



Return to In-Person Plan
2023-24

Overview

The School Town of Munster successfully navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic, in part, by creating and following a Back to School Plan that was developed by staff, administration and healthcare professionals. Throughout the past three years, the plan was adjusted to meet recommendations and requirements set forth by national, state and local governmental health officials. As a result, STM was able to alter mitigation strategies when appropriate.

COVID-19 is going to continue to be a part of our lives moving forward, just like other communicable diseases such as, influenza and chicken pox. As a school district, we do our best to ensure the safety of our students and staff while at the same time offering our students the best educational experience possible.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the Response Plan has been amended to reflect the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and will serve as a guiding document for school operations. Indiana law requires schools to track and monitor attendance to assist in the determination of a viral outbreak within the STM schools (512 IAC 1-2-2). Schools shall report to the local health department and the IDOE when the percentage of student absences from a school is equal to or greater than the threshold rate of twenty percent (20%) of the enrolled student population. STM will track attendance trends daily to determine any patterns of absence due to illness throughout the district.

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, this document may be revised and updated on a regular basis. STM administration will continue to provide information through email, phone messages, district and school-wide newsletters and the corporation website that is relevant for students and families.



2023-2024 Summary

STM Instructional Model - In-person (at-school)

In-person model will consist of students attending school each day in their respective school buildings.

Health Protocols

Contact Tracing and Quarantining

IDOH no longer recommends contact tracing and quarantining in schools.

Attendance

Student & Staff Attendance

If an individual is not feeling well, they should stay home from school/work. Normal protocols for illnesses and absences will be practiced. Please see the student/employee handbook for information on absences and make-up work.

Facilities

Cleaning and Sanitization

Cleaning supplies with the capability to kill COVID-19 are utilized in all buildings and buses. All buildings received a “deep clean” prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year as well as regular cleaning throughout the school year.

Ventilation

The STM will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and will increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff. Air filters will be replaced more frequently.

Mental Health

Mental health plays an important role in the lives of our students, faculty, staff and families. We support the mental health of stakeholders by providing resources, services and professional development opportunities.

All schools are staffed with at least one licensed school counselor or school social worker. If a student needs any social or emotional assistance, they should reach out to their counselor or social worker.

STM School Counselor and Social Worker Contact Information

Munster High School

| Faculty Contact | Title | Email | Phone Ext |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Robert Snyder | Director of Guidance | rcsnyder@munster.us | 3324 |
| Chrisanne Terry | School Counselor (A - Co) | cnterry@munster.us | 3210 |
| Peter Gregory | School Counselor (Cp - Hi) | pkgregory@munster.us | 3409 |
| Liz Keleher | School Counselor (Hj - Mn) | epkeleher@munster.us | 3434 |
| Cynthia Kielbasa | School Counselor (Mo - Sa) | clkielbasa@munster.us | 3212 |
| Kristen Salan | School Counselor (Sc - Z) | kmsalan@munster.us | 3365 |
| Amy Burian | Social Worker | aaburian@munster.us | 3218 |

Wilbur Wright Middle School

| Faculty Contact | Title | Email | Phone Ext |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|
| Victor Torres | Director of Guidance | vmtorres@munster.us | 2223 |
| Julie Atkinson | School Counselor (A - K) | jeatkinson@munster.us | 2212 |
| Lindsay Grunewald | School Counselor (L - Z) | ltgrunewald@munster.us | 2250 |
| Catherine Kowalczyk | Social Worker | cakowalczyk@munster.us | 2214 |
| Trisha Keown | Social Worker | tmkeown@munster.us | 2206 |



Eads Elementary School

| Faculty Contact | Title | Email | Phone Ext |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|-----------|
| Sarah Lerch | School Psychologist | smlerch@munster.us | 4105 |
| Amanda Farner | Social Worker | amfarner@munster.us | 7305 |

Elliott Elementary School

| Faculty Contact | Title | Email | Phone Ext |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|-----------|
| Sarah Lerch | School Psychologist | smlerch@munster.us | 4105 |
| Cicely Powell | Social Worker | cdpowell@munster.us | 5453 |

Frank Hammond Elementary School

| Faculty Contact | Title | Email | Phone Ext |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|-----------|
| Sarah Lerch | School Psychologist | smlerch@munster.us | 4105 |
| Christina Brunetti | Social Worker | clbrunetti@munster.us | 6261 |

Office of Exceptional Achievers

| Faculty Contact | Title | Email | Phone Ext |
|-----------------|-------------|--|-----------|
| Jodi Csepiga | Behaviorist | jlcsepiga@munster.us | 4112 |

