next to them and have a face-to-face conversation OR were you 6 feet away with your back to them?

The more virus you were exposed to, the more likely you are to get sick.

**Duration of Exposure**
The duration of exposure refers to how long you were exposed. If you were in a classroom with someone contagious for 6 hours per day while they were contagious for several days, yet your seat was not within 6 feet of them, you may still have had a long enough duration of exposure to that person, particularly to aerosols and objects in that classroom.

**Personal Health**
Your personal health, such as how good your immune system is, also plays a part in whether or not you will get infected, as does whether you were using all of the COVID-19 risk reduction methods possible.

**Age**
Some data suggest age may play a part in the risk for COVID-19 and the severity of a COVID-19 case. Regardless, MPS will implement precautions and mitigation strategies for on-site school community members of all ages.
COVID-19 Testing Sites*

**Dundee Urgent Care**
100 Powell Dr. #8, Dundee, MI 48131
*Appointment needed, call for screening*
Hours: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., every day
Type of Test: COVID-19 Nasal Swab
Prescription Required: NO
Results: 7 days
Contact: (734) 823-5900

**Family Medical Center (Monroe)**
1085 N. Macomb St., Monroe, MI 48162
*Appointment needed, call for screening*
Hours: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Wednesdays (end time may vary depending on demand)
Type of Test: COVID-19 Nasal Swab & Antibody
Prescription Required: YES
Results: 2-3 days
Contact: (734) 654-2169

**Family Medical Center (Temperance)**
8765 Lewis Ave., Temperance, MI 48182
*Appointment needed, call for screening*
Hours: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Fridays (end time may vary depending on demand)
Type of Test: COVID-19 Nasal Swab & Antibody
Prescription Required: YES
Results: 2-3 days
Contact: (734) 654-2169

**Med Express Urgent Care**
1261 N. Telegraph Rd., Monroe, MI 48162
*No appointment needed*
Hours: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., every day
Type of Test: COVID-19 Nasal Swab
Prescription Required: NO
Results: 2-3 days
Contact: (734) 457-2142

**Monroe Urgent Care**
337 Stewart Rd., Monroe, MI 48162
*No appointment needed*
Hours: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., every day
Type of Test: Antibody testing only
Prescription Required: NO
Results: 2-3 days
Contact: (734) 243-3200

**ProMedica Monroe Family Medicine Residence Center**
650 Stewart Rd., Monroe, MI 48162
*Appointment needed, call for screening*
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12 pm, 1:30 - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday
Type of Test: COVID-19 Nasal Swab
Prescription Required: NO
Results: 2-3 days
Contact: (734) 240-1707

* Site list and information was accurate on 8-1-2020. For the most up-to-date information, click [here](#).
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What are the district’s academic expectations for students?
In every phase and with every option, students are expected to participate fully in the academic program and complete assigned classwork.

How will attendance and participation be monitored during remote learning at home?
Teachers will utilize various online, instructional, two-way communication platforms to communicate with students and families and to monitor student wellness, engagement, and completion of assignments.

Will courses be graded?
Yes, courses will be graded using the district’s traditional grading scales and standards.

When are Open Houses scheduled?
Each school will contact their families to share plans for their individual building.

Does the ESSENTIAL VISITORS ONLY rule apply to parents? What if I need to take something to the school?
Only those with essential business are permitted to be in the buildings. Please contact the office to make arrangements to scan, email, or drop items off. Those with permission to enter the building will do so by appointment, be screened for symptoms, wear a face covering that snugly covers the nose and mouth, and sign a form indicating they have no symptoms and have not been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

I want to send my child to school during Phase 4, but my child really dislikes wearing a mask. Can my child choose not to wear one?
No. Learning Lab students must follow all safety protocols. Students who are unwilling to wear a mask should choose a different option (Remote Learning at Home OR Virtual School).

Who is a Learning Lab Leader, and what is their role?
A Learning Lab Leader is a Monroe Public Schools employee who will support a small group of students in their remote learning in Michigan Safe Start Phases 1-4. In Phases 1-3, the Learning Leaders will stay in daily remote contact with the students and their families assuring that there are no barriers to progress and will provide organizational/academic support and encouragement. In Phase 4, the Learning Lab Leader will be on-site with a small group of students to facilitate the daily schedule and assure all student needs for quality school performance are met. Learning Lab Leaders do not hold a teacher certification; however, they have participated in ongoing professional development with the district and specialized training for this essential pandemic service. In Phases 5 and 6 Learning Lab Leaders will resume their previous roles in our school system and/or other partnering agencies.
Q. Which Phase will school start in? Monroe County is currently in Phase 4. District plans could change at any time based on orders from the Governor, the moving 14-day average of new COVID-19 cases for our resident zip codes, and any outbreak within our school community.

The district will monitor the data reported online by the Monroe County Health Department daily. A 14-day average for the resident zip codes within the district (48161 and 48162) will be maintained. If this moving average reaches greater than 10 new cases per day, the district will be in consultation with the Monroe County Health Department regarding transitioning our educational practices to stricter mitigation and distancing. Any sort of onsite or community outbreak with high exposure will elicit the same response.

Selecting Learning Options

Q. How do we share our decision on the learning option we are choosing? Families will receive an email via School Messenger with sign-up information including deadlines.

Q. I work 3 days per week. Can my child just attend the Learning Lab on the days I work? No. Families must commit to one of the three choices. The options parents choose will impact student-staff ratios, on-site food delivery, transportation, etc.

Q: Why isn’t there an option for students to attend a traditional in-school option? Monroe Public Schools worked to develop options for families to have a choice. The Learning Lab will reduce contact/exposure points and will allow students to have time in the building learning, with support.

Special Education

Q. Will students with special needs receive services? Yes. Regardless of the option that the parent selects, children with an IEP will have their need for services met.
Remote Learning and Virtual School

Q. What is the difference between Remote Learning at Home and Virtual School?

Students in the Remote Learning at Home option are assigned to a classroom teacher(s) from their school. The teachers engage the students in their classes online through assignments and group audio and video conferencing.

Students in the Virtual School will be assigned a teacher at the Riverside Learning Center, not a classroom teacher from their school. Virtual School students will work independently to complete online coursework from a vendor that the district partners with.

Q. How is the Remote Learning at Home option different in Phase 4 vs. Phase 3? The buildings are closed in Phase 3, and no in-person interaction is allowed. In Phase 4, teachers will be able to access their classrooms on a rotating basis. Teachers will also have the choice/opportunity to bring in students in very small numbers with social distancing.

Learning Labs

Q. What do Learning Lab Leaders do? Each Learning Lab Leader will help the group of students assigned to their lab, assist them with questions, facilitate their daily schedule, and provide supervision. The leaders will stay in close contact with school improvement coaches and the teachers. They can also help to schedule meetings with teachers, if needed for your student.

Q. Why are the students in Learning Labs grouped with children of other ages? Students attend with their siblings. The multi-age family cohorts reduce the number of families each student and Learning Lab Leader has contact with, thereby reducing potential exposure.

Q. Will siblings in multi-age cohorts go to their neighborhood school or somewhere else? Students will be assigned to a Learning Lab at their neighborhood school whenever possible. Other student/family information will also be considered. Please include any requests regarding your student’s Learning Lab placement in the sign-up form.

Q. What are the hours of the Learning Lab? Students will follow the hours at the building where they are assigned for the Learning Lab. Monday through Thursday will be full days. Friday will be a half-day dismissal, so deep cleaning and disinfecting can be completed. Exact schedule times will be sent to families with their Learning Lab assignments.

Q. Will there be a principal at the Learning Labs? There will be at least one Monroe Public School administrator at every building with a Learning Lab.

Q: Will students in the Learning Labs have recess? Yes. They will be assigned to a recess zone by Learning Lab.
Transition Between Options and Phases

Q. Can students remain in Virtual School or Remote Learning when we move to Phase 5? Virtual School is an option in every phase. Remote Learning at Home students will return to school in Phase 5. If they don’t feel comfortable returning, they will need to move to the Virtual School program.

Q. How do Remote Learning at Home and Learning Lab students transition between phases? In Phase 4, classroom teachers engage the students assigned to their classes online — some who are remote at home and some who are in a learning lab. When we move to Phase 5, the classroom teacher’s students will form a class together as they transition from a remote situation to an in-person situation. If we need to move to Phase 3, the students will all work with the teacher remotely at home.

Q. If students choose the Virtual School option, can they switch and return to school when it opens in Phase 5? Yes, they will be able to transition back. Remote Learning at Home students would have the same class schedule and teachers at home that they would have in the brick and mortar building. Virtual School students would not be on the attendance of one of our classroom teachers at the school and would need to be assigned when they transition back. They may need to wait for the start of the next academic trimester/semester for academic continuity.

Elementary Questions (Grades Y5-6)

Q. Is it possible to keep elementary students with the teacher they had last year, rather than establishing new relationships remotely? Yes, “looping” will be implemented wherever it is possible. Looping refers to the practice of a teacher remaining with the same group of students for more than one school year. For example, a teacher who taught first grade in 2019-2020 would teach the same second grade students in 2020-2021.

Q. Will Waterloo have to wear uniforms? Waterloo students will not have to wear uniforms during Phase 4 if they choose the Learning Lab option. Uniforms will be required when they return to school in Phases 5 and 6.

Secondary Schedules (Grades 7-12)

Q: Is the rumor true that the A/B classes are moving to a 6-period day? Yes. It was determined that students would be more successful with remote learning following a six-period day. For the development of the academic schedule, student requests were the main point of consideration.

Q: What is the timeline on when students will receive schedules? Monroe High School schedules will be available the WEEK of August 24. Monroe Middle School schedules will be available the WEEK of August 17. More information will be forthcoming.
Career and Technical Education

Q. How will Career and Technical Education programs work? Will CTE students have the opportunity for lab work and hands-on experience?

CTE courses will be offered as a remote learning option. There will be opportunities for CTE students to have scheduled time on the worksite/in the CTE lab to work on skills during Phase 4. Students can be called in small, scheduled groups so that it can be done safely.

Q. Will they be able to work on the Trojan Build?

Whenever we are legally able (in Phase 4, 5, and 6) to have students experience small number experiences (for CTE, etc.), we would encourage that. That includes the Trojan Build.

Meals / Food Service

Q. Do we have to sign up for meals? It is very important that all families complete the community eligibility survey that is sent out at the beginning of the year. This will allow for your participation in our school meal program.

Q. How will students receive their meals? All meals will be individually bagged. Learning Lab students will pick up their grab-and-go breakfasts upon arrival. Lunches will be delivered to the Learning Lab rooms. Students learning remotely at home will be able to participate in the MPS Meal Distribution Program. Schedules will be posted on the district website and emailed to families before school begins.

Technology

Q. What do I do if my child needs a technology device? All Y5-12 students will be issued a technology device. More information will be coming out regarding how to request one if you need one.

Transportation

Q: How is the busing going to work? Will there be assistants? All students will have their temperature checked and be given a mask if they need one before boarding the bus. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, he/she will not be allowed to board. Hand sanitizer must be applied upon entering the bus. Students will be assigned bus seats. They will be seated with siblings when possible.

Q. Will drivers have assistants to help with students? Yes. Each bus will have an assigned bus assistant to assist with morning and afternoon routes. The requirements above will be monitored and completed by the bus assistant.
**Attendance and Hours**

**Q: Will attendance be taken?** Yes, regular attendance in remote learning sessions is expected of all students unless they are ill or have extenuating circumstances. Attendance will be recorded in PowerSchool. Sick students should NOT be sent to school.

**Q: What are the staff hours?** Staff will work their usual hours. The Administration Building hours will remain the same, but only essential visitors will be allowed by appointment.

**Athletics**

**Q: What is the status of fall sports?** Athletics are under the guidance of Monroe Public Schools administration, as well as compliance of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS). Announcements and updates will be posted by the Monroe Trojan Athletic Department.

**Childcare**

**Q: What if a family needs childcare? How will that work?** Monroe Public Schools has a Kids Club program. Families utilizing Kids Club are asked to share that information when they fill out their options request, as it will impact cohort grouping assignments for Learning Labs.
The safety and health of our students and families are of the utmost importance to us. To support social distancing efforts, we are available to help you at any time. If you need assistance, please use this directory to schedule a phone or virtual appointment.
Classes Begin September 2

All classes will begin on Wednesday, September 2. Visit our district website (www.monroe.k12.mi.us) for new student registration and important Back-to-School information.