

A Path Forward

Red Raider Community:

As we plan for reopening school, it's very important that we keep in mind our purpose, WHY we are here. *We believe in creating a positive culture to support and empower faculty to focus on LEARNING in a collaborative environment to achieve agreed upon RESULTS for our students.*

With the pandemic still impacting the region our focus items are:

- Maintain a healthy and physically safe environment for all school community members
- Create and maintain an environment that promotes and supports students mental health and wellness
- All students attend in-person each day, for a full day
- Prevent and limit quarantining of students and classes

When I began as your superintendent, I made the commitment to:

- Listen, and have an open mind
- Gather the best information available prior to making a decision
- Make decisions that align with our district's priorities, values and goals
- Be humble, look to research and experts in the field for solutions
- Role model the behavior I expect in others
- Be kind and supportive, we are all striving to do our very best
- Be transparent with information, both qualitative and quantitative
- Assume the best in others, we are all here to do what's best for kids

This is no time for me to waiver from those commitments. The MCSD believes in supporting each school community member where they are at, but ultimately we are responsible to make decisions that are in the collective good for our school community. We take our responsibility of balancing both physical and mental health very seriously. This plan is our best attempt to strike a balance between keeping our students and staff physically safe from COVID while providing a school environment which promotes normalcy. The negative impact on our students and staff members mental health has taken an immeasurable toll which we will not fully know the effects for years to come. We commit to providing an environment which creates a middle ground promoting both safety and family choice.

Unless a mandatory quarantine is issued by Saratoga County Public Health Services, currently the only remote learning options for students will be:

- A. Medically warranted condition which precludes the student from attending in person, with supporting documentation from a physician - for ES school students, a full remote school program provided through Capital Region BOCES which requires a full year commitment; for Jr/Sr HS students, an online platform provided by MCSD which requires a quarterly commitment.
- B. Isolation or quarantine of an individual student - Google Classroom assignments, videos, after school tutoring (asynchronous)
- C. Quarantine of class or grade level - live virtual school classes provided during the regular school day (synchronous)

With the collaboration and endorsement of Mechanicville CSD school physician, Dr. Carl Sgambati and consultation with the Saratoga County Department of Health, a number of health and safety protocols will be implemented beginning September 8, 2021, the first day of school for all students.

Please note: this reopening plan is a fluid document subject to change based on Saratoga County's COVID-19 community transmission rate. Transmission rates are measured by the CDC's four-category system of low, moderate, substantial, and high. As of today, August 20, 2021, the transmission rate in Saratoga County is High. Up to date transmission rate information can be found here: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#). Once the school year begins, we will send notifications every Sunday night, and provide real-time notifications of change in status through Parent Square as well as post on Facebook and our district website.

Community Transmission

Below are basic details pertaining to Mechanicville schools based on the community transmission rates of low, moderate, substantial and high. These details apply to all faculty, staff, students and visitors/spectators in our schools & athletic events and inclusive of all school activities: curricular, extracurricular, recess, physical education classes, and athletics.

	Mitigation Protocol	Low Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission	High Community Transmission
	Total New Cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	= or > 100
	Percentage of Nucleic Acid Test that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	= or > 10.0%
1	Social Distancing	3 ft where possible	3 ft where possible	3 ft where possible	3 ft where possible
2	Facemasks - Indoors, classrooms	Family Choice	Family Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required for unvaccinated Family Choice for vaccinated 	Required for all persons
3	Facemasks - Indoors, hallway transitions	Family Choice	Required	Required	Required
4	Facemasks - Outdoors	Family Choice	Family Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Choice when socially distanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required for unvaccinated student athletes Family Choice for vaccinated student athletes Family Choice when socially distanced
5	Facemasks - Bus Transportation	Required per federal mandate	Required per federal mandate	Required per federal mandate	Required per federal mandate

6	Screening / Testing	No Screening	Temperatures taken at entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperatures taken at entrances • Pool testing for unvaccinated students (parent permission) • Diagnostic testing for symptomatic students at nurses station (parent permission) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperatures taken at entrances • Pool testing for unvaccinated students (parent permission) • Diagnostic testing for symptomatic students at nurses station (parent permission)
8	Quarantining	Regardless of Transmission Rate, the Local Department of Health will be making all isolation and quarantine decisions. In almost all cases where a close contact with a positive case - IF the person is not symptomatic AND properly wearing a face mask OR vaccinated, they will NOT be quarantined.			

This has been a very challenging and stressful time for all of us. Just like we have proven time and time again, we will get through this as #OneMechanicville! Despite these challenges, we are thrilled to have school reopen next month!

My best,
Bruce