

MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Learning and Achieving School

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August 18, 2020

Dear Magnolia Families,

We hope you are all having a safe and enjoyable summer. This season has been like no other we have ever experienced. Everyday there are new statistics and guidelines explaining how to keep our families safe and healthy. Who would have thought that when we left school in March for a few weeks of remote learning that we would still be discussing this in August as we are making our plans for the start of a new school year? For now, this is our "new normal" with no end in sight.

As the leaders of the Magnolia School district, we want to acknowledge that we know this is not easy for anyone. The decisions we are making affect our children's safety, health, well-being, and education. Decisions related to this year's school opening are of the utmost importance and must not be made lightly. The uncertainty of this academic school year as it relates to the virus leaves us, educators and families, needing to be as flexible as we can be with any situation that arises.

We learned a lot from the sudden onset of remote learning back in March. This fall, our district has new procedures/protocols/programs in place to deliver the best hybrid and/or remote learning experience possible for our students. This is not a typical school situation, and our staff will need time to be trained in safety procedures and remote learning best practices.

In order to safely introduce students into this new COVID/social distancing learning environment, we have made the following changes to the start of the school year:

- Staff will return to the building in September without students.
- Remote learning for students will begin on September 2 and run through September 23, when the hybrid schedule is expected to begin.
- September 24 will be Blue Group Orientation Day. September 25 will be Gold Group Orientation Day.
 - Orientations will run approximately 2 hours for each of our 3 grade bands (PK-2, 3-5, 6-8) .More information on this will come out as we get closer to our in person date.
- Preschool will have AM sessions only. *The DOE mandated we offer remote learning as an option to all families. In order to support remote learners we could not accommodate a PM session.*
- Kindergarten will also have AM sessions only, due to the large number of remote learning requests.
- Letters will be mailed to you next week with students' assigned homeroom and group (Gold or Blue), a letter about signing up for free lunch, an Oncourse introduction letter, and a revised school calendar.

All students will have a synchronous learning experience this year during remote learning. There will be more interactive instruction and fewer independent assignments. This means that students will attend classes at their normally scheduled times. The teacher, special education teacher and/or aide (when applicable) will be online live for the duration of the scheduled classes. It is very important every effort is made for students to be at these meetings, dressed appropriately, and with their camera on. Attendance will be taken and recorded as we are expected to follow the recommended rules around attendance requirements. For details of the synchronous learning schedule is available on the website in the Restart Plan under section Q, on page 76.

[September Remote schedule](#)

Our "Return To School Committee" thought it would be helpful to share the following list of **protective measures we are taking to mitigate the spread of Covid-19:**

- Per CDC guidance, if individuals have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they should self-quarantine for 14 days from the last possible exposure prior to returning.
- Superintendent notifies Camden County Health Department of a known positive case; tracing begins.
- Quarantine and medical clearance required for any staff or student who tests positive
- Hybrid schedules to reduce the total number of students in building to allow for safe social distancing
- Social Distancing in all classrooms:
 - Assigned seating chart, Labeled desks
 - Desks spaced 6-feet apart in all classrooms
 - Students assigned individual cubbies (as applicable)
 - Students are not permitted to share materials and have designated storage protocols
- All students assigned an individual Chromebook
- Arrows, markers and other decals on the floors to help students maintain 6ft of distance when entering, transitioning or exiting the building
- Face masks will be required for all students. Masks must be school appropriate:
 - The district will provide one face covering for all students and staff
 - Please assure that you have plenty of backup masks and that the children get accustomed to wearing them for long periods of time
 - Wash them nightly (or have enough to change daily)
- Touchless fixtures in all bathrooms
- Fever scanning stations and isolation rooms at assigned entry points by grade level:
 - Students who are symptomatic will be moved to an isolation room
 - Students will be evaluated by the school nurse
- Fever scanning protocols for staff, students, and visitors
- Deep cleaning practices daily and evening, Extensive sanitation of all areas on Wednesdays
- Filtration audit and air circulation including fresh air component was researched
- Provide protocol for hand washing and sanitizing
- Hand sanitizing stations will be at every entrance, hallway, and outside of bathrooms. The alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be 62% alcohol. The classrooms will have hand washing stations, where available.
- Just Kids will be available and will follow safety protocols.
- Cohorts of students remain in one classroom, with the teachers moving to switch classes.
- Individual water bottles are encouraged
- No use of water fountains
- Meal distribution protocols:

- Students will have three options to receive their meals for the week. Monday, Thursday from 12:00 - 1:30, and Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:30 and 5:00 - 6:00.

While many of these practices have become familiar to you and your children in the last months, we know this will still require new learning, new habits, and patience. While we help children through these transitions, be assured that we will also be focusing on teaching methods and content that will engage your children in high quality learning experiences throughout the year. We know this letter has some new information that may require families to alter plans, but we know you support that we must take measures to open responsibly and safely. We appreciate all your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Karen Macpherson, Superintendent

Paul Sorrentino, Principal

Jen Pontarelli, CST/Curriculum Supervisor