

July 17, 2020

Dear Families,

Marietta City Schools' revised reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year will engage all learners (PK-12) through virtual instruction until it is safe to return to school for in-person learning. Families of students with IEPs will be contacted by case managers and service providers to schedule a collaborative meeting to revise or develop each student's individualized Distance Learning Plan (DLP) to address needed services and supports.

The Department of Special Services' staff has utilized feedback gathered during the spring school closure to enhance virtual instructional frameworks for the fall. These frameworks will offer you great flexibility. If you are unable to have your student sign-on to a virtual class during the scheduled time, we will provide the following options:

- Direct and indirect instruction through live ~~or~~ and recorded sessions
- Virtual small group and/or individual instruction and consultation
- Personalized work packets (printed by MCS staff, if needed)

Instructional timeframes will mirror your child's digital instructional framework. Teams will make every effort to be as creative and collaborative with you to develop distance learning plans that include the services and supports outlined in your student's IEP, and an emphasis will be placed on progress monitoring to support learning and student growth.

Ultimately, the health and safety of your child and your family are our primary concern. I understand your concerns regarding your student being served and supported through virtual learning, but I assure you that we are diligently working to be flexible and provide creative solutions.

For our families of students in self-contained settings, please know your child will receive all special education and related services to the best of our ability. We are implementing additional guidelines for teachers who work with our students to ensure support is maximized. You can expect class sessions, frequent communication, and progress updates.

The overall success of our students will require ongoing collaboration between home and school, and we acknowledge the critical role you play in your child's education. Your partnership is very important to us, and we welcome your feedback throughout this process.

We will send additional information, as it is available, but please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michele Bealing-Sayles
Assistant Superintendent of Special Services
Marietta City Schools