

MVG Schools

Return to School Plan

2020-2021

The creation of this plan is based on two guiding principles:

1. Limit exposure where possible
2. Learning must remain constant: Building on the experiences of distance learning during the school closure last spring, MVG Schools is ready to deliver instructions to students virtually or face to face. We know disruption during a public health crisis like COVID-19 is very likely. Although we can expect disruption during the school year, consistent lesson delivery from teacher to student will remain strong either through a more traditional face to face method or through virtual learning at home. Google classroom will be the learning management system Pre-K through grade 12. We have listened to parent requests for a streamlined virtual learning environment, and teachers have been preparing improved virtual learning with new content and accountability. Grades and attendance will be monitored and reported during the 2020-2021 school year.

The plan is organized utilizing the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) Return to School Plan. Procedures are categorized into three areas:

1. School Operations
2. Academics & Growth
3. School Personnel

Within each area, procedures are discussed with the understanding that conditions for each area are subject to revision depending on the changing circumstances related to COVID-19.

Communication with Parents and Community

All communication with parents and the community will be delivered through Scholl messenger (phone and text) and the MVG Parent and Co. Facebook page. Direct communication with site principals and teachers through text and email will be used on a regular basis. MVG Schools is committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance and cannot reach your site, you may reach out to Sam Belcher, Superintendent at sbelcher@mvgschools.com.

Tigers, We're Ready!

The MVG Schools return to school plan covers three options:

1. On Campus Face to Face: Students report to campus and attend classes in a traditional setting with access to online instruction through Google Classroom. Teachers will be present with students in the classroom to guide instruction daily. Students may participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities.
2. At Home Full Time Virtual: Students learn from home for an extended period through Google Classroom. Teachers will be assigned to the student to deliver, guide, and facilitate learning. Students may participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities. If students choose this option, full time virtual enrollment will be for a full nine weeks.
3. Blended – On Campus and At Home: students will transition between traditional and virtual learning from home, as needed for intermittent health concerns.

School Operations

School Calendar

The revised school calendar, approved by the school board on August 4, 2020, is designed to limit exposure to the virus and allow district staff to make adjustments to COVID-19 related virtual learning needs. Because we are expecting possible multiple day disruptions during the school year, we are implementing Virtual days on some Fridays from August through November as a way to acclimate students, staff, and parents to virtual learning at home.

Virtual days will allow us to:

- Limit exposure to the virus
- Practice virtual learning in case of an extended closure due to exposure
- Provide additional cleaning
- Provide additional time for teacher professional development

The revised school calendar is published on our district website at mvgschools.com

General Operations in School Sites

Temperature checks will not occur upon boarding buses or entering buildings unless staff believe it is necessary. We will rely on each family to conduct a self-assessment each morning before sending children to school.

Self-Assessment Checklist

Parents will be required to acknowledge the responsibilities and risks of sending your child back to school by agreeing to conduct home self-assessments on a daily basis. The daily self-assessment checklist includes answering questions about

- Temperature and other symptoms
- Exposure to others diagnosed with COVID-19

The self-assessment checklist may be found on our district website. Parents are not required to turn in checklists at school sites. However, parents will be reminded regularly about completing the checklist at home before sending children to school.

Students who remain home due to symptoms will be able to access class assignments through Google Classroom. Teachers will assist students with questions while students are away from campus.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to a designated isolation room. School staff will follow an established protocol for assessing symptoms and notifying parents.

Face Coverings

*Acceptable face coverings for MVG will be masks, neck gaiters, and clear face shields

MVG Public Schools will use the new Oklahoma Department of Health COVID-19 map to determine the requirements for student and staff Face Coverings.

<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/covid-19-alert-system>

If Kiowa County is in the **GREEN** category (New Normal) the following guidelines will be in place:

- No facial coverings will be required. (Face Coverings may still be worn is desired.)

If Kiowa County is in the **YELLOW** category (Low) the following guidelines will be in place:

- The low level will allow for some flexibility in the classroom and other areas within the building.
- Face Coverings are recommended for all staff and students in grades 4-12, with exemptions for adults and children who are physically unable to wear them.
- Face Coverings are recommended for students in grades PreK-3 in hallways, common areas and during times of school transportation. Masks may be removed while inside classrooms if classroom cohorts remain grouped together throughout the day. During such time, teachers are still recommended to wear protective face shields and/or masks (clear-paneled masks preferred). Teachers may wish to wear both a face shield and a mask to provide an additional safeguard layer when students are not wearing masks.
- Exceptions are allowed for the following: when eating meals, naptime, recess and during physical education if social distancing is possible.
- Adults are recommended to wear masks around other adults.
- Students and teachers will be required to wear a Face Covering inside the classroom when social distancing is not possible. Examples include when students are engaged in small group work or when teachers need to work with small student groups at the elementary level.
- Students may be required to wear the Face Covering when approaching a teacher's desk for assistance at each Teacher's discretion.

- When in the classroom setting, when desks and other seating areas have been distanced as much as possible and students are seated, students and teachers are encouraged and allowed to wear the Face Coverings but not required.
- We are not able to accurately predict every possible scenario, therefore circumstances that arise, not noted on this list, will be determined and adjusted at the site and district level as they arise.

If Kiowa County is in the **ORANGE** category (Moderate) the following guidelines will be in place.

- Staff and students will be required to wear Face Coverings while indoors.

If Kiowa County is in the **RED** Category (HIGH), the following guidelines will be in place.

- The HIGH category is the extreme level of the pandemic scale and at this point, very serious decisions will be made at the national, state, and local levels.
- MVG will act accordingly to adhere to the requirements needed to keep everyone safe.

Therefore, we will alert all stakeholders to the emergency protocols that will be in place if this level is reached.

- MVG Public Schools is prepared to provide a Continuous Learning Plan for every student in the event that school is closed in response to the current situation.

*******If at any time we have a student or staff member with a confirmed positive, then we will have mandatory masks while indoors for all students and staff members for the following 2 weeks at that site*******

Cleaning Schedules and Protocols

MVG Schools use EPA recommended cleaning products and CDC recommended disinfecting procedures. Increased cleaning and disinfecting measures will be implemented in the following areas:

Bathrooms

• Additional sanitization using disinfecting sprayers each day

Classrooms

- Sanitized using a disinfecting sprayer daily

- Each classroom will have disinfectant spray for teachers to disinfect as needed
- Each classroom will have hand sanitizer for students and staff to sanitize hands in classrooms where soap and water are not available
- Where available, students will wash their hands with soap and water when entering the classroom



Students and staff will limit the sharing of supplies, utensils, devices, toys, books and learning aids

Buses

- Each bus will be sanitized daily
- Students will be encouraged to wear masks while on the bus



- Students will sanitize their hands with liquid sanitizer when entering the bus
- Students will only sit with family members

Cafeteria

- Students will use wall mounted hand sanitizers located at the beginning of the serving line
- Students will practice social distancing as much as space allows
- Only one student at a time at serving window
- Every table will be sanitized after each use

Transportation

Due to lack of bus drivers and the difficulty of creating multiple routes, we will not decrease the number of students riding the bus each day. Students will be encouraged to social distance on buses when possible; however, parents should not expect 6 feet of space between riders on school buses.

To protect drivers and students while riding the bus we will

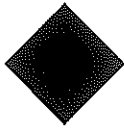
- Increase ventilation on buses by lowering windows when weather allows
- Encourage students to wear masks
- Request bus drivers wear masks
- Clean and disinfect buses daily

Cafeteria

Social distancing will be implemented in the cafeteria when and where possible. Each site will determine protocols to



Limiting the number of students in the cafeteria as schedules allow



Students eating in classrooms, large classrooms or gyms, or in open air areas

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Procedures for athletics and extracurricular activities will be followed in conjunction with recommendations from OSSAA and our local health professionals. Information about practices and precautions will be through each activity's sponsor or department.

Facility Use by Outside Organizations

Facility use by outside organizations will be determined on a case by case basis. Consideration will be given for organizations able to commit to guidelines for limiting exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Additional cleaning fees may be required.

Campus Visitors

Campus visitors will be limited to essential business during the 2020-2021 school year. Visitors will be required to follow the procedures below when entering buildings.

Must wear masks when moving beyond the office

Must wash/sanitize hands when entering the buildings

Must complete a self assessment checklist if moving beyond the office

Academics & Growth

Achieving our core mission to educate children is a tremendous challenge during the COVID-19 public health crisis. MVG Schools is committed to keeping learning constant throughout the school year although we know we are likely to experience disruption due to possible positive diagnoses.

Our goals for the 2020-2021 year are to provide flexible learning pathways for families who may be impacted by health concerns either due to an individual who is immunocompromised or due to a short period where family members are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms.

Learning Pathways

Students and parents will be able to choose one of three MVG Schools Learning Pathways

1. On Campus Face to Face: Students report to campus and attend classes in a traditional setting with access to online instruction through Google Classroom. Teachers will be present with students in the classroom to guide instruction daily. Students may participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities.
2. At Home Full Time Virtual: Students learn from home for an extended period through Google Classroom. Teachers will be assigned to the student to deliver, guide, and facilitate learning. Students may participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities. If students choose this option, full time virtual enrollment will be for a full nine weeks.
3. Blended – On Campus and At Home: students will transition between traditional and virtual learning from home, as needed for intermittent health concerns.

Students who choose option 2 must remain in that learning pathway for a full nine weeks. Parents may contact the site principal to discuss any changes to a learning pathway. An instructional team will determine the need for transitions to another learning pathway upon parent or student request.

Student with Special Needs

Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 Plans will be followed with the assistance of site principals. District related services providers such as speech and OT/PT will be in contact with students and parents to arrange for continued services within the constraints of this public health crisis. IEP and 504 meetings will be held in person unless a request is made for a phone or video conference. All IEP/504 team members are required to participate. For information about IEP and 504 plans, contact Chandi Thompson at cthompson@mvgschools.com.

Access to Technology

Devices will be provided for students who need them. Teachers and principals will help identify students who need technology assistance and a checkout system will be utilized. Students who choose learning pathway 2 will have access to a device at the beginning of the school year.

Grading and Attendance

Unlike what we experienced during Distance Learning last spring, new content will be delivered this school year. Students will be required to complete all assignments and counted absent if not in attendance, even if a student is learning through a virtual pathway.

School Personnel

The safety of our school staff is paramount to our success. Taking care of all employees during the COVID-19 crisis will require flexibility and understanding in the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. In response to these concerns, MVG schools is providing masks to all school employees, cleaning and disinfecting following CDC guidelines, and training employees on proper health and safety procedures.

Masks are highly encouraged and recommended for all staff and will be provided for staff. Each classroom will receive sanitizing/cleaning kits including disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer and gloves. Staff will be trained in the proper use of disinfectants and hand sanitizers.

Staff at high risk for contracting the virus will be given special consideration and should work individually with district level administrators.

What happens if someone tests positive?

It is likely we will experience disruption in the school year due to a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. If a student or staff member tests positive, we will follow CDC guidelines for school site or district closure.

A positive diagnosis does not necessarily mean shutting down a school site or the entire district. Working with health officials will mean completing contact tracing and possibly suggesting students be tested for the virus. Because of changing and uncertain conditions, students, parents, and staff should be prepared for transition to virtual learning at any time.

Conclusion

Our success in responding to the 2020-2021 school year during COVID-19 conditions will require a community mindset, patience, flexibility, and parent-school collaboration. We encourage parents to stay engaged and responsive as we honor our commitment to educate all students in spite of these challenges. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.