



## Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)

Dear Mt. Pleasant Community,

We are excited to be moving into phase two of our School Reopening Plan, Hybrid Instruction. We have been working hard to develop schedules and update our facilities and Safety plans. Thank you to all of our Stakeholders for the valuable input we have received. We continue to work with our bargaining units to negotiate the effects of returning to in-person learning. Hopefully the "Questions and Answers" in this document will be of help to you. If you have additional questions, please attend the Parent Information Night on March 23rd or reach out to your school Principal.

Our timeline for a gradual return is below:

<p><u>Return Dates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Monday, April 12th - Transitional Kindergarten (TK), 4th, 5th &amp; Elementary Special Education Classes</li><li>➤ Wednesday, April 14th - 6th, 7th, 8th</li><li>➤ Thursday, April 15th - 1st, 2nd, 3rd</li><li>➤ Friday, April 16th - Kindergarten</li></ul>	<p><u>Parent Information Nights</u></p> <p>Tuesday March 23, Parent Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IJA @ 5:30 pm</li><li>• RS, MP &amp; VV Elementary @ 5:30 pm</li><li>• AB @ 6:15 pm</li></ul>
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### As we re-open, will my child (children) be able to stay with their teacher and school?

It will be a top priority for our students to continue with their teachers and schools. We have heard very clearly that this is an important factor for our families. However, not every family wishes to return to in-person, and not every staff member is able to return to in-person. We may need to make some changes to balance classes for safety as well as consistency.



### **What will in-person instruction look like in this model?**

Wearing their masks, students will line up on markers, six feet apart and enter in assigned entrances. As students enter campus they will verify that they have completed the daily symptom screening, sanitize their hands and have their temperature taken. Parents will leave their student(s) at the entrance gate. Students will be directed to class where they will wash/sanitize their hands. Once in class, students will sit at their desks or tables (physically distanced) and interact with their teacher and each other. Some teachers may focus on social emotional learning, others may focus on math or another content area during this time. Students will each be provided their own materials in the classroom. When school is out for the day the students will walk to the campus exit where they will meet their parent/caretaker, or walk home.

### **Why aren't classes opening up full-time?**

In order to maintain the recommended social distance requirements for the safety of all of our students and staff; the number of students in a room at one time is limited by the space in the classroom. In addition, in surveying our families, less than 50% of families have indicated they are ready to return to in-person. In order to meet the needs of all of our families given the time of the year and need for consistency we have developed the hybrid schedules.

### **When will parents be asked to commit to return to in-person on a hybrid model or remain on full distance learning?**

School site principals are enthusiastically developing classroom rosters and schedules based on the initial Return to School survey and phone calls completed. Parents will be asked to commit, once schedules have been finalized. We expect to send out final schedules with a request for commitment on March 22 (Due March 25). A separate [MPESD Parent-District compact \(Click Here\)](#) will represent mutual expectations for health safety.

### **If our family chooses hybrid learning, can we switch back to distance learning?**

Like other school districts in our area, we are looking for a commitment from our families to choose distance learning or a hybrid model for planning purposes. While a family coming in-person may choose



to return to distance learning, we may not be able to accommodate a family wishing to change to in-person given the space requirements. Our intention is to be as flexible as we are able to be given safety and staff considerations.

### **Is the amount of instructional time in a hybrid model the same as in distance learning?**

Yes, although some students may attend the learning block in person, all students will still receive the same instructional time using synchronous and asynchronous learning. We are attempting to have the least amount of disruption to all students while still meeting the needs of students whose parents have selected to attend in-person or continue through distance learning.

### **Will there be recess in the hybrid model?**

No, classes will not be engaging in traditional recess. However, classes may have a staggered schedule to do outside activities or take a “brain break” while still following the social distancing and mask guidelines.

### **Will there be a stable group in Middle school?**

Yes, maintaining stable groups at the middle school level is one of the reasons for the once a week schedule developed for middle school students. We know that students at this age especially need social connections and support and are attempting to provide time for this..

### **What are other districts in our area doing?**

Most school districts, in Santa Clara County and California are opening or in the process of reopening some form of in-person instruction. As is Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District, each school district is determining schedules based on safety, student needs and parent and staff preferences.

### **Are immunizations for students still required?**

Yes, students must still have all required immunizations to attend school whether in-person or in distance learning. Find out more about required immunizations [click here](#).



In regards to COVID vaccines, neither staff nor students can be required to have taken the COVID vaccine. COVID testing continues to be encouraged, but is not required. We are pleased to work with Bay Area Community Health (BACH) to provide COVID testing for our staff and the entire community every other Wednesday afternoon in August Boeger Middle School's parking lot.

## School Safety

### How will the District ensure schools are safe?

We have taken all recommended precautions and have implemented a number of safety measures to keep our campuses safe. View our reopening plan at [mpesd.org](https://mpesd.org) for more details on what has taken place, and what can be expected at our schools.

### Do students and staff have to wear a mask?

Yes, all students and staff will be required to wear a mask unless exempt due to an identified health or behavioral health condition. For students struggling to wear a mask, we will continue to teach mask wearing skills and will be sharing pictures and other information to prepare our students.

A student who refuses to wear a mask may be removed from the classroom. If a student continues to refuse to wear a mask, for their safety and the safety of other students and staff, they may need to return to full distance learning.

All staff members are required to wear a mask, or face shield, if engaged in specific instructional activities.

### What does in-person look like?

Wearing their masks, students will line up on markers, six feet apart and enter the school through one of two entrances. As students enter they will verify that they have completed the daily symptom screening, sanitize their hands and have their temperature taken. Parents/caretakers will be left at the entrance gate. Students will be directed to class where they will wash their hands

### What about the air quality in classrooms and school buildings?



It is very important that the air in our buildings meet the recommended standards. To this end, we have replaced all air filters with the recommended MERV-13 filters. The filters will be changed quarterly, every four months.

We have also made modifications to our air filtration systems to bring in more air from outside. Guidance regarding air quality indicates there should be 15 CFM (cubic feet per minute of airflow) per person. An outside Consultant, "AirTeks", has evaluated the air balancing of supply and return air in each room and we have met or exceeded the 15 CFM per person.

### **What about the air quality at Valle Vista, in the open pod setting?**

At Valle Vista, which has a different classroom configuration, in addition to changing the air filters we have also made changes to the air flow from the HVAC system. At Valle Vista fresh air is brought through the HVAC system in the ceiling. Before adjustments were made, the air flow was 1,389 CFMs within a classroom pod, allowing a maximum of 92 people with the recommended air flow. With the adjustments made to the return system, there are now 2,570 CFMs. This would allow up to 165 people in a classroom pod and still maintain the recommended air flow. The air flow in a classroom pod far exceeds what is needed for the number of students and staff anticipated.

### **Will staff members and students be expected to sanitize? How often will school site custodians clean?**

Classrooms will be sanitized daily using a "fogger." In addition, our hybrid schedule will include a full day at the elementary grades for deeper cleaning. Everyone will be expected to follow sanitation protocols. While primarily it is the custodians responsibility, it will have to be, "all hands on deck," when it comes to looking out for safety through sanitation.

### **Are School Staff Vaccinated**

While all MPESD staff have had the opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID-19, receiving a vaccination is a personal decision and is considered confidential. HIPPA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) protects individual rights to keep health information private. The District respects the rights of staff to keep this information confidential and will not be asking staff about their vaccination status.



### Will my child be safe from COVID exposure?

Although the District will be following all requirements set by the Santa Clara County Health Department, and CDC, as well as putting additional safety procedures in place, there is no full proof guarantee of complete safety. Although all of our staff have had the opportunity to receive COVID-19 Vaccinations ultimately parents will need to determine for themselves if they are ready to return to in-person instruction.

### What Are Some of the Safety Procedures that have been put in place?

- Staff and students will be trained on proper hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of hand sanitizer (CDC: Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives).
- Students will be instructed to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival on to the campus, using the restroom, before/after eating and after any time outside.
- Handwashing and hand sanitizing for students will be reinforced daily with time allotted to wash hands regularly.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at all school sites.
- Students and staff will be instructed on protocols for coughing, sneezing, etc. while protecting others.
- Schools will limit sharing of supplies.
- Visual reminders will be provided and posted for staff and students.

### What happens if a student or teacher gets sick at school?

If a student becomes ill while at school, the student would immediately be taken to a separate isolation room on campus where he or she would be supervised until parent/ emergency contact arrives to pick up the child. The parent would be notified for immediate pick-up.

If a Staff member became ill, they would immediately be relieved and sent home.

Following any of the above scenarios, the District would follow notification protocols identified by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD).

### Will I be able to see the class or visit?

Given the safety distancing requirements, we will not be able to allow visitors in the classroom. However, we will share photos of classrooms so that parents can observe the Health and Safety precautions in place.



Once classes open, the teacher can also share photos of the students using the procedures with parents.

### **What if the teacher or a student shows symptoms of COVID?**

Any teacher or student that shows symptoms must stay at home, and seek medical testing and quarantine for 10 days. Distance learning will take place during quarantine.

As part of the agreement to attend in-person, Parents must commit to notifying the school if the student or anyone in the home shows symptoms or has tested positive for COVID as well as complete the daily COVID screening.

Following any of the above scenarios, the District would follow notification protocols identified by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD).

### **What if my child has allergies or asthma, will they be sent home?**

No, if a student has a medical condition that is documented, that condition will be taken into account when reviewing any possible symptoms/issues.

## **Special Education & Related Services**

### **Are Special Education services continuing for students remaining in distance learning?**

Yes, we are making every effort to maintain the current schedules of services for students receiving special education services.

### **My child has an IEP. Will special education students return to services in person?**

Each parent/caretaker of a student with an IEP may choose to return to in person. Students with IEPs who are placed in a special education class will be able to receive some of their services on the hybrid schedule. Students receiving IEP services outside his or her classroom, pull out, or services pushed into a general ed class, will for the most part remain on the same schedules as currently in distance learning. However, students will be looked at on a case by case basis to review growth and the need for possible in person services.



### **How will my child receive services on his or her IEP –**

Speech, OT, Adapted P.E, and other services will, for the most part, continue to be provided through distance learning. This is done so that students and adults will not cross between multiple groups and can maintain their services schedules to meet the needs of all students. Some students may receive in-person services on a case by case basis.

### **Will transportation be provided in a hybrid model for students in Special Education?**

We are not currently planning on providing transportation services. However, we will review the needs of the individual students returning to make final decisions.

## **Other Questions**

### **Is childcare available before or after in-person learning? What about distance learning?**

We have had learning hubs, students attending distance learning supervised by classified staff for students in identified populations, on some of our school campuses provided by the District or the City of San Jose since the fall. As more students return to in person we are reviewing our capacity to provide additional child care in learning hubs in the morning for students attending in-person in the afternoon.

### **Are meal services continuing during distance learning?**

Yes, meal services are continuing! We are currently distributing weekly meal boxes on Wednesdays from August Boeger and Robert Sanders on Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00.

### **How do I update my contact information?**

For students attending in person, parents/caretakers will be required to complete a new emergency card online including phone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts, and district communications language preferences.



### Will students be eating lunch at school?

No, in the interest of keeping students' masks on, in-person instruction will occur after students have had lunch at home. We will continue to provide weekly lunch boxes for families to pick up on Wednesdays at August Boeger and Robert Sanders School sites.

### Will students be able to use the bathroom?

We are planning to have a student supervisor available to monitor student bathrooms to make sure students line up outside six feet apart, keep their masks on and monitor the number of students in the bathroom at a time.

### How will my student learn the new procedures?

Teachers will be reviewing general school procedures as well as the new safety procedures and expectations with students. Videos, posters and other visuals will be used to teach and reinforce procedures.

### What can we expect for the fall (next school year)?

MPESD fully plans and expects to open next school year in person. All staff will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. MPESD is also considering adding distance learning as an alternative attendance option for some families, in addition to our usual options of independent study, and home and hospital. Of course, we know that plans may be subject to change, but this is our expectation at this time.

### Is the District receiving additional funding for returning to in-person instruction?

Yes, the California State Legislature has approved extra funding to be used for the costs associated with resuming in-person instruction. For our District this might cover items such as standing thermometers or other equipment, additional staff for student supervision, facility costs, as well as other costs. These funds have certain restrictions regarding dates of return, types of expenditures and accountability requirements.

*If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school Principal*



*This is an evolving document and will be updated as questions are asked or information changes.*