

Madison Public Schools

2021-2022 Reopening Plan



NOTE: *The contents of this plan are proposed and could be impacted based on various factors and conditions such as: the CT State Department of Education acceptance and feedback; CDC guidelines, impact of supply chains; responses to state and national conditions; and/or changes in available staffing.*

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Introduction

Public Review:

This plan responds to requirements and guidelines from the State of Connecticut. In 2020, Madison established a steering committee of community stakeholders to oversee the fall reopening plans. The oversight of the district steering committee has been instrumental in the refinement of the original plan to meet the needs of the 2021-22 school year. The district steering committee includes membership from the Board of Education, administration, central office staff, various unions, teachers, town offices and parents. In addition, each building has a separate and distinct committee of broad representation to examine and plan for the use of building space. The input from these teams along with the state department regulations continues to shape the plan as it is presented.

The Board of Education reviewed the proposed dedication of funding from the ARP ESSER in several public meetings on: April 6, May 11, and May 25, 2021. When the Board of Education voted on the allocation of funds, the vote was 9-0 in support of the distribution. That Board meeting was attended with one of our highest public rates of the year (44 people).

The reopening plan was posted on the district website for public comment.

Thank you to the following people for their time and collaboration on putting this plan together.

District Steering Response Committee Members:

Superintendent: Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent: Gail Dahling-Hench

BOE member: Emily Rosenthal

Town Health Director: Trent Joseph

Building Administrators: TJ Salutari, Brian Bodner, Melanie Witcher, Kathryn Hart, Martha Curran, Frank Henderson, Becky Frost and Kelly Spooner

Director of Special Education: Dr. Liz Battaglia

Director of Human Resources: Heather Dobson

Director of Administrative Services: Arthur Sickle

Director of Finance: Stacy Nobitz

Director of Athletics: Craig Semple

Supervisor of Nursing: Stephanie Lesnik, RN

Parent Representatives: Tina Walde and Tracy Hardy

District Communication Specialist: Zoe Roos

MEA Representative: Mike Ginsburg

MAESS Representative: Sue Evans

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Building & Space Committee Members

Daniel Hand High School	Polson Middle School	Brown Intermediate School
T.J. Salutari (Principal) Brian Bodner (Assistant Principal) Melanie Whitcher (Assistant Principal) Celina DaSilva (ELA 9-12 coordinator) David Buller (Math Teacher) Keiler Snow (Parent)	Kathryn Hart (Principal) Martha Curran (Asst. Principal) Ilena Andrich (Spanish) Donna Peck (Secretary) John Leonard (Music) Leah Stillman (Music Coord) Crystal Procaccini (LA) Karen Owen (Nurse) Lisa Lee (Parent Rep) Erin Bickelhaupt (Math/Sci) Peter Bizier (LA/SS) Melissa Arms (Math) Chris Perras (Counselor) Brian Courtmanche (Math) Sarah Sandora (Science Coord) Carol Sullivan (Math Coord) Stephanie Jarvis (PE) Maude Moore (Science) Kevin Potter (Security officer)	Frank Henderson (Principal) <u>Team Leaders:</u> Ashley Lunn (Gr.4 Teacher) Lisa Seales (Gr. 4 Teacher) Lauren Warner (Gr. 5 Teacher) Tracey McGinley (SPED Teacher) Val Alberti (School Nurse) Eliza Hayes (Guidance Counselor) Tina Phelan (PTO President)
Jeffrey Elementary School	Ryerson Elementary School	TCLC
Becky Frost, Principal Ella Cinquino, Teacher Alicia Dunbar, Teacher Becky Frost, Principal Megan Hogarth, Parent Kathy LeBlanc, ParaEducator Renee Pardo, Teacher Michelle Rindfleisch, Teacher	Kelly Spooner, Principal Jennifer Soja, Teacher Drew Sellitti, Teacher Jennifer Figurelli, Teacher Peggy Bell, Teacher Christine Piteo, Parent Representative - Ryerson PTO President	Dr. Liz Battaglia (Principal/Director of Special Education) Maria Hainer (PreK Team Leader/School Psychologist) Angela Milone (Teacher) Lisa Miceli (Teacher) Dashana Kytte (School Nurse/Parent)

Activities and Academics Division

Communication

Keeping the MPS community informed is critical to a successful reopening. Parents and staff will receive updates from the Superintendent of Schools and/or building principal throughout the school year regarding the most up to date policies and protocols.

An eNotify will not be sent each time a member of the school community tests positive. Case counts will instead be updated regularly on the district website.

Learning Model

The District will open in Fall 2021 for full in-person learning only. Voluntary Full Remote learning will not be offered as an option to students and families.

For students in temporary District-sanctioned COVID -19 isolation or quarantine, daily Google Classroom assignments and scheduled Google Meets will be conducted on a temporary basis for the duration of the quarantine. In all other situations, remote learning will not be offered for other absences from school.

Continuity of services and support for students

Madison Public Schools and the Madison community have a complete suite of social and emotional support for students. The district placed one full time social worker in each building. This will provide community outreach and family support for all students. All staff will be trained in signs of trauma prior to the start of the year so they can recognize and provide intervention for staff or students who might be struggling. Madison Youth and Family Services (MYFS) provides additional support services both during and after the school day.

An addition to the Middle School Effective Schools Solution team at Polson will provide increased availability to students suffering from anxiety, stress and other emotional needs in the school setting. This program includes an additional component of family outreach and support.

Additional intervention staff at the elementary schools will provide timely small group interventions for our youngest learners as supported by research. All levels of the system will benefit from the math and literacy coaches being reinstated to serve all levels of the system.

Summer Math and Reading activities have been broadly distributed and can be accessed by all students with their Chromebooks. Families without internet access, or with inadequate access, were asked to contact their building Principal to acquire a district-provided Wi-Fi hotspot. The

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district has also obtained subscriptions for various instructional platforms. Additional materials and resources are offered to our English Learners and their families.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Madison Public Schools developed its reopening plan with the understanding that there has been no waiver of requirements under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The plan addresses implementation of the Individual Education Plans (IEP) to assure a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) while focusing on health and safety precautions.

Madison Public Schools is proud to offer Extended School Year (ESY) summer services to students who qualified. Planning and Placement Teams (PPT) will meet to review the student's current performance and adjust the IEP if appropriate. The plan will be adjusted as new guidance is provided to the district from the State Department of Education. Each student who has an IEP is assigned a special education case manager who collaborates with general educators to implement the IEP. The case managers will communicate with parents about their students' program through phone calls and emails.

Before and After-School Programming

The Madison Beach and Rec Department Before and After-School program runs in 3 of our buildings: Jeffrey, Ryerson and Brown. The service will continue to be available to students and families during the 2021-2022 school year.

Infection Control Division

Health and Safety Strategies

Policies

The Madison Board of Education adopted policies specific to the COVID-19 Pandemic for School Year 2020-2021 that will be extended for the opening of the 2021-22 school year:

- Policy C-19.2 Health and Safety: Board thus directs the administration of the Madison Public Schools (the "Administration") to develop health and safety protocols consistent with applicable laws, rules, regulations and requirements, and to consider current guidance in the development of such protocols.

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- Policy C19-4 Masks and Face Coverings: creates guidelines and protocols for masks during transportation and school day activities.

District legal counsel, Shipman and Goodwin, will provide updated guidelines and applicable laws, rules, regulations and requirements as the school year progresses. The district will update accordingly.

Masks

**The following guidance is in compliance with state mandate 13A regarding face coverings in schools. The district will continue to review and revise its mask-wearing policies as the State of Connecticut offers new guidance for schools.*

For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, all students and staff - regardless of vaccination status - are required to wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside a school building and on the bus, with exceptions only for those individuals for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions.

Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. We also encourage students to bring an extra mask to school daily. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them. "Mask Breaks" will be provided throughout the day.

Social Distancing and Cohorting

Facilities personnel will work with building administrators and their committees to determine classroom layouts that will maximize social distancing between student workstations, achieving 3 feet where feasible. When necessary, other school spaces have been repurposed for instructional space. Space has been maximized between the teacher and students and room density has been taken into consideration. Physical Education classes will take place outdoors, whenever possible.

Infection rates will be monitored to determine if there is a need to further cohort students. Students in grades K-3 are naturally cohorted by classroom assignment.

Daily Health Monitoring, Contact tracing, and Quarantine

In order to prevent transmission among the school population, parents are instructed to screen students using the MPS Daily Health Screen (Appendix 7) before leaving for school. Students should stay home if they have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19; or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19, unless vaccinated.

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The district currently maintains a 10-day quarantine period for students to return to school, athletics, or extracurricular activities. Students and staff who have been vaccinated will not be considered a close contact and are not required to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the district will use the following close contact definition: A close contact is generally defined as a student within three feet of another infected student for more than 15 minutes cumulatively, but specific parameters may vary by the nature of each case. Per CDC guidance, the close contact definition will remain at six feet for contact between staff and between staff and students.

Students who are quarantined for exposure due to activities outside of school should notify their school nurse. District officials will determine the start date for a quarantine. Students who need to quarantine will be notified by a building administrator or staff member.

Vaccination Efforts

The District, in coordination with the local and regional health agencies, provided all staff, including our contracted bus drivers, the opportunity to attend clinics that administered both doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The district regularly provides parents with information for student vaccination opportunities via our mass messaging system. Proof of vaccination should be submitted to your medical provider to be added to the student's official immunization record. Once that has been completed, the pediatrician can then forward the updated immunization record to our health offices. Copies of vaccination cards can also be provided to the school nurse. Knowing our students' vaccination status allows us to quickly determine who is exempt from contact tracing and quarantining.

Transportation

The district will open in the fall for in-person learning and buses will operate at normal capacity. Mask wearing on the school bus is required.

Technology

During the 2020-2021 school year, the MPS 1:1 Device Program was expanded to include all grade levels K-12. Chromebooks are assigned to individual students in order to eliminate sharing of devices in the classroom. The determination of when students will bring their devices home will be dependent on the grade level, and current risk status.

Food Service

MPS is committed to providing healthy meals that our students enjoy. Beginning Fall 2021, food service will return to its pre-COVID standards for meal and snack offerings.

The district will keep the cashless system developed during COVID. Parents/guardians can replenish student accounts online via the Meal Pay Plus system (transaction fees apply) or by sending/bringing a check.

All serving and cleaning procedures will return to pre-COVID levels. Social distancing will still take place during meal time – see building-based plan for further details. Shields will be placed on indoor cafeteria tables during meal times. Tents for outdoor seating have been set up at each building.

Given the absence of a Distance Learning option in Fall 2021, remote meals will not be available for purchase.

Adequate Supplies and Signage

All classrooms will have access to a sink and soap OR hand sanitizer dispensers containing the appropriate levels of alcohol per guidelines. Backup supplies of disposable masks for students that have misplaced their own will be available. Tissues, disinfecting wipes, and no-touch trash cans will be in every classroom. Tape measures have been purchased for each teacher to ensure social distancing requirements.

Signage is posted throughout the buildings, including in hallways and entrances to encourage social distancing. Student, staff, and parent handbooks at each building will reflect safety protocols and procedures both building based and district wide for 2021-2022.

Material Sharing

Students will practice good hand hygiene when using shared materials in content areas where manipulatives and shared equipment might be in use. In the lower grades, certain materials have been ordered for students to use individually and kept in personal bins or pouches.

Visitors

Visitors will be allowed in the buildings when appropriate. Meetings will be held virtually or in person.

Music Instruction

Students will be permitted to play their instrument indoors while maintaining the required distance and using PPE that is suitable for instruments. Students will maintain social distancing

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for chorus class and will wear masks while singing. Instruction will take place outdoors when possible.

Physical Education

PE will take place outdoors whenever possible. When outdoors, students can remove their masks. If PE classes are conducted indoors, students and staff will wear masks.

Physical Plant

School Cleaning Plan

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has recommended we return to regular cleaning schedules for school buildings. We will continue to disinfect nurses offices and any locations where a student reports being ill. We will continue to monitor and update our reopening plan as additional DPH guidance is provided.

Ventilation

Ventilation has been maximized to provide ongoing distribution of outside air. The heating and cooling systems will be serviced in the summer to make sure systems are fully operational and any problems are addressed in a timely manner.

APPENDICES



Daniel Hand High School

Building Access & Space Plan

Classroom Layout

DHHS classrooms vary in size, layout, furniture and use. Highlighted below are the variety of classrooms students access on a daily basis.

Science Labs

- 1 student per desk up to 2 students/table in an attempt to maintain 3 ft distancing
- Additionally, students can sit around the perimeter of the classroom 3 ft apart
- 24 student maximum enrollment in science classes

Front Pod Classrooms

- 1 student per desk in an attempt to maintain 3 ft distancing
- 22 students possible to maintain 3 ft. distancing
- 3 ft distancing not possible with over 22 students enrolled

Rear Pod Classrooms

- 1 student per desk in an attempt maintain 3 ft distancing
- 23 students possible to maintain 3 ft distancing
- 3 ft distancing not possible with over 23 students enrolled

All classrooms

- Students in rows, facing towards the front of the room.
- Equipment and furniture will be removed/stored, as necessary, to meet the criteria set forth above.

The following rooms are being considered to repurpose, as necessary, to maintain 3 ft distancing: Room 130, Aux Gym, DAH, LMC, Classrooms/offices in LMC, Career Center, Outside under the tents during non-lunch periods, Computer labs

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Currently for the 21-22 school year, the largest academic class sizes are just under 30 students. Individual class size will determine if 3 ft spacing between students is feasible. Equipment and furniture will be removed/stored, as necessary, to meet the spacing requirement for students, teachers and support staff to share the space.

Physical Education instruction will take place outdoors (weather permitting). Physical Education will be held indoors in the gym, aux gym, fitness room, in the case of inclement weather. Health will take place in the general education classroom.

Related Arts classes require the use of a variety of specialized classrooms throughout the building.

Open periods/Study Halls

- Freshman and Sophomores who will be assigned to a study hall during any open period.
- Juniors will have access to the LMC and DAH hall during any open period.
- Seniors will have access to the LMC, DAH and Senior Commons (Bridge) during any open period.

Meal Service

- The Dining and Assembly Hall will be used for meal service. Social distancing of 3 ft or more is encouraged.
- Tents installed outside with outdoor seating available during all lunch waves
- Heaters installed in the winter to allow outdoor seating to continue during inclement weather

Communication

DHHS Handbook will be used when in person. Additions to the handbook for any reason will be in the form of an addendum and will be communicated both in person and electronically. Safety protocols and procedures, both building-based and district-wide will continue to be communicated regularly via E-Notify.

Pick Up/Drop Off

- Arrival process will follow pre-COVID procedures.
- Dismissal process will follow pre-COVID procedures.

The School Resource Officer (MPD) will be on-site during arrival and dismissal.



Polson Middle School

Building Access & Space Plan

Classroom Layout

Classrooms will be assigned based on the size of the room and the number of students who can safely fit in the class, approximately 3 feet apart. A seating chart will be kept on file in the office. At the discretion of the teacher, classes may be held outside.

Teams

Students will be placed on a team and will interact with peers for core classes, related arts and lunch. Related Arts classes will be assigned based on student selection of classes.

Lockers will be used by students and assigned by administration.

Music Instruction

Students will be permitted to play their instrument indoors while maintaining the required distance and using PPE that is suitable for instruments. Students will maintain social distancing for chorus class and will wear masks while singing.

Athletics

Students will be allowed to participate in intramural and interscholastic sports.

Physical Education instruction will take place outdoors. Physical Education will be held indoors in the gym, aux gym, and fitness room, in the case of inclement weather. Health will take place in the general education classroom.

Meal Service

Each grade level of students will eat lunch together in the café, auxiliary gym, or outdoors. Social distancing of 3 ft or more will be encouraged when eating. All communal spaces will be available as needed. Outdoor seating will also be available depending on the weather.

Pick Up/Drop Off

Arrival and dismissal process will follow pre-COVID procedures. The School Resource Officer (MPD) will be on-site during arrival and dismissal.

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Brown Intermediate School

Building Access & Space Plan

The following are the substantial changes made to the Brown Intermediate School reopening plan:

Classroom/Building Layout

- Desks and all seating continue to be a minimum of three feet apart.
- The following building areas are used for content-specific instruction with students: Gymnasium, Art Room, Music Room, Theatre room, Computer Lab, STEAM Lab.
- Physical education is held outside, weather permitting. The gymnasium and Library Media Center are utilized on days when students cannot go outside.
- The Brown Playground/Blacktop/Field is open and students self-select where they want to play.
- Lockers will be used by students and assigned by administration.

Meal Service

The Cafeteria will be utilized for lunch waves by Team and by Grade level. Students will eat outside weather permitting. Lunch and snacks are held outdoors, weather permitting. Social distancing of 3 ft or more will be encouraged when eating.

Pick Up/Drop Off

Parent drop off and pick up will be behind the Cafeteria. Busses will drop off in front of the building and students will enter the building through the main entrance. At dismissal, students will exit via their classrooms if on the first floor and the main hallway exit if on the second floor.

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Ryerson Elementary School

Building Access & Space Plan

*Building and Space Committee Meeting Recommendations for 2021
School Reopening Plan
June 2021*

Learning Model/Classroom Layout

Students will stay with their grade level peers within their classroom for academic instruction. The following building areas will be used for content-specific instruction with students: Art Room, Library Media Center and PE. Music and Spanish will be held in the general education classroom. Physical education will be held outside, weather permitting. The multi-purpose room will be utilized on days when students cannot go outside.

All instruction is conducted with three feet of social distance in place. Facilities personnel will work with building administrators and their committees to determine classroom layouts that will maximize social distancing between student workstations achieving three feet where feasible.

Meal Service

Students will eat lunch in their general education classroom, outdoor picnic areas, or in the cafeteria to ensure 3ft of social distancing can be achieved.

Outside Time and Playgrounds

Grade levels will attend recess simultaneously. Students will utilize the playground equipment while practicing good hand hygiene.

After school clubs and workshops will be held with three feet of social distancing.

Material Sharing

The school will provide all students with their own materials: crayons, markers, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, etc. Students will be able to share some materials while practicing proper hand hygiene.

Pick Up/Drop Off

Parent pick up and drop off will resume their pre-pandemic routines and procedures. Drop off will be held from 8:35-8:50 AM. Parent pick up will take place at 3:25 PM. Detailed pick up and drop off plans will be communicated by the building principal

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Jeffrey Elementary School

Building Access & Space Plan

Building and Space Committee Meeting Recommendations for 2021 School Reopening Plan June 2021

Classroom Layout

Students will stay with their grade level peers within their classroom for academic instruction. The following building areas will be used for content-specific instruction with students: Art Room, Music Room, World Language Room, Health Room, Library Media Center. Physical education is held outside, weather permitting. The gymnasium is utilized on days when students cannot go outside.

All instruction is conducted with three feet of social distance in place. Facilities personnel will work with building administrators and their committees to determine classroom layouts that will maximize social distancing between student workstations achieving three feet where feasible.

Meal Service

Students will eat lunch in their general education classroom or by grade level outdoors or in the cafeteria with 3ft of social distancing encouraged.

Outside Time and Playgrounds

Grade levels will attend recess simultaneously. Students will utilize the playground equipment while practicing good hand hygiene.

After school clubs and workshops will be held with three feet of social distancing.

Material Sharing

The school will provide all students with their own materials: crayons, markers, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, etc. Students will be able to share some materials while practicing proper hand hygiene.

Pick Up/Drop Off

Parent pick up and drop off will resume their pre-pandemic routines and procedures. Drop off will be held from 8:35-8:50 AM. Parent pick up will take place at 3:25 PM. Student dismissal will take place from classrooms.

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Town Campus Learning Center

Building Access & Space Plan

Learning Model/Classroom Layout

Students will stay with their grade level peers within their classroom for academic instruction. The multi-purpose room will be utilized for related arts and physical education. All instruction is conducted with three feet of social distance in place.

Facilities personnel will work with building administrators and their committees to determine classroom layouts that will maximize social distancing between student workstations achieving three feet where feasible.

Meal Service

Students will eat lunch in their general education classroom to maintain the three feet of social distancing.

Outside Time and Playgrounds

Classrooms will attend recess simultaneously. Students will utilize the playground equipment and practice good hand hygiene.

Material Sharing

The school will provide all students with their own materials: crayons, markers, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, etc. Students will be able to share some materials while practicing proper hand hygiene.

Pick Up/Drop Off

Parent pick up and drop off will resume their pre-pandemic routines and procedures.

MPS COVID Daily Health Screen

Prior to arrival at school or entrance on the school bus, each student will be evaluated at home by their parent or guardian for the presence of symptoms related to Covid-19 infection. Please refer to CDC Guideline on Symptoms of Coronavirus at www.cdc.gov. "People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported- ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People are advised to seek medical attention if they have the NEW ONSET of any of these symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC continues to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

If a student has any of these symptoms, they should remain at home from school and seek guidance from their medical advisor. The parent or guardian will notify their child's school nurse and share their symptoms.

Madison Public Schools Mask Protocol Guidance for the 2021-2022 school year

as advised by CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, Department of Public Health, and State of Connecticut in consultation with:

- Stephanie Lesnik, Director of Nursing
- Karen Goldberg, District Medical Advisor
- Trent Joseph, Madison Health Director
- District Reopening Steering Committee

Situation	Action
During School Day	Wear mask
Entering/Exiting Building	Wear mask
Teacher Instruction	Wear a mask during instruction. There should be limited times when masks are removed for instruction, such as speech and counseling.
Scheduled Mask Breaks	Masks can be removed at the teacher's instruction, ideally when students are outdoors or with a protective barrier in place.
PE	Students can remove masks when instruction takes place outdoors. Students and staff should continue to wear face coverings when PE instruction takes place indoors.
Music	Students will be permitted to play their instrument indoors while maintaining the required distance and using PPE that is suitable for instruments. Students will maintain social distancing for chorus class and will wear masks while singing. Instruction will take place outdoors when possible.
Lunch	If lunch takes place indoors, students may remove masks to eat if social distancing is achieved or barrier shields are in place.
Outdoors	Students and staff can remove masks when outdoors for mask breaks, recess, lunch, and other outdoor activities.

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