

Meyersville ISD

Strong Start Plan

2020-2021

## Students/Parents Choice of Instruction

1. On-Site Instruction
2. Virtual Instruction

Parents who choose to go from On-Site to Virtual instruction may do so at any time.

Parents who wish to go from Virtual to On-Site may only do so at the start of the next grading period (beginning of the six weeks).

**All attendance and grading requirements are in effect for the 2020-2021 school year.**

## On-Site Instruction

### *Health and Safety Protocols*

#### **Screening**

All staff members are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day on a school approved screening form. If a staff member is experiencing any of the symptoms listed below in a way that is not normal for them, the campus administrator will be notified, and the staff member will not report to the campus. Symptoms to screen for include:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for these COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school. Students who are experiencing symptoms in a way that is not normal for the student will be kept

home from school. Students who ride the bus must be screened by the parents/guardians before boarding the bus each morning.

Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer to the office if symptoms are present.

### **Presence of Symptoms**

MISD will designate a room for COVID-19 assessment and holding with sufficient space to allow for social distancing (at least 6 ft.).

When a student displays symptoms of COVID-19, MISD designated staff will provide a brief judgement to determine if the student needs to be sent home. In order to decrease viral exposure, MISD will require students displaying possible COVID-19 symptoms to be picked up within 30 minutes and meet the district defined criteria before returning to school.

### **Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

MISD will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

MISD will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.

Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Students exhibiting mild symptoms who are able to complete work from home may engage in asynchronous learning while absent from school.

Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols for separation from students and other staff members, testing and returning to work. For individual guidance, staff members should contact Superintendent Dunn.

### **Confirmed Diagnosis**

If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school district will notify DeWitt County Health Department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-

19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in on campus activities.

When a student or staff member receives a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the district will notify staff members and parents/guardians of students known to have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member. Close contact is considered someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before the infected person's illness onset or 2 days prior to them being tested for COVID-19.

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to submit a medical release from a physician's office or health department prior to returning to school. Any students or staff who themselves either:

- a. are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
- b. experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period

cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met.

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when **all** three of the following criteria are met:

1. At least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).
2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
3. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

1. Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
2. Obtain an acute infection test designating they are free of COVID-19 at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>

## **Face Coverings**

To create a safe environment for MISD staff and students, CDC recommendations for face coverings will be followed. All staff and students will utilize face coverings while in common areas including restrooms, gym, library, computer labs, cafeteria, etc. Face coverings will also be utilized to the greatest extent possible in the regular classroom setting. If social distancing can be achieved or partitions are in place masks may be removed.

For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth.

It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some activities. Schools may, for example, allow students who are actively exercising to remove masks or face shields, as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from other students and staff who are not wearing masks or face shields.

Facemasks may be any color or design, but may NOT depict designs or graphics that are offensive or distracting to the learning environment. The superintendent has sole discretion of what is inappropriate.

Students and staff will be responsible for their own facial coverings.

**Social Distancing** Every effort will be made to implement recommended social distancing in the school setting.

## ***Campus Visitor Protocols***

### **Visitor Access to Building**

In order to limit potential exposure for staff and students, visitors will not be permitted beyond the school office.

Families are encouraged to contact the office by phone rather than entering the building.

### **Visitor Screening & PPE Requirements**

All individuals entering the building and visiting the office area will be required to wear a face covering.

In extremely rare situations when individuals must move beyond the office area:

1. All visitors will be screened through the use of a symptom screening form.
2. Physical distancing of a minimum of 6 ft. will be followed.

## *Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing Protocols*

### **Hand Washing/Sanitizing Expectations**

On the first day a student attends school on campus, the school will provide instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices.

Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and in common areas throughout the campus.

Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.

Hand sanitizer will be provided each time students enter or leave the classroom.

Hand sanitizer will be provided if students move to a different work location within the classroom.

Students will be required to thoroughly wash hands after recess, before eating and following restroom breaks.

### **Supplies and Materials**

The sharing of supplies will be extremely limited. When supplies must be shared, they will be sanitized after each use.

Staff/ Students will utilize disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces.

## *Campus Cleaning Protocols*

### **Daily Campus Cleaning**

Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected multiple times daily.

All high touch areas will be disinfected multiple times daily.

Sanitizing wipes are available in each classroom and common areas to maximize room cleanliness.

Custodians will utilize face coverings and will sanitize hands before moving from room to room.

If in use, the cafeteria will be disinfected between lunch periods.

Staff/Students will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.

## **Additional Cleaning Measure for COVID-19 Positive Cases on Campus**

If a staff member or student receives a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, the school will close off areas that were heavily used by the individual and thoroughly clean the areas using disinfecting cleansers.

### ***Work and Learning Environments***

#### **Classroom Configurations and Procedures**

Desks or tables will be socially distanced as facility space allows. In classroom spaces that allow it, student desks will be placed a minimum of six feet apart. In classrooms where students are regularly within six feet of one another, more frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing will occur, masks or face shields will be worn, and dividers will be in place when available.

To the greatest extent possible, contact with individuals from other designated student groups will be limited.

Group work may be implemented while maintaining appropriate distancing and safety measures.

Any materials or furnishings that must be used by multiple students will be cleaned with disinfectant wipes following each use.

Students will have their own designated materials and supplies. This includes individual bags of supplementary aids and/or manipulatives for student use that could also be sent home in the event of school closure.

The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible. Classroom groups working outside will maintain separation from other classroom groups to the greatest extent possible.

Supplemental services will be provided while maintaining safety protocols.

The recommended procedures will be applied to all educational settings. Students' individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Common Areas**

Common areas include spaces that are used by multiple groups of students or staff for instructional activities, eating, play, meetings and collaboration. This includes computer labs, cafeteria, gym, playgrounds, flexible spaces, campus library, conference rooms, workrooms and other meeting rooms.

MISD will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas, including how to sanitize space between uses. When needed, students will bring personal

supplies from the classroom. All students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.

Virtual meetings will be utilized when possible.

In-person meetings will maintain social distancing and facial coverings will be required.

## **Restrooms**

Proper handwashing technique will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.

The number of occupants utilizing each restroom at any given time will be limited to mitigate the chance of exceeding maximum occupants per social distancing.

After a restroom break, students will be required to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer before reentering the classroom.

Restrooms will be disinfected multiple times throughout the day.

## ***Transitions, Arrival and Dismissal***

### **Transitions**

Walking pathways throughout the building will be designated “stay to the right.” This includes the entrance and exit doors.

Students will be required to stay in a straight line maintaining social distance.

When transitioning during the day working surfaces will be cleaned every transition.

### **Arrival**

All car rider students must be dropped off in the front circle and are not to exit their vehicle until informed to do so by staff on duty.

All bus riders are to be escorted to the bus by a parent with the parent remaining on-site until the student is accepted by the bus driver.

Buildings will open at 7:35 a.m. with students reporting directly to classrooms.

Students will wait in cars with parents until notified otherwise by a MISD staff member.

All staff will be utilized for duty to maintain social distancing.

Visitors will not be allowed on campus during arrival and dismissal times.



Campus-specific bus procedures will be established.

All students will be subject to temperature checks upon exiting vehicle or prior to entering the school bus.

Drop off time delays are expected in order to facilitate COVID-19 safety measures. It will be the family responsibility to plan for this expectation.

### **Dismissal**

Student groups will remain separated as staffing and procedures allow.

MISD will designate staggered dismissal groups to decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.

Pick up vehicles in the front drive prior to designated pick up times will be instructed to proceed to the back of the vehicle line in order to allow the pick-up line to flow as quickly as possible.

Dismissal times will be delayed with COVID-19 safety measures in place. It will be parent responsibility to plan for this circumstance.

### ***Daily Schedule***

Daily Schedule – TBD pending additional TEA guidance for on-site, face-to-face instruction

Projected start time: 8:00. Arrival times will be staggered if it becomes necessary.

Projected end time: 3:30

Staggered dismissal rotation for the (first four weeks of school):

PreK/ Kindergarten – 3:15

Elementary – 3:25

Secondary – 3:35

If a child is not ready for pickup, parents will be required to continue and rejoin the back of the car line. Parents with children in multiple grade levels will have to proceed through the line for each dismissal rotation.

### **Breakfast**

Breakfast will be served to students following district procedures which are dependent on space, staffing and student counts.

Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom/ cafeteria/ common space during the instructional day, after the 8:00 am bell.

## **Lunch**

Meals will be individually packaged.

Campuse specific lunch procedures will be dependent on space, staffing and student counts.

Masks will be worn in the lunch line. Social distancing protocols will be followed during lunch periods with the goal of having students sit 6ft. apart.

Interaction between classroom groups will be limited during lunch periods.

Parents/Guardians are prohibited from having lunch on campus with students.

Students may bring their own lunch; however, microwaves, utensils, and napkins will not be available.

No food delivery to campuses.

In order to reduce food contamination, parents should only pack items in student lunches that the student is capable of opening on their own. This will negate an additional viral transmission opportunity.

## **Recess**

Staggered recess schedules will be utilized with classroom groups assigned to different outdoor areas for recess.

All students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer before entering the playground and upon exiting the playground.

In addition to recess, classroom “brain breaks” will be implemented to ensure students have ample opportunities for movement within the classroom setting. When possible a brain break will take place outside school facilities allowing for the opportunity of face mask / face shield removal.

## **PE etc.**

PE classes will be conducted outdoors when possible with classroom groups separated as much as possible. Appropriate social distancing measures will be followed. Students and staff will wear face coverings when transitioning to PE and recess but will not be required to wear them during exercise while maintaining social distancing.

Students will use their own art supplies.

To the extent possible, PE equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use.

### ***Busing***

Face covering will be required during the entire bus trip.

Social distancing will be difficult to maintain on the bus. In order to reduce the number of students on the bus, families are encouraged to provide their own transportation if at all possible.

Parents must be with students at the pick-up / drop-off location.

Students are subject to COVID-19 screening prior to boarding the bus. A student exhibiting ANY symptom of COVID-19 may not board the bus.

Students will use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus.

### ***Field Trips***

At this time, off-campus field trips will not be scheduled.

Virtual field trips may be scheduled by the appropriate teacher.

### ***Campus Events***

No in-person assemblies will be held at this time.

No sporting events will be held at this time. This will be revisited in October by the participating school superintendents.

Technology training sessions will be held to familiarize parents with district instructional programs.

Meet the teacher night is cancelled. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students and parents will be offered individual “Meet the Teacher” opportunities the week of August 10, 2020. Students and parents in grades 1-8 will be invited to a “Meet the Teacher” Zoom meeting by their teacher the week of August 10, 2020.

Open house, parent conferences, etc. will not be scheduled on campus at this time.

## **Remote Instruction**

### ***General Expectations for Remote Learning***

The goal of remote instruction is high levels of learning for all students.

The remote instruction model for students requires a strong partnership between the teacher and family. Family training sessions to ensure families are able to access online resources and have the information necessary to successfully access work will be conducted during the first week of the school year, and ongoing, two-way communication between the teacher and the family is an essential component of the remote instruction model.

Remote instruction and activities are designed to ensure that students continue learning at the pace of the current MISD scope and sequence and gain skills essential to their future success. Student academic work will ensure engagement that is equivalent to direct content work that the students would be engaged in over a normal school year.

To ensure high levels of learning for all students, the students' learning schedule will require students to participate in synchronous (live, interactive) and asynchronous learning. It will be vital for teachers and parents to openly communicate the schedules for the students.

Teacher interaction with students will be predictable, following a regular, clearly-defined schedule.

Teachers will schedule live, interactive sessions with students and will have daily virtual conference times during which they will be available to provide additional instructional support to parents and students.

Students will be required to participate in live learning sessions and submit assignments on a daily basis (Monday- Friday).

ARD committees will determine the unique needs of students who are IEP-entitled in making support and service recommendations for students attending school virtually to ensure all IEP requirements are met.

Each student's daily participation status will be determined by monitoring:

- Student progress

- Student submission of daily assignment(s)

- Student participation checks

Families should expect to spend a minimum of 180 minutes for PK-5 daily completing synchronous and asynchronous learning. Grades 6-8 should expect to spend a minimum of 240 minutes daily.

## *Instructional Design of Remote Instruction*

Remote instruction in grades 3rd-8th will include both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. **Synchronous instruction** is defined as two-way, real-time, live instruction between teachers and students, through the computer or other electronic devices or over the phone. **Asynchronous instruction** is defined as a curricular experience where students engage in the learning materials on their own time, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the computer or other electronic devices or over the phone. Asynchronous instruction includes pre-recorded videos.

All remote instruction will include:

Daily interactions with the teacher.

TEKS-aligned curriculum resources that follow a logical course sequence.

Formal and informal assessments that ensure continued information on student progress.

Continued opportunities to review and reinforce essential skills.

Specifically designed resources and/or accommodations and modifications to support students with disabilities, English Learners and students in need of enrichment.

Families selecting the remote instruction option will receive a schedule for synchronous instruction, a suggested schedule for asynchronous work, log in information and guides for using ZOOM, SeeSaw, Google Classroom, and Schoology.

## *Remote Instruction Schedule*

Expectations and requirements for time spent in synchronous and asynchronous instruction and types of assignments will vary depending on the student's grade level. Teachers will plan both synchronous and asynchronous instruction for each day. Synchronous instruction will include both whole class and small group differentiated instruction.

Students selecting the remote instruction option will be required to log in to ZOOM, SeeSaw, Google Classroom, Schoology and participate in live, interactive sessions daily. Live sessions will include both whole class and small group instruction. Small group sessions will focus on differentiated needs of students. Students in PK-2 grade will need an adult present to assist them in logging in to asynchronous learning sessions.

### *Determining Student Progress*

To ensure high levels of learning, student progress must be monitored on a daily basis.

During remote instruction, student progress will be assessed using both informal and formal assessment practices. Daily formative assessments will be utilized during synchronous learning sessions to determine level of mastery and plan for intervention or enrichment.

Essential skills and student learning targets for each unit will be identified in the unit outline provided to families. Throughout the unit, progress will be monitored using:

- Daily formative assessments.

- Teacher observation and informal assessment during synchronous instruction.

- Completed independent practice assignments.

- Performance assessments.

For students who are IEP-entitled, progress will be carefully monitored and ARD/IEP Committees will convene and make appropriate recommendations to meet individual student needs to ensure continued growth in the general education curriculum and on IEP goals and objectives.

### *Grading Practices*

Grading policies for remote student work are consistent with district grading guidelines as outlined in the District Grading Guidelines: EIA (legal) and (local); MISD Student Code of Conduct; Student Handbook; teacher classroom grading policy.

### *Intervention and Enrichment*

Intervention and Enrichment through small group instruction will be scheduled for students to best meet their individual academic needs. During this time, students may engage in assigned group activities, project-based learning activities, small group instruction and digital platforms. Teachers will provide students a plan for the activity to be completed during this designated time.

# MISD Return to Work/School Document

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Absence \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted to MISD Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

Prior to returning to school, individuals must be screened (via Questioning) by the superintendent or designated staff member for any of the following new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19. Those found with any of these symptoms must remain on leave until eligibility for school is met.

Please circle all that apply

1. Feeling feverish or a measured temperature of greater than or equal to 100.0
2. Headache
3. Cough
4. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
5. Chills
6. Repeated shaking with chills
7. Muscle pain
8. Sore throat
9. Loss of taste or smell
10. Vomit
11. Diarrhea
12. No close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 if the exposure to the active confirmed case occurred within the last 14 days.

In order to return to school, all three of the following must be met if you were exposed or had symptoms and tested or not tested:

\_\_\_\_\_ Have quarantined for 10 days because I may have been exposed or had symptoms.

\_\_\_\_\_ Have no COVID-19 symptoms

\_\_\_\_\_ Have been symptom free without medication for 72 hours

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ I have a medical note and I have been cleared to return to school.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Submitting Individual

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent or Designee Signature