



KIMBERLY J. SCHNEIDER, Ed.D.
Superintendent

July 20, 2020

Dear School Community,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well. I am writing to share a framework for a September 2020 reopening for Shared-Time programming at the Mercer County Technical Schools (MCTS). Creating a plan for this ever-changing situation is very challenging, but we are confident we will work through the details with you and continue our strong partnership. We will make every effort for technical school students to receive in-person educational programming as much as possible, while preserving the safety of students and staff at MCTS.

All efforts will be made to adhere to recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics and New Jersey Department of Education CDC guidance which supports social distancing. Our plan is to provide a minimum of two half-day, in-person sessions for Shared-Time students per week. These AM or PM sessions will be available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays students will receive remote learning instruction via Google Classroom so that our custodial staff may engage in deep cleaning of classrooms and shops. On days when students are not receiving in-person instruction, remote learning and live streaming of classroom instruction will be provided. Your liaison counselors will receive a spreadsheet via Google Docs of registered students and will be asked to identify what two sessions students will be in attendance for the in-person instruction. We plan to be as flexible as we can to meet everyone's needs. As always, if there are questions or issues that need to be addressed, please contact the Admissions Office for scheduling assistance.

While we understand anything less than a return to our regular instructional model is not optimum for the hands-on learning required for gaining technical skills, these protective measures are necessary to reduce class size to align with social distancing recommendations. Also, please be aware that all students attending MCTS must come wearing a washable facial covering or mask.

As I am sure you understand, this situation is rapidly evolving and our current plan may be subject to change. For your review, our full re-opening plan will be available on our website to address many other issues and areas of concern. We will provide additional information as it arises, but wanted to provide you with direction as soon as possible so that your school counselors could begin scheduling. Thank you for your assistance and collaboration! We do believe that with your continued partnership, we will get through this together!

Sincerely,

Kimberly J. Schneider, Ed.D.
Superintendent