



Office of Superintendent

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Dear Menasha Families,

We hope this finds you well and enjoying some hot summer days. This week's update includes a [survey](#) that will assist us in planning for a safe return to school. Please take a moment after reading this document to provide us with your plans for your child. It is very important for us to receive your survey so that we can plan accordingly. We will continue to plan with priority placed on the following:

SAFETY: Student and staff safety is important. All plans will reflect guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Menasha Health Department, and Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING: Planning for and caring for the social-emotional and mental health needs of students and staff.

FLEXIBILITY: Plans will allow for a fluid response keeping in mind staff, students', and parents' capacity as well as MJSD financial resources and available space.

INSTRUCTION: Plan currently reflects an in-person learning environment for PK-5 students, a hybrid blended learning approach for students in grades 6-12, and a PK-12 virtual learning model in the event that students and families are not comfortable returning to school or schools can not remain open. This plan is subject to change as guidelines are adjusted.

Menasha Joint School District has every intent to eventually bring all students back for in-person instruction following the school calendar. However, at this time the current guidelines for social distancing are driving the need for a blended learning approach for students in grades 6-12. In the event these guidelines are adjusted **WE WILL CHANGE THE PLAN** with the goal of having ALL students in classes five days a week.

Elementary students will return to school on September 1, 2020, with safety precautions and social distancing. Masks will be required for students and staff. The teachers will work with students who struggle with this expectation.

If you are uncomfortable sending your child to school with the required safety precautions an online/virtual option will be provided. This option will be delivered by a teacher. Learning virtually will require more independent learning and some supervision. Expectations including attendance, rigor of courses, assignments, and grading will be the same as in-person learning.

In the event of an emergency closure elementary students would change to a virtual/online program outlined below.

- Students are virtual daily, following the 2020-21 calendar
- All courses will be delivered through Schoology and lessons recorded
- Students run a shortened schedule in the AM based on DPI recommendations and are required to be online with their teacher and class
- Afternoons are designated for either small group work, one-on-one work, or students working independently
- Small Groups may be able to be brought into the building if necessary
- Expectations including attendance, rigor of courses and assignments will be the same as in-person learning
- Proficiency grades will be assigned as usual

Students in Grades 6-12 will return to a blended model of instruction on September 1, 2020, following the school district calendar with safety precautions and social distancing. MJSD is unable to provide instruction safely to all secondary students at one time due to space limitations. Students will be divided into two groups and will attend school two days a week and receive online instruction three days a week. Online instruction on Wednesdays each week will be used for students to contact teachers and/or small group and one-on-one instruction including parent support. Masks and social distancing will be required for students and staff on campus. Staff will work with students who struggle with this expectation.

(Groups will be assigned during the first week of August. Individual schools will notify families via email. Any concerns regarding the group your child has been placed in should be brought to the principal's attention.)

If you are uncomfortable sending your child to school with the required safety precautions an online/virtual option will be provided. Students will utilize an online curriculum with limited support from a secondary teacher/staff member. Learning virtually will require more independence. Expectations including attendance, rigor of courses and assignments will be the same as in-person learning.

In the event of an emergency closure secondary students would change to a virtual/online program outlined below.

- Students are virtual daily, following the 20-21 school calendar
- All course will be delivered through Schoology and lessons recorded
- Students will attend virtual classes from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and are required to be online with their teacher and class
- Afternoons are designated for small group, one on one, and students working independently
- Small groups may be able to be brought into the building if necessary
- Expectations including attendance and rigor of courses and assignments will be the same as in person learning
- Letter grades will be assigned as usual

Please take the time to complete the [survey linked here](#). It is just a couple questions, however they are very important. This will assist the Menasha Joint School District in planning for your child(ren)'s return to school.

There have been some questions regarding the difference between home school and the options we have listed above. Home school is an agreement between the Department of Public Instruction and the parent. Home schoolers do not interface with the Menasha Joint School District curriculum or teachers.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we move forward in providing a safe and effective learning program for your child.

Sincerely,

Chris L. VanderHeyden

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Superintendent