



Marietta City Schools Student Learning Options and Safety Protocols (Grades 6-8)

The protocols detailed in this document are specific to students and families at **MCS middle schools (grades 6-8)**. Our goal is to provide two learning options, in-person learning and virtual learning, that accommodate the personal preferences and medical needs of our families. We understand the return to school is a deeply personal decision for each family and, as such, we hope this personalized approach gives you and your student the greatest degree of safety and peace of mind.

The protocols were developed in collaboration with various state and local agencies, which include but are not limited to the Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Department of Education, Cobb & Douglas Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and are subject to change based upon recommendations and guidance from these and other agencies. As guidelines are updated and our protocols are modified, we will provide updates to all staff and families and post relevant information on our MCS website.

Please note – updates since June 25, 2020 are noted by an asterisk (*) in the section header.

Student Learning Options – Fall 2020 (6-8)
In-person Learning
Student returns to their assigned middle school full time (Monday-Friday), adhering to required MCS safety protocols. Prior to making a decision, please review safety protocols outlined below. Should you wish to discuss in-person learning in more detail (prior to making a decision), please contact your child’s principal.
*Virtual Learning
Student enrolls in virtual learning through Schoology for Fall Semester (2020). Family is required to submit the Virtual Learning Registration Form for each student by July 8 to secure virtual teacher/class. Each student will be assigned a weekly learning schedule, to include virtual instruction through both live and pre-recorded sessions and independent work (to be submitted through Schoology). As needed, each virtual learning student will be provided a district-issued Chromebook and Wifi hotspot. Grades will be monitored and student is responsible for submitting all assignments. All virtual learning middle school students who are otherwise eligible will be allowed to participate in athletic and extra-curricular activities. Should you wish to discuss virtual learning in more detail (prior to making a decision), please contact your child’s principal.
*Virtual Learning for Students Served Through Special Education/504
Virtual learning is available for any student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan, but it is possible that not all classes, programs, services, or accommodations may be available through a digital learning platform. If a

family of a student with a disability elects virtual instruction, the student’s digital learning plan, based on input from the family and appropriate MCS staff, will be revised to address the student’s services.
Should you wish to discuss virtual learning in more detail (prior to making a decision), please contact Kristal Brown, Director of Special Education, by email (kristalbrown@marietta-city.org).

Safety Protocols for In-person Learning (6-8)

Collective Responsibility

Any return to in-person learning requires collective responsibility for every MCS family. Failure to do such significantly compromises the health and safety of all students and staff. It is imperative, now more than ever, that families do not send their child sick to school out of convenience or medicate the child before school in order to reduce a fever. We all share a collective responsibility to monitor our child and do the right thing.

Department of Public Health (DPH) Guidelines – Symptoms and Self-quarantine

Per the most recent DPH guidelines, any student or staff member who has a fever or other COVID-19 related symptoms may be required to be absent from school (self-quarantine) for at least 14 calendar days or until one can produce a negative COVID-19 test. Students and staff must be symptom free before returning to school or work. Please contact Cindy Davis, Executive Secretary for the Department of Special Services, by email (cindydavis@marietta-city.org) or phone (678-695-7238) for DPH guidelines regarding the appropriate timeline to take a COVID-19 test.

Individuals within close contact (less than six feet apart for at least 15 minutes) to another person in their classroom or office who shows COVID-19 related symptoms may also be required to self-quarantine for at least 14 calendar days or until one can produce a negative COVID-19 test. Students and staff must be symptom free before returning to school and work.

Any student who is required to self-quarantine (and subsequently absent from school) can continue school through virtual learning, if the child and family so desire.

Department of Public Health (DPH) Guidelines – Contact with Person with Positive COVID-19 Test

Per the most recent DPH guidelines, any student or staff member who has contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test will be required to be absent from school (self-quarantine) for at least 14 calendar days; in this situation, a negative COVID-19 test does not permit one to return to school or work. Contact is defined as within six feet for at least 15 minutes.

If you test positive or believe you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, please contact Cindy Davis, Executive Secretary for the Department of Special Services, by email (cindydavis@marietta-city.org) or phone (678-695-7238) for additional guidance. For further information regarding DPH protocols, please refer to the DPH website (“Quarantine Guidance: What to do if you were exposed to someone with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19”).

Contact Tracing

Per DPH guidelines, contact tracing will be initiated for any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19. This process will include identification of and notification to any person (student or staff) who was in close contact with the person within the last 48 hours of symptoms or the positive COVID-19 test. Close contact is considered less than six feet apart for at least 15 minutes.

***Required Face Coverings**

MCS will require all staff, students, and visitors to wear a face covering while in MCS school and district buildings and on MCS school buses. Exceptions will be made for medical reasons and to accommodate eating and drinking, outdoor activities, and independent work in personal office spaces where physical distancing can be maintained. Students may use a face shield in addition to a face covering; however, per Cobb & Douglas Public Health, a face shield does not provide the same degree of protection for self and others and would not serve as a suitable substitute for a face covering. A disposable mask will be provided for any student who boards the school bus or arrives to school without an appropriate face covering.

We acknowledge the importance of providing opportunities (socially distanced and not indoors) for students and staff to periodically remove their face covering. Teachers will create as many opportunities for these breaks as possible.

Temperature Checks – All Students

All families are requested to check the temperature of their child each day prior to leaving their home for school. If necessary, thermometers will be provided. Please contact Cindy Davis via email (cindydavis@marietta-city.org) or phone (678-695-7238) to request a thermometer.

MCS intends to check the temperature of each student each day prior to entering the school building.

Temperature Checks – Bus Riders (6-8)

A bus monitor will check the student's temperature prior to boarding the school bus. Students with a temperature below 100.4° Fahrenheit will be permitted to board the school bus; any student with a temperature at or above 100.4° Fahrenheit will remain at the bus stop and be picked up by a second "sweep" school bus. A student boarding the "sweep" bus will be required to wear a mask and will be transported to the Marietta City Schools central office (250 Howard Street). An MCS staff member will supervise the child and contact the family. Each MCS parent/guardian of an MCS bus rider will be required to sign a bus rider protocol acknowledging the above information.

Please see below for additional school bus safety protocols.

Temperature Checks – Car Riders (6-8)

Any middle grades student who is a car rider will have their temperature checked before exiting the vehicle (in the carpool line). Students with a temperature below 100.4° Fahrenheit will be permitted to exit the car and enter the school; any student with a temperature at or above 100.4° Fahrenheit will be directed to return home with their parent/guardian or supervising adult.

Temperature Checks – Walkers/Cyclists (6-8)

Any student who walks or rides their bike to school will have their temperature checked before entering the school building. Students with a temperature below 100.4° Fahrenheit will be permitted to enter the school; any student with a temperature at or above 100.4° Fahrenheit will be directed to return home and their parent/guardian will be contacted.

Return to School Verification

Per the most recent DPH guidelines, any student or staff member who has a fever or other COVID-19 related symptoms may be required to be absent from school (self-quarantine) for at least 14 calendar days or until one can produce a negative COVID-19 test. Students and staff must be symptom free before returning to school or work. Appropriate documentation may be required prior to a student returning to in-person learning.

Classroom Protocols

To provide the greatest degree of social distancing and safety protocols, middle grades teachers will adhere to the following classroom guidelines:

To the greatest degree possible, separate student desks.

Limit sharing of supplies, books, etc.; any sharing requires disinfecting prior to passing from one student to another.

Hand sanitizer and disinfecting spray available in each classroom.

Increased opportunities (weather and space permitting) for students to go outside.

Use of disposable bathroom/hall passes.

School Meals (Breakfast/Lunch)

School lunches will be served in a grab-and-go manner to limit student interactions in the cafeteria. The school cafeteria will only be used by isolated classes when students can maintain at least six feet of separation and all surfaces are disinfected between each class. School breakfast will be available in the hallways as students enter the school building – students will eat breakfast in their classroom.

School Signage

Age- and developmentally appropriate signage will be placed throughout each middle school to remind students of personal hygiene (hand washing, coughing into arm, etc.) and social distancing from others. Additionally, where appropriate, signage will be used to create one-way directional walk patterns in buildings.

School Cleaning and Disinfecting

Throughout the school day, extra custodial staff will be provided to each school to further disinfect high-touch areas. Additionally, classrooms, hallways, and common areas will be fogged and disinfected each night.

Safety Protocols for Transportation (6-8)

Grace and Understanding

Given the increased responsibility to check students' temperatures and, when possible, socially distance students on school buses, we kindly ask that families extend to us a degree of grace and understanding during the opening weeks of school. In the morning routes, it is possible that buses may be delayed in arriving to bus stops or schools as we navigate through the new protocols and increased car rider traffic. Families are encouraged to download the [Marietta City Schools Traversa Ride 360 App](#) to monitor the current location and arrival time of their assigned school bus (based on GPS tracking).

Bus Windows

In an effort to increase ventilation on the bus, bus windows may be opened (weather permitting) while students are on the school bus.

Social Distancing

To the greatest degree possible, students will be socially distanced and placed in assigned seats on the school bus.

School Bus Cleaning and Disinfecting

Between each bus route (elementary, middle, and high school), MCS staff will disinfect high-touch areas. Each night, the school bus will be fogged and disinfected.

General School Considerations and Safety Protocols (6-8)

Fall Break

Due to our beginning the 2020-2021 school year on Tuesday, August 4 as scheduled, we will not need to alter our district calendar. As such, Marietta City Schools will observe Fall Break from September 28-October 2.

Middle School Athletics

MCS is working in collaboration with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) to develop and adhere to appropriate guidelines for athletic practices and competitions in middle grades. We expect these guidelines to continue to evolve; each coach will provide updates to our student-athletes and their families, as appropriate. As you have specific questions or needs, please contact your child's coach or Craig McKinney, Director of Athletics (cmckinney@marietta-city.org).

After-school Extracurricular Clubs and Activities

Middle grades students will have the opportunity to participate in after-school extracurricular clubs and activities, based on ability to implement appropriate safety protocols and social distancing guidelines. Please contact the appropriate sponsor/coach or school principal for detailed information.

Student Hallway Lockers

Use of student hallway lockers will be temporarily stopped. Once it becomes safe to do such, students who have the desire will be assigned and allowed to use a hallway locker.

Limit Non-essential School Visitors and Volunteers

To protect our students and staff, MCS will limit non-essential school visitors and volunteers to school campuses. All essential visitors or volunteers will be subject to a temperature check and answering the following COVID-related screening questions:

- Do you have a **fever** (temperature over 100.4°F or 38°C) without having taken any fever-reducing medications?
- Do you have a **loss of smell or taste**?
- Do you have a **cough**?
- Do you have **muscle aches**?
- Do you have a **sore throat**?
- Do you have **congestion or a runny nose**?
- Do you have **shortness of breath**?
- Do you have **chills**?
- Do you have a **headache**?
- Have you experienced the new onset of any **gastrointestinal symptoms** such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite in the last few days?

- Have you, or anyone you have been in close contact with, been **diagnosed with COVID-19 or placed in quarantine** for possible exposure to COVID-19 within the last two weeks?
- Have you been **asked to self-isolate or quarantine** by a medical professional or a local public health official in the last two weeks?

Media Center/Learning Commons

MCS will limit student use of shared spaces and materials in each middle school media center/learning commons. Efforts will be made to give students access to learning resources in such a manner that provides the appropriate degree of safety and sanitation.

Student Assemblies and Large Group Events/Meetings

During Fall 2020, significant limitations will occur relative to student assemblies and large group events/meetings. Each principal will provide additional details about how such events may occur virtually, when appropriate.

Student Field Trips

During Fall 2020, student field trips will be limited; consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis for field trips that achieve appropriate degree of social distance and avoid co-mingling of students.