



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ready - Set - Return to the Classroom

PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION FAQ



QUESTION	ANSWER
District Start Date	
<i>What are the specific dates by grade level for students to return to in-person learning?</i>	<p>The specific dates by grade level are:</p> <p>K3 – 3rd grade: Wednesday, April 14, 2021</p> <p>4th – 8th grade: Monday, April 19, 2021</p> <p>Seniors and students who have failed one or more courses: Monday, April 26, 2021</p>
<i>Are students in K3 and K4 returning to in-person learning?</i>	Yes. K3 and K4 students who opt to participate in in-person learning will return on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 .
<i>Are K3 and K4 students able to have staggered start times?</i>	No. All K3 and K4 students will begin in-person instruction on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
<i>Are all high school students returning to in-person learning?</i>	No. Only seniors and students who have failed one or more courses will return to in-person learning on Monday, April 26, 2021.
<i>April 14 is a Wednesday. Are children attending school in-person on Wednesdays?</i>	Wednesday, April 14 is an in-person day for K3 – 3rd grade students only. Beginning the week of Monday, April 19, students will receive in-person instruction on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, all students will participate in virtual instruction.
Materials	
<i>Are students able to bring backpacks to school?</i>	This is a school-based decision and schools will communicate with families the expectation for bringing/carrying personal items.
<i>What materials are students able to bring?</i>	Students should limit bringing personal items and devices to school. Learning materials will be made available to students and each student will have storage for his/her personal supplies. Individual materials (e.g., consumable workbooks, crayons, markers, scissors, etc.) may be included. Other classroom supplies such as guided reading texts may be used if each student has an individual copy or the material has not been used by another student within 24 hours.
Nutritional Services	
<i>Can students bring a cold lunch from home to school?</i>	Yes. Students may bring a cold lunch from home to school.
<i>Are students able to have snacks during the day?</i>	If snacks are provided in kindergarten classrooms, they must be administered by the teacher. There will be no shared snacks allowed.
<i>How will students get water during the day?</i>	Families will be encouraged to have their child bring a full water bottle from home to school each day. Bottle filling stations or large coolers can be used to fill bottles. Schools will have a plan to provide water to students who forget to bring one.
Specialized Services	
<i>How do get special education services for my child?</i>	Please contact the Department of Specialized Services at (414) 438-3648 , or the school nearest to you for specific information.

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COVID-19 Testing	
<i>How will testing of staff and students be administered? What will it look like?</i>	All students who opt to return to in-person learning will be randomly tested for COVID-19. Students and staff will self-administer the test using nasal swabs. Students K3 and higher will participate in the testing program.
<i>Do students need to be tested before returning on April 14?</i>	Students do not need to be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning for in-person learning.
<i>Will any classrooms be closed down if there are positive cases?</i>	Yes. There are procedures in place and gating criteria that will be used when students in a classroom test positive for COVID-19.
Chromebooks	
<i>Those returning for in-person, should they bring their Chromebook to school?</i>	A Chromebook cart will be available for students to use in every homebase classroom. Students do not need to bring their Chromebooks to school for in-person learning.
Nursing Services	
<i>Will there be a nurse in every school building?</i>	The goal is to have a nurse staffed in every school building. All buildings will be staffed with MPS nurses or contracted nursing services. In the event of an absent nurse, a nursing coordinator will support schools when called.
Instruction	
<i>What is the model for in-person and virtual learning on Wednesdays?</i>	<p>Students will receive in-person instruction on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, all students will participate in virtual instruction. Synchronous instruction for students will be for 2 hours and 15 minutes on Wednesdays. The remainder of the day on Wednesdays will be utilized for asynchronous instruction and support.</p> <p>Teachers will connect with their students who are attending school via a virtual learning platform through Google Meet. Once they greet students, they will share their screen, which is also projected for their students in the classroom. Teachers will monitor what the online students see and reply to their questions in the chat. Teachers will utilize their SMART Boards to simultaneously engage with virtual and in-person students.</p> <p>They will demonstrate math problems or project other things like reading stories on the screen. Students at home will see the teacher and students in class will see the teacher. The teacher will not be stationed at the computer. The camera will pick up the teacher at the front of the room. The teacher can provide real-time feedback as she/he sees which students need it. The teacher will walk around the room and see how students are performing and check in on students on the computer.</p> <p>Teachers will utilize many of the strategies that they have always used in the classroom, but they will consider safety guidelines in making adaptations. Students with disabilities who cannot access a free appropriate public education through the virtual environment, will be offered in person instruction at their school on Wednesday from a provider.</p> <p>If a classroom does not have appropriate staffing, the school-based administrator will assign staff to these classrooms.</p>
<i>Are teachers being coached on emotionally healthy approaches to re-direct students?</i>	Teachers and school staff members will be provided social/emotional learning resources to utilize with their students.
<i>Will there be recess, gym and art?</i>	Yes. Students will have recess and specialty classes.

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<i>If a student is sent home, how will they receive instruction?</i>	A student will have the ability to work from home and daily attendance will not be affected.
<i>If //my child feel uncomfortable with in-person learning, can my child return to virtual?</i>	Based on family needs, parents have the option to return to the virtual platform for the remainder of the year. However, those families who have selected virtual learning for the remainder of the school year, will not be able to participate in in-person learning.
<i>Where can I learn more about before/after school care?</i>	For a list of programs please visit: https://milwaukee recreation.net/rec/Programs/Before-After-School-Care.htm
Health And Safety	
<i>Will there be a HEPA filter in each classroom?</i>	Yes. HEPA filtration units will be placed in every classroom.
<i>Who is doing the deep cleaning on Wednesday?</i>	The MPS Department of Facilities and Maintenance staff will complete deep cleaning on Wednesdays.
Transportation	
<i>Are arrival and departure bus times staggered?</i>	Buses are scheduled to arrive and dismiss according to school start and dismissal. Individual schools will be in charge of staggering the loading and unloading of buses. All school leaders will work with their school community to develop schedules that ensure alignment with physical distancing guidelines per the CDC and Milwaukee Health Department guidelines.
<i>If my child has a doctor/dental appointment during school hours, am I able to pick them up and return them to school?</i>	If a child needs to have early release from school, parents should work with the school leader to coordinate pick up time and location
Overflow Room/Isolation Room	
<i>If a classroom is an overflow classroom, then how is it staffed?</i>	The “overflow” classroom will be covered by a substitute teacher, teachers from Central Services, support staff at the school level, administrators, or a paraprofessional will be assigned to support the students in the classroom.
<i>If a large number of students return to a school, and there isn't enough physical space to handle it, how will that be handled?</i>	School leaders and their communities will determine appropriate spaces to deliver instruction. School communities will make every effort to provide equitable instruction from a licensed staff member to every student every day. School leaders have the flexibility to adjust and allocate instructional staff as needed. Based on the school survey results, schools will be able to determine where additional staff and space may be needed to accommodate all in-person learners.
<i>Who will staff the isolation room?</i>	Administrators will facilitate the supervision of the Isolation Rooms. The nurse will contact the parent/guardian of a student determined to have COVID-19 symptoms immediately. The students will be directed to report to the Isolation Room to await parent pick-up. This will allow the nurse to continue to conduct his/her other duties.

We are MPS Ready!

School Reopening Website: mymps.org/