



McDonald Local Schools

Reset and Restart Education

As we move into the summer of 2020 it has become increasingly evident that COVID-19 will be present at the start of the 2020-2021 school year across the nation. This awareness and experience has also shown that conditions change rapidly, and as a result all schools will need to plan for multiple contingencies. Faced with the reality that there is no one size fits all approach to this unprecedented health crisis, none the less McDonald Local Schools will follow the guidance and documents provided by both the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health to plan the 2020-2021 school year under the following assumptions:

- Ohio's education system must be nimble, flexible and responsive to ensure the health and safety of all students and adults.
- Schools will need to have the capacity to operate in various models at different times and, sometimes, with minimum advance notice.
- When schools are operating with students in the building they will need to adhere to health and safety guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health and our local department. Guidelines may change as circumstances change, which will most likely lead to course correction throughout the year.
- The traditional school experience as it was known prior to the onset of the pandemic will be different, as will many of the day-to-day practices of the school

Student Educational Experience and Learning:

Children rely on schools for academic and social development, as well as basic needs including food and support for mental and emotional well-being. Additionally, the pandemic has up-

ended the lives of all Ohioans, particularly children and parents, who rely on the structure of the school day for much needed daily routine. The staff and administration are eager to welcome back our entire student body and begin to experience a sense of normalcy, however it seems we may have to wait a little longer. If the current state and local conditions do not change McDonald Local Schools will open the school year on a hybrid model. The schedules for Roosevelt Elementary and McDonald High School were constructed with the following guiding principles:

- **Curriculum-** McDonald Local School District will seek to provide high quality technology based resources to be used as an effective partner with traditional instruction. The district will also, when appropriate, use a curriculum that will focus on the most essential concepts. In early grades, we will place the highest importance on the essential literacy and numeracy learning needs of our students.
- **Building and Classroom Capacity-** Health and safety guidelines will be used to determine how many students can be accommodated in each classroom. Use of non-classroom spaces such as the cafeteria, auditorium, and gymnasium will also be considered if needed. Also, teachers may be moved from classroom to classroom rather than students, and food may be delivered and consumed in classrooms instead of large gatherings in the cafeteria.
- **Classroom Learning-** Most in the education community would like to return to a traditional classroom experience. The McDonald Local School District will look to maximize face to face instruction for our students, while adhering to health and safety guidelines.
- **Remote Learning-** Last spring we all witnessed the good and the bad in regards to our crash course in remote learning. We will all look to learn from our successes and failures and make remote learning more structured and successful for our students and parents. McDonald Local Schools will use Google classroom as the platform for remote learning moving forward.

The schedules for Roosevelt Elementary and McDonald High School were designed to limit the number of students in the building in order to enable the appropriate health and safety guidelines.

Health and Safety Guidance:

With the reopening of the McDonald Local School District we must make our top priority the health and safety of students and adults, consistent with the best understanding of current

conditions and effective mediation strategies for COVID-19. The following actions are designed in order to maximize the safe and successful return of students and staff members:

- **Assess for Symptoms-** It is essential that students and families conduct daily health assessments prior to the student arriving at school. Students should not come to school if they exhibit any of the following:
 - Fever (over 100 F), Chills
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Muscle or Body Aches
 - Headache
 - Sore Throat
 - Congestion or Runny Nose
 - Nausea or Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- **Wash and Sanitize Hands-** Hand washing and sanitizing are important tools in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by killing the virus. Students and staff will practice frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds when hands are dirty, before and after eating, and after using the restroom. Staff will provide opportunities throughout the day for hand washing. To supplement hand washing, the school will provide hand sanitizer in high traffic areas including entrances to buildings and classrooms and instruct students and staff to use the sanitizer.
- **Clean and Sanitize the School Environment-** Cleaning, sanitizing, and avoiding shared materials reduces the chance that students, staff, and volunteers will come into contact with viruses on surfaces. We will clean surfaces frequently, paying close attention to high touch areas and shared materials. The sharing of supplies and materials should be minimized and if items must be shared, sanitized between each user.
- **Social Distancing-** Keeping a distance of six feet or more between people adds another layer of prevention against the spread of COVID-19 by minimizing the chance of coming into contact with the virus through respiratory droplets. Distancing of six feet or greater is key in preventing droplet spread when speaking loudly, singing, or playing a musical instrument, which have been connected to increased respiratory droplet spread. School staff should try when possible to maintain 6-foot social distance among students, staff, and volunteers in all school environments, including classrooms, hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, playground, drop-off and pick-up locations, and school buses. Where social distancing is difficult, face coverings are even more essential.

- **Face Coverings-** Face coverings are critical to preventing the spread of the virus from person-to-person. As with other businesses, all school staff and volunteers must wear face coverings unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the learning process. McDonald Local Schools will also require all students in K-12 to wear a mask to school daily. Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin can be considered as an alternative where face coverings would hinder the learning process or for documented medical conditions.
- **Limiting Visitors-** McDonald Local School District will prohibit visitors, except for registering new students or emergency situations.
- **Isolating Students Showing COVID-19 Symptoms at School-** Ohio Department of Health has stated that any student exhibiting symptoms while physically attending school should be placed in a separate room, away from other students, and monitored by the school nurse. Students and staff exhibiting symptoms will be sent home as soon as possible.
- **Quarantine for Individuals Diagnosed or Exposed to COVID-19-** Personnel and students with known exposure to someone with diagnosed COVID-19 must self-quarantine at home for 14 days. McDonald Local School will work with the Trumbull County Health Department to track attendance.
- **Transportation-** Students who are being transported to school via school buses are at increased risk for transmission by nature of being in an enclosed space for an extended period of time. Additionally, buses often transport children from multiple grade levels from different parts of the community. McDonald Local Schools will require students to wear masks while being transported on school buses.

No document alone will be able to answer all of your questions about the upcoming school year. If you have additional questions please call or email your building principal for more details. As additional information becomes available we will communicate via our school website and Facebook account.

The Information provided in this document was developed by:

COVID Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools- Ohio Health Department

Reset and Restart Education Planning Guide for Ohio Schools and Districts- Ohio Department of Education

Both documents will be linked to our website at www.mcdonald.k12.oh.us

