



March 18, 2021

To Our Mercer County Technical Schools Community:

As we welcome students and staff back to MCTS on April 19, 2021, please see the instructions below in reference to our hybrid teaching and learning schedule. MCTS has worked closely with our sending districts to arrange for transportation for the below programs. Please be assured that all learners are welcome to continue to participate in a 100% remote learning option. We understand that this has been very successful for many students, and we will continue to implement this option. Others have expressed the desire to return to a more hands-on experience, and we also equally look forward to their return to the classroom.

Academy Instructional Schedule

Times: In-Person: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm • Remote: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A In-person A-Day	Cohort A In-person B-Day	Remote Alternating A/B	Cohort B In-person A-Day	Cohort B In-person B-Day

When students are not on-site, they will be participating in a remote learning model from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. From 12:00 to 1:00 pm, students will be on travel time/lunch break back home. From 1:00 to 2:30 pm, all staff and available students will be in Academy Google Classrooms for Problem and Project-Based Learning. Students will be provided grab-and-go lunches, the cafeteria will be closed. Information on Grab & Go lunches will follow. **Cohort A & B assignments will be sent in a separate letter.**

Shared-Time Instructional Schedule

For shared-time students, a minimum of two half-day, in-person sessions are planned for shared-time students per week. These AM or PM sessions will be available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. When students are not on-site they will be participating in a remote learning schedule from 8:00 am until 10:45 am or from 11:45 am until 2:30 pm. Home school counselors will select two sessions for students. Classrooms will be capped at social distancing capacity based on shop and room size. The district will attempt to flexibly schedule students to accommodate home district schedules.

Times: AM Session: 8:00 am - 10:45 am • PM Session: 11:45 am - 2:30 pm

Session	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM Session	In-Person A-Day*	In-Person B-Day*	Remote Instruction Alternating A/B Day*	In-Person A-Day*	In-Person B-Day*
PM Session	In-Person A-Day*	In-Person B-Day*	Remote Instruction Alternating A/B Day*	In-Person A-Day*	In-Person B-Day*

**A and B Days are for pull-out students only*

On Wednesdays, all students will receive remote learning so that custodians can more deeply sanitize buildings.

Procedures and Information

- All students and staff will be required to wear masks.
- Students will have temperature checks before entering class.
- When reporting to school, students will report directly to their assigned seats in their classrooms.
- Social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) will always be mandatory on campus and in the classrooms as per CDC guidelines.
- Dividers will be used in the classrooms to maintain safety and security according to NJDOE guidelines.
- Wednesday will be deep cleaning with daily cleanings each day.
- Attendance and participation are required during remote instruction.
- Remote instruction will be provided when students are not in class.
- Further information will be provided as we receive information from the CDC, NJDOE, and Department of Health.

Thank you and stay safe,

Gary Mattia, Assunpink Principal

James Fazzone, Ed.D, Arthur R. Sypek Center Principal



KIMBERLY J. SCHNEIDER, Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 19, 2021

Dear MCTS Students, Families, and Staff:

Happy Spring to everyone and we hope everyone is well! We are sending this letter to you with information regarding our district Reopening Plan as we prepare to return to a hybrid schedule on April 19, 2021. At this time, our re-opening schedules will be posted on our website. Please see the letter from Principals Mattia and Fazzone posted on our website <https://www.mcts.edu/school-update-letters/>. If you have any specific questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to them or your guidance counselor, Mrs. Ferdetta or Mr. Simek.

We are asking each student and staff member to continue conducting daily temperature checks prior to coming to school each day. Along with these daily temperature checks, the student/staff health questionnaire needs to be completed before boarding the bus or coming to work. This link can be found at the top of our webpage at www.mcts.edu in the green navigation bar under "Health Forms". Staff forms can be found under "Staff Links". Please note anyone with a fever of 100° or higher must stay home. Contact your doctor if you have a fever or experience symptoms related to COVID-19. Remember to wear your mask daily and bring a spare mask in your backpack for emergencies. Also, it is very important we have two (2) emergency contact numbers available to us. If your child is sick, we will call you. Your child will need to be picked up within ninety (90) minutes of our phone call.

Please remember your mask. We will be wearing "all masks - all the time"; on the bus and at school, so you will need to bring more than one mask to school in your backpack/briefcase. Put the extra masks in a paper/zip-lock bag, for tech school and for emergencies. Wear three-ply cloth masks that can be washed at the end of every day with the clothes/uniform you wore to school. For students that drive, keep extra masks in your car, hand wipes/sanitizer, and after school place your mask in a paper bag. Staff and students, if you require a medical exemption for mask wearing, please submit that information to your building principal and school nurse now for further instructions and discussion.

If you or someone in your household has been sick with COVID-19, or is being tested for COVID-19, please notify your building principal and school nurse. We will follow proper guidelines to ensure that contact tracing can be done accurately to reduce the possible spread of COVID-19 in our school setting. The above guidelines start immediately since school will be returning to hybrid learning in less than one month. If you have any specific questions or concerns, you may contact your building principal or the school nurses.

Staff and students will proceed from the car/bus directly to class. If anyone feels feverish during school hours, or experiences other COVID-19 symptoms, we have separate rooms to isolate staff and students until they are picked up by family or emergency contacts. We are asking everyone to identify four (4) emergency individuals who can pick up a student/staff member within 90 minutes of a nurse's phone call.

We have patiently endured school activities and events that looked very different from what we are used to. Please be hopeful, and know that we will continue to create new events this Spring to celebrate our re-opening in a safe and healthy way. Thank you all for your patience as we look forward to coming together again as a school family.

Sincerely,


Kimberly J. Schneider, Ed.D.
Superintendent



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