

## Comments

My child will be attending MRIS. I feel as though some of the items outline in the draft plan feedback will not be reasonable to implement, such as only 10 mins drop off time for each grade level. Also, I am concerned that there is no mention of social distancing in the classroom and that children will still be allowed to sit in rows and groups. Need more details of social distancing during lunch- some info but need more details.

Looks very well thought out. Appreciate all of the thought that went into it, and keeps some risk down. Not sure why we need plastic water bottles and they can't bring a refillable one? seems like kids would be less likely to drink out of one that wasn't theirs if it looked different than the other plastic water bottles. I don't care, I was just curious why. Again, I appreciate all of the work that has gone into this, and appreciate the fact that teachers are willing to come back and teach. It will be so good for the kids mental and social health, a lot of them have been so isolated since this started. Thank you so much!!

I think masks should be required in the higher grades at all times (except PE). I can't imagine enforcing that in kindergarten. I don't know where the age cutoff should be. I appreciate you trying to get the kids back into regular school - it is much needed.

For MRIS my child likes to walk the track when at recess from what I understand that's not gonna be available daily? She's not much for playing the equipment available. Is there an option for that? Also, the plan stated that kids would need to bring Plastic water bottles. Refillable or single use? I know many kids have personal water bottle like stainless steel like "Hydroflask" can they not be used? They keep water cold longer. Some schools are providing Water bottles. Will all schools provide them? Providing mask with school logo would be a nice addition.

As a teacher at MHS, I am a little concerned about making drop-offs work between SHE and MRIS and getting to my school to help with drop-offs there. I like the ideas of a lanyard to help with the little ones not touching things in the library and cafeteria. I am a little concerned with him playing with it. I also had the idea of using a carabiner to attach his mask to it as well.

I appreciate your guidance in this weird time. I am nervous about her starting back but I know she needs this. I would like to know if the children will participate in helping with helping sanitize, etc. I think it's an important lesson for them and it would become a habit for them to be more mindful, etc. thank you for all you do!

The Beginning of School Day section of the MRIS plan is a bit confusing. It says the school day starts at 7:15am but the drop of for the majority of grades is after 7:15am.

## Response

Lunch will be more spread out and students would potentially be sitting in groups of 4-8 students.

Students will be provided with a MRIS branded water bottle to use throughout the day. They may also elect to bring their own plastic water bottle

On the days your student won't have access to the track, there is ample open space for her to walk and enjoy time with her friends.

Drop-off times were a recommendation that we hope will only be used for the first couple of days of school. Having a staggered and extended drop off time to start the year will give us the opportunity to improve our efficiency for getting folks into the building. We understand that this may not be feasible for some families and they may need to drop off outside their recommended window.

Allowing students to take ownership of maintaining a clean and healthy environment is definitely a possibility.

I apologize for any confusion. The staggered start is to help with temperature checks to begin the day and was organized by grade level. We hope to only use this the first two days and return to our regular start time by the beginning of the first full week of school.

I read in the District Protocols, that "in most cases, teachers will not instruct both in the classroom and online." Please give clarity to the community on which cases the classroom teachers will also be instructing online. This should be communicated when parents select digital or in-person schooling for their children. I feel it is extremely important that my children's classroom teachers not also be responsible for teaching digital learners. This will be a difficult year as a classroom teacher. Adding digital learners to a classroom teachers responsibility will be overwhelming. I believe strongly making classroom teachers responsible for digital learners will be a disservice to students, parents, and teachers. I'm hopeful my children's teachers won't be managing the stresses of the classroom during a pandemic and also responsible for digital learners. Thank you for considering my feedback!

I have a concern with kids using or being asked to use hand sanitizer too much. Good old fashion hand washing needs to be promoted and used more than hand sanitizer or you might find a whole new health issue/problem on your hands. Also, how are you going to handle the rest of the class and grade WHEN a child tests positive? Thank you for all you are doing to help our children and teacher's safety!!

2 questions I didn't see addressed specifically 1. Are there any changes to kids who walk home? There is a group that live in Westwood that are in all different grades but they meet up and walk home together for safety. Will this still be allowed? 2. I saw the plan for exposure and how long the child may be required to be out of school. If they are forced to quarantine what is the expectation for school work? Realizing numerous of these kids will be at home alone during the day as both parents are essential workers and unable to take off.

I did not see how the drop off/pick up plan was going to go for parents of one child at MRIS and the other child at FHE. Will the back side of both schools be utilized for both drop off and pick up? And would both kids be released from school at the same time and picked up at the same location? My kids are a 4th grader and a 1st grader. Thanks!

I do have some concerns that teachers will be overwhelmed with having to do both digital and traditional learning options. I didn't feel like my daughters were as dedicated to their school work while at home, and their teachers did a wonderful job. I think it's just being home makes it easier for them to be distracted. We are not able to do remote learning as we both have full time jobs, so I just want to be sure the kids still get the education they need if we do traditional school. Thank you for all the hard work!

Require face masks like employers are. If they are left optional, not so many kids will wear because they are kids. This will reduce the need to shut back down, greatly. Yes, I agree they are no fun to wear, but they are easy to get used to if comfortable. If proceeding with fieldtrips, face masks will greatly help those be possible. (I.e. FHE Adventure Club incident should be reflected upon). The field trip was not optional either.

The organizational structure we implement for digital learning will likely depend on the number of students who elect to come to school versus those that opt to stay at home. We will work with each grade level once we have numbers to decide the best option for teachers and students.

All classrooms have sinks with soap and water. Students will have the option to wash hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day.

Students are still allowed to walk home and will have their regular release time.

Drop off and pick-up for families with students at FHE will continue. Afternoon pick-up will be organized by cohort for pick-up to manage interactions between groups of students.

Montgomery Ridge and Maryville City Schools are committed to maintaining the highest expectations for delivering high quality instruction to all students whether at school or at home.

While MCS will not be requiring students to wear masks, we are committed to creating an environment that encourages regular and consistent wearing of masks by all students.

My son is in 7th grade. My husband and I are both professional and are required to be at work at 8am promptly. Riding the bus to school is not an option because it runs after we leave and dropping our son off at 7:45 is also not an option. Please consider there are 2 parent homes that both work as well as single parents that need to drop their children off and go to work.

everything looks very good except for the classrooms, I would like the students to have a little more protection, just as in the stores they have done to protect the cashiers

IF I am reading this correctly - even at outdoor recess the kids will not have any contact with their peers on other teams? I'm in hopes that can be revisited at some point. They would like to see their friends outside of their specific teams only. Everything else is reasonable.

Please include to advise if a student was identified in high exposure group to COVID-19 could switch to virtual learning. Is there also way for half of students to do traditional and the rest to do virtual in alternating weeks?

I am unable to drop my 7th graders off at mris at 745 to 755. I have to be at work at 8. I will have to drop him off at 715. I hope you will be able to accommodate working parents.

We need to know that the school will be open to regular, in person, traditional school. Furthermore, if you plan to go remote we need to know now so that we can enroll them in a private school or homeschool program. I will not participate in distance learning since there is a complete lack of organization and actual education being completed.

During drop off, are temperature checks done from staff while the student is still in the car or do we as parents walk the student up to be checked?

I would like mask wearing to be mandatory for students.

The staggered drop off times were a recommendation for families to help manage the drop off of students while we are doing temperature checks. We certainly understand that not all families will be able to comply with this request.

Staff will wear masks when interacting with students and when unable to maintain social distancing. In addition, we will encourage all students to wear masks when in close contact with staff or peers.

The philosophical approach we have taken in organizing the school day is to limit interactions across teams and grade levels. Should we have a positive COVID-19 test, limiting these interactions will reduce the impact it will have our students and staff. We will certainly relax these safety measures as soon as is safe for all.

At this time, we do not have plans to alternate and stagger groups between online and at school learning. Should a student or group of students be deemed to have a high exposure, we would certainly switch to digital learning for that/those student(s) and continue instruction.

We understand that our staggered drop off might not be convenient for all. Please drop off at a time that will allow you to meet your work obligations.

Regular, in person instruction will be offered this school year. While I cannot guarantee that we will not have to close intermittently, we hope to have this option available as much as possible, if not all the time.

We hope to check temperatures at the car, so parents are aware if there is an issue prior to leaving for the day. As planning continues, we will provide families with more information about how this might look.

While MCS will not be requiring mask wearing for all students, we intend to create an environment that supports and encourages regular and consistent use of masks by everyone in our building. Staff will wear masks when outside the classroom and in the classroom when social distancing is not possible.

I agree with the proposals but would emphasize more streamlined and compulsory use of face masks for students and faculty.

I just want to make sure that if we pick going back to school that we can change if we deem things to be too dangerous at some point during the school year. How will this be approved?

What if a parent cannot drop off their child at the designated time. They need to be dropped off earlier due to work schedules? If a child is sent home with a fever, do they have to get Covid tested? Will they have to quarantine for 14 days? Will they be counted absent? Will you allow online learning to take place at this time so they aren't counted absent?

I think they are doing a good job . I just now need to know when my daughter's 4th grade orientation as I still haven't heard anything.

I strongly want to encourage the school staff to help parents be prepared for any sudden switch to online learning so we can better support our kids with their educational responsibilities

Please use this opportunity to teach the students civics related topics such as, media methods and accuracy, the politics of the virus, the politicization of science, personal responsibility, and introduce/review the scientific method.

Due to previous experience, I would suggest research on types of thermometers being used and secondary checks. My child went to the dentist and was first scanned with a non-touch forehead thermometer with an elevated temperature. When checked again with the same no touch forehead thermometer, her temperature was normal. Depending on the temperature of the morning, students may read higher than they actually are.

Given the rise in cases recently, I believe the beginning of school should be postponed.

Faculty will be wearing masks during pick-up and drop off. They will wear masks when moving through the building and during transitions. In the classroom, they will be asked to wear masks when social distancing is not possible. For our students, we intend to create a culture that encourages regular and consistent use of masks by all students. However, at this time, MCS is not planning to require it for students.

MCS is offering families the opportunity to move to digital instruction at any point during the first 30 days of school. After that, we ask that these transitions only occur at our natural breaks (ex. Fall Break, Winter Break).

If the suggested drop off time does not work for your family, we understand. You can drop off earlier, if needed. MCS Health Care COVID-19 Management Plan can offer further details in this area. Depending on the length and type of absence, digital learning may be offered to help a student.

Our offices open on July 8th, if you would like to call the school, we would be happy to share any details about 4th grade orientation. 980-0590

Absolutely, we have plans to begin the year with a very deliberate and organized effort to help prepare parents for any potential closure.

Thank you for your suggestion. Some of these topics are a natural part of our curriculum and we will address those where appropriate.

We are aware of some of the limitations regarding the infrared thermometers. Students who read above the 100.4 threshold would be re-checked by our school nurse.

Our district will continue to monitor the spread of the virus as we prepare for the start of the school year.

I am on board with the staggered drop off time for first two days, however I do not feel like this will work past that. Life happens and to expect families to only have a 15 min drop off time is unrealistic. I would also like to see students be able to each lunch with their grade not just their team. I do not feel like that really decreases the risk of exposure anymore than allowing the entire grade to just eat together on their assigned cafeteria days.

I am very disappointed in the quality of these plans. 1. There is no coherent schedule for the school day. Why are some 4th/5th graders going to be dismissed early? 2. Almost all available data demonstrates that masks slow the spread of Covid-19. Why aren't you mandating mask use at all time? 3. Social distancing is also advised by nearly every medical professional. Why aren't classes being reconfigured for that option? It doesn't make sense to maintain the original seating, and to put students in rows, if you are concerned about their safety. 4. Students with siblings in different grades, under this plan, will be required to be at school an extra hour for reasons that are never articulated. 5. You are not offering beginning instruction for instrumental musicians, but you are planning to offer a "competitive athletic program in basketball." Both the available research and the existing evidence of the spread of this virus indicates that this is a poor decision. I want to send my children back to school, but I cannot do so unless I believe that their teachers have their health, safety, and well-being at heart. Based on my reading of your plan, the district seems to have done little to prepare for opening. As near as I can tell, your only substantive alterations are temperature checks, staggering the presence of the students in the hall and lunch areas, and closing off water fountains. Frankly, I find it staggering that so little preparation has been done and if your goal is truly to "...have 100% of our students and parents feeling confident and trust that we will protect your student..." you are failing at that goal. Do better.

I am a rising 6th grader, and I think that you should provide more possible interactions with the other students for distance-learners (maybe a Zoom session where classmates can just talk to each other after class?). In the spring (early distance learning), there was almost no interaction with the teachers/other students. I did not like that because I almost never got to see my friends or teachers which I think made school a lot less interesting/educational. I am glad to hear that in your plan you said this online learning would not be like the online learning in the spring, because I did not like the distance-learning model in the spring. I could not focus as well on my studies when I could not see my friends. I hope that you decide to allow distance-learners to participate in extracurricular activities and athletics because this would be my first year in both Rangers and cross country. I am particularly excited about Rangers because first everyone had to write an essay on why they should be Rangers, then they decided who would get in and who wouldn't, and I got in! I think that I will be a distance-learner in the fall, and I would really like to be able to see my friends and do extracurricular activities. However, I understand that there is a lot of pressure on you right now, and that you are not able to please everyone, but PLEASE at least consider making some of the changes I have asked about!

I am concerned about busing mostly. That is a lot of children in a confined space that will be in contact with student from many different schools that they would not normally come into contact with. As a teacher, there is no way that I can keep 20+ students 6 feet apart in my classroom. So, I am concerned about class sizes and cleaning in between classes.

We certainly understand that this will be difficult for some families to maintain and just need time to build our capacity for temperature checks prior to entry to the building. Our district has asked us to develop a plan that minimizes interactions. That is the reason for keeping teams together through the day and managing their interactions at lunch or any other time.

The schedule for the school day will run as normal. We are exploring the release of some 4th and 5th grade students 5 minutes early to help stagger the release of our students and manage the number of students leaving at one time. The staggered start to the day is simply to help with the arrival and temperature checks for students and staff. We will offer beginning instruction for students who elect in-person instruction for band and orchestra. Our offering of athletics has yet to be determined, but has not been officially canceled at this time.

We do expect to offer more in-person instruction in our digital learning model. Our hope is to offer more engagement and rigor to your digital learning. At this time, athletics will be offered to distance learners, but extracurricular activities will not.

Classroom cleaning will certainly be a challenge, but our hope is to have an all hands-on deck approach to cleaning that will have students and staff sharing that responsibility.

We should follow CDC guidance and masks should be required by students, staff & faculty.

I do not agree for my kids to wear a mask, or face covering during time in school.

Masks and social distancing should be required for students attending in person, as the best science supports those two interventions as the most important ways to protect staff and students.

Masks should be required for students and provided for those who do not have any as the data supports their use to protect the student and the staff.

I know that there are no easy decisions and that you're holding and balancing many different constraints, needs, values, and local/state policies/mandates. However, I have serious concerns that it seems the district is not fully following the most serious/important recommendations from the CDC and our nation's leading scientists and doctors. In particular, I am concerned that masks will not be required in schools and that physical distancing will not be used generally, with schools instead seeming to rely on "minimizing interactions." This does not seem to me a safe way to open schools. I am deeply concerned for the safety and health not only of our students and teachers but also the community in general given how these policies are likely to impact the number of increased positive cases in our community. I am frustrated that the district will not be adopting a hybrid model where many/most students could come back to in-person learning but on a schedule of alternating days (with students in distance learning on the other days so that the school population is cut in half, allowing for physical distancing). I am also concerned (but remain hopeful) about how and whether the distance learning option this fall will include teachers intentionally working to build community among students in the classes and offer/integrate developmentally appropriate and important social aspects of the class experience and learning process (as teachers would do in the in-person classroom). Understandably, this didn't happen much in the spring, and the social/emotional impact of that and of, in our family, continuing to mostly be at home for these few months is one of my biggest concerns for my daughter at this point, especially as the only child at home in our family right now. I hope that teachers working in the digital learning environment will work toward greater engagement of students with the material, the teachers, and their classmates. I am also wondering how leveling/tracking and differentiated instruction will be handled for distance learning at the intermediate school level. My daughter is a high achiever, and we have already struggled with keeping her engaged and challenged even with her placement in the higher tracking level. Will the distance learning program still be able to support students' different needs at various achievement levels with some individualized/differentiated instruction/intervention? It is still not clear to me which extracurricular activities distance learners will be able to participate in, particularly at MRIS. The most recent draft plans seemed to say that distance learners could participate in athletics as well as other extracurricular activities, but I believe I'd previously heard from MRIS administration that distance learners would not be able to participate in extracurricular activities. Specifically, I'm wondering if my daughter would be able to participate in MRIS Rangers, art club, and science club and MJHS cross country team if she were a distance learner.

Staff will be required to wear masks anytime they are outside of their classrooms and in class whenever they are unable to social distance from students or other staff.

Currently, face masks are optional for all students. There will be portions of the day when we will encourage wearing masks by students.

Staff will be required to wear masks anytime they are outside of their classrooms and in class whenever they are unable to social distance from students or other staff. At this time, masks will be optional, but encouraged for all students. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer traditional instruction and social distancing under our current plan.

Staff will be required to wear masks anytime they are outside of their classrooms and in class whenever they are unable to social distance from students or other staff. At this time, masks will be optional, but encouraged for all students.

We fully expect your distance learning experience to feel very different this fall. There will be more engagement from teachers as they work to meet the needs of the students they will be working with. Our distance learning will offer the same rigor and expectation of our traditional school model. At this time, students will be allowed to participate in athletics, if offered. However, extracurricular activities will not be available to our distance learning families.

The staggered drop off is impossible for someone who works and has 3 kids in three different schools.

I'd like to see smaller class sizes and more nurses available. I'd also like more specifics for the option to choose one method of attending and change to another if necessary. And some info about band and orchestra ensembles.

-We are concerned about the recent spike in Covid 19 cases and feel there are too many unknowns and risks to make decisions we are comfortable with -There doesn't seem to be enough medical evidence on the safety of children returning to school -why is school starting a week earlier especially since the nation is seeing more cases? -will the school change to digital only model if the surge in Covid 19 cases continues? -We believe it is critical to have the option to change from digital to classroom or vis versa at any time during the school year based on needs or concerns of the child. -highly agree with earller pick up for 4&5th grade.

With digital learning slated to begin after traditional learning, I am interested in how digital learners will "catch up" to traditional learners.

I hope I read the plan correctly. It seemed as though masks are encouraged but optional. I hope this is the case, and the students can choose not to wear a mask.

I know it is a huge pain, but an outbreak is worse. Students and teachers should be required to wear masks and distancing should be implemented in all spaces. Perhaps send students only half the days in a and b groups wit mandatory online activities for alternate days. Some students (those without access or with difficult home situations could come everyday). Thank you for the hard work on this. We know it isn't easy or ideal.

We certainly understand that this will not be possible for all families. These drop off times were recommendations for families to assist us as we begin the school year.

Our school year is beginning at its regularly scheduled time. The district will continue to monitor the spread of the virus in our area and is prepared to close intermittently, if needed. Within the first 30 days of school, parents may elect to change their option for distance or in-person learning.

Based on new guidance from the state, it is likely that our digital learning will begin at the same time as in-person instruction. Stay tuned for more details from the District.

At this time, we are not requiring masks for students.

Staff will be required to wear masks when outside their classroom and in class when they are unable to social distance from students or other staff.