



KIMBERLY J. SCHNEIDER, Ed.D.
Superintendent

July 24, 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 Full-Time Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy students with two full days of in-person instruction per week. Students will be divided by the administration into two cohorts. The first cohort will receive in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays. Monday will be an A day and Tuesday will be a B day. The second cohort of remaining students will receive in-person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays. Thursday will be an A day and Friday will be a B day. 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 principal will notify you and your sending district's transportation office of your scheduled days. Finally, a 100% remote learning option is available to all students. This option will provide online live streaming in the Google Classroom and Problem and Project Based Learning for students. Parents who are selecting this option should notify their building principal as soon as possible. As always, if there are questions or issues that need to be addressed, please contact the Main 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 reopening 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