



FAQ - Fall Learning Pathways

Created on 7/16/20

Updated on 7/21/20

Will masks be required at school?

Yes, students and all staff will be required to wear masks at all times unless eating, or outside at 6ft or greater of physical distancing.

Can face shields substitute for masks?

No, face shields are not an adequate replacement for wearing masks.

Can I choose between remote learning and in-person learning?

Yes, parents and students will have the choice to attend school in-person or remotely.

Will there be social/emotional support for my child in either setting?

Yes, there will be an emphasis on the social/emotional wellbeing of our students in both the in-person and remote settings.

Will there be an academic advantage in one setting over another?

This depends on the individual child and their engagement in the learning environment. In general, younger students learn better with more direct instruction than older students. Preliminary research suggests that older students fare better than younger students in a remote setting. However, remote learning is not as effective as in-person learning when compared to the previous in-person setting. We will not have data on the effectiveness of either setting for years to come. There is a significant number of variables that would impact each learning outcome.

How far apart are the desks in the classroom?

*This will depend on how many students choose to attend school in-person. If all children attend in person, the typical classroom will range from 17-20 students. This allows for a **buffer of 4ft between students**. Depending on class sizes and other plan adjustments this space may increase.*



FAQ - Fall Learning Pathways

Created on 7/16/20

Updated on 7/21/20

Will there be a separate curriculum for in-person and remote learning?

No, each curriculum will follow grade level standards.

Can my child join the household of another family to help with support during remote learning?

Yes, families can join with other families for mutual support during remote learning. This scenario may be a safe alternative to in-person learning while providing some social interactions with other children. This scenario may help with supervision, childcare sharing, socialization and other concerns brought about by remote learning.

Will there be two separate start times and dismissals for children at MES?

Yes, there will be a staggered start time at MES. K-2 may start at 8:00 and 3-5 may start at 8:30. This allows for greater physical distancing on the bus, in the entryways, and in the hallways.

Will there be an option for families to drop off their children at school together if one child is in 2nd grade and one is in 5th for example?

We are working on this possibility, and it is likely that we can accommodate children in the same family being dropped off and picked up at the same time. This impacts about 80 families in our district.

Is it possible for my middle school student to leave after my elementary school student gets on the bus, and get home before my elementary student gets home?

Yes, under the current schedule it is possible for a middle school student to be home after an elementary student leaves and be home before the elementary student arrives home. We are still working on the exact timing of all the schedules, but currently this is the case. Our MMS schedule has a shorter in-person

Why can't the students attend school for the full day?



FAQ - Fall Learning Pathways

Created on 7/16/20

Updated on 7/21/20

There are staffing and spacing restrictions that do not allow for students to attend school for a full day. Our goal is to keep the younger students in school for as long as possible because of their developmental stage, and we are moving staff members around to help lower class sizes as much as possible.

If we choose in-person learning, can we change our minds after a period of time and keep our children home?

Yes, we will do our best to accommodate your child in this scenario. We may need to move your child to another class to accommodate the remote learning piece. There are too many variables to predict with certainty what we will be able to do at that point.

If we choose remote learning, can we change our minds after a period of time and keep our children home?

No, we will likely not be able to satisfy this request until the semester break. This may be difficult to transition to because of the way we will place students in sections.

Will school be closed if one staff member or student has a lab confirmed case of COVID-19?

We will work with the Lake County Department of Public Health to determine if the spread of COVID-19 can be contained by a classroom shutdown or if we must close an entire school.

Can one school be closed without the other school closing?

It is possible. That decision will be made in consultation with the Lake County Department of Public Health.

What is the advantage of a shorter school day? Why is it shortened?

We tried to keep the kids in school as long as possible. Our priority for a longer school day was the younger students due to the developmental needs of the age level. Due to our inability to host larger than 50 students in the cafeteria, the attempt to keep smaller class sizes and smaller cohorts together, and only very limited use of the playgrounds; we simply don't have the staffing to keep the kids in school any longer during the day.



FAQ - Fall Learning Pathways

Created on 7/16/20
Updated on 7/21/20

What happens when a staff member or student has a lab confirmed case of COVID-19?

ISBE and the IDPH are working on procedures and guidelines that will help clarify the district response. Much of the response will be specific to the community and the spread of the virus within the community and region. We will work directly with the Lake County DPH. We continuously monitor county and regional data. [IDPH METRICS](#)

What Could Cause a Region to Become More Restrictive?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustained increase in 7-day rolling average (7 out of 10 days) in the positivity rate <p>AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustained 7-day increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19 like illnessReduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities (ICU capacity or medical/surgical beds under 20%)	<p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Three consecutive days averaging greater than or equal to 8% positivity rate

Will students be required to have two negative COVID -19 tests before returning to school every time they are sent home with any of the symptoms? For example, will a student with allergies and a runny nose, or a student with a headache be required to have two negative COVID-19 tests within 24hours?

ISBE and the IDPH are working together on questions like this. We will follow the latest guidelines and recommendations given to us. The next meeting at the state level discussing these issues will be on July 24th. Hopefully we will have more ideas on how this might look soon!

Will students in 5th grade moving to 6th have an opportunity to tour the school before school starts? New students?



FAQ - Fall Learning Pathways

Created on 7/16/20

Updated on 7/21/20

Mr. Walshire and Mr. Jorgenson are working on plans for school tours. Mr. Jorgenson mentioned some plans in his weekly newsletter about these possibilities. Please continue to watch the COUGAR CATCH and MUSTANG MINUTE each Friday for building level details about the start of school.

My child currently receives instructional support from an Rtl Teacher, AIM teacher, or Special Education teacher. Will these services continue in a remote setting, or in-person setting?

Yes we will continue to provide support for students in either the remote setting or in-person setting. Some services may be offered as an extension to the in-person school day. All students will be supported to the greatest extent possible in the remote setting. There are too many variables at each grade level to describe exactly what the support will look like. We are continuing to work through these details and more information will be provided soon.

Is there a way to increase the air quality in the classroom?

After viewing the research, the best way to improve air quality in the classroom is to increase the percentage of fresh air allowed to enter through the air exchangers. We could also add air purifiers to each classroom, but an effective system would be cost prohibitive. After speaking to our HVAC service provider, we can safely increase the amount of fresh air allowed into the classroom unless there is extreme heat or extreme cold. High quality filters are used that also enhance air quality.

The good news about our HVAC system is that the air is generally contained within the classrooms and is not shared from room to room. There is an exchange with the hallway air, but it is not shared room to room throughout the building.