

School Year 2020-21 First Semester Scheduling and Reopening

The opening of Mountain Phoenix Community School (MPCS) on Thursday, August 20th for ECE (PreK) and Monday, August 24th for Grades K-8 with in-person, remote and hybrid learning throughout the first semester will be contingent on COVID-19 virus levels in our community. Depending on statistical data indicating how COVID-19 is spreading in Jefferson county and the greater metro community, MPCS hopes to move throughout the fall semester between remote, hybrid, and full in-person models. The movement between these models will be dependent upon scientifically-researched, data-driven public health statistical levels as determined by Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) and the Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE).

Current Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) determinations are:



- **Level 1: Stay at Home**
Remote learning for all PreK-8 MPCS students.
- **Level 2: Safer at Home (current determination)**
Begin 20-21 school year with MPCS PreK-KG in-person/remote learning options (Aug. 20/Aug. 24) and Grades 1-8 phased approach from remote learning to gradually more in-person learning with hybrid learning model for all grades. See details below.
- **Level 3: Protect our Neighbors**
Gradual shift to 100% in-person/remote options for all PreK-8 students after consideration of the state virus threat level, community infection rates, and available protective factors (i.e. the presence of vaccine and the demonstration that our virus mitigation efforts for in-person learning are effective).



PHASE I: AUGUST 20/24 - OCTOBER 15 2020

Grades 1-8 will open with remote learning.

Kindergarten will open for in-person learning Mon - Thur, with Friday as a remote learning day. A Kindergarten remote learning only option will also be offered.

Preschool will be open Mon - Fridays.

PHASE II: OCTOBER 19 - DECEMBER 22 2020

Dependent on current health orders, Grades 1-2 will begin full in-person learning.

Dependent on current health orders, Grades 3-8 will begin hybrid learning.

Remote learning options will be available for all grades families.



Phase I : Thursday/Monday, August 20/24 - Thursday, October 15

PreK-KG (ECE) will open with in-person learning on Thursday, August 20 for PreK and Monday, August 24 for Kindergarten. Smaller class sizes, lower rates of transmission and the ECE public Waldorf curriculum were the criteria used when making this determination.

There will be no in-person for kindergarten on Thursday, August 20 or Friday, August 21.

- PreK (Buttercups, Sweet Peas & Dandelions) will meet Monday - Friday.
 - Monday - Friday dismissal is at 12:15 p.m. for half day students. Monday - Thursday dismissal is at 3:15 p.m. and Friday dismissal is at 1:30 p.m for full day students.
- Kindergarten classes (Bluebirds, Sunflowers, Chickadees & Honeybees) will meet in-person Monday - Thursday and have remote learning on Friday.
 - Kindergarten dismissal will be at 1:30 p.m. daily. **Napping House** will NOT be offered until further notice.
- A Kindergarten remote learning only option will also be offered.

MPCS Grades 1-8 will open with remote learning for all students on Monday, August 24 and continue through Thursday, October 15.

During Phase I remote learning, staff will be exploring the feasibility of small groups of students voluntarily coming to campus during regular school hours for in-person meetings with teachers and/or support staff. Once details are completed, the school will reach out to families with further information.

During this phase, considerations of transitioning from the remote-learning model to the Phase II in-person and hybrid model will be dependent upon the following and tracked weekly:

1. County transmission rates over a two-week period; and
2. R (reproduction) values in Jefferson county over a two-week period.

Phase II: Monday, October 19 - Tuesday, December 22

Dependent on current health orders, Grades 1-8 will continue the school year by offering in-person and hybrid (in-person/remote learning) learning.

Grades 1-2 begin full in-person learning for families selecting this option (with ongoing remote-only for families selecting this option). In order to uphold the physical distancing precautionary order and respect the use of facial coverings when distancing is not possible, the first and second grade classes will be divided in half for all indoor learning and activities OR children will be required to apply face coverings for interior

activities as prescribed by the JCPH orders. As an example, when a teacher presents main lesson content in the classroom, half of the class will attend and the other half will have an alternative activity outside of the classroom with an instructional assistant or other staff member. The class will then switch upon completion of the in-class lesson. *In addition, the new grades 1-2 classrooms will be completed and ready with higher quality air ventilation systems and more square footage.*

Grades 3-8 begin a hybrid learning schedule for families selecting this option (with ongoing remote-only for families selecting this option). The hybrid model will provide alternating days for A/B grouping (group A Mon/Tue & group B Wed/Thurs). Students will attend in-person school two days weekly and have three days of remote learning.

There will be no in-person school on Fridays for any K-8 students. However, remote learning will continue for all students with scheduled school assignments on Fridays.

Before and Aftercare programs will be reconsidered for reopening during this phase and more details will be provided at a later date.

During this phase, considerations of transitioning from the hybrid model to more in-person education will be dependent upon the following and tracked weekly:

3. County transmission rates over a two-week period; and
4. R (reproduction) values in Jefferson county over a two-week period.

If the national, state and local public health officials and orders from JCPH indicate that the gradual increase of students on campus can be further increased to greater overall percentages, MPCS will plan for moving to a 100% in-person/remote only learning model for all PreK-8 in January 2021.

Improvements in the Remote Learning Experience

For all phases involving remote learning, the following expectations will be put into place across all MPCS grades whether we are serving students in hybrid or full remote models::

- Common online systems will be used for all grades:
 - Google Classroom
 - Zoom
- Students in grades 1-8 will have the opportunity to participate in synchronous (live) learning each day at an established time on a schedule created by the class and special subject teachers. Parents/caregivers of students unable to attend these live meetings are asked to communicate with the class or special subject teacher.

- Each week, students will be offered the opportunity to interact with their teachers in a face-to-face (Zoom or Google) environment.
- District/school assessments will be administered by class teachers and/or enrichment teachers either in-person, as students attend in small groups, or remotely via zoom. This will be an important part of our work with students when we return so teachers have student data to plan for remediation and extension.
- School-based staff will serve as community outreach liaisons to engage students and families to ensure success in remote learning. Our Three Streams team will be in frequent contact with students and families to offer support and address needs as they arise.
- Teachers will develop and enhance tools for remote learning and in-person learning during the additional days for training (8/12 - 8/21) before the start of school.

Technology

MPCS has used emergency federal grant funds to purchase enough Chromebooks for check out to each student in grades 3 - 8. Families of Kindergarten, First, and Second grade students may check out a Chromebook to support their child's success in remote or hybrid learning. Families are encouraged to make plans for home internet options. Resources are available on the Jeffco Schools website [Low Cost Home Internet Options](#)

Procedures for Coming to Campus

- Drop-off and pick up for all ECE-8 students will be curbside until further notice.
- All parents, caregivers and other non-employee adults will not be permitted into the interior of the campus until further notice. A plan for in-person visitation BY APPOINTMENT ONLY will be developed and shared with community members for future consideration.
- Families needing to pick children up during school hours will need to call the main office and schedule to pick your child up. The student will be escorted by MCPS staff to the designated drop off/pick up lot.

Increased Mitigation Efforts

The following efforts are made to address the ongoing transmission of COVID-19 within our local school community and the greater community. All staff members recognize the sensitivities and individual differences based on personal experiences, beliefs and opinions. We, as MCPS staff, vow to uphold the spirit of healthy relationships and communication when faced with difficult situations and/or conversations and ask this of all community members. We will strive to courageously accept challenging situations with compassion, empathy and grace and appreciate all who join us in this endeavor.

Face Coverings, Masks, Face Shields & Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Per JCPH Public Health Order 20-008 issued Friday, July 24, everyone in Jefferson county aged 11 and older are currently required to wear cloth face coverings or masks while in public (on school property) in both indoor and outdoor settings when 6' physical distancing cannot be maintained. Exceptions are made for health conditions.

MPCS employees and middle school students (grades 6-8) will be required to have a face covering/mask in their possession at all times while on campus for any in-person activity. When in a building or outside on school grounds, if 6' physical distancing is unable to be maintained, all will be required to put the face covering in place. When passing in indoor common areas (hallways, stairwells, offices, bathrooms), all will be required to employ face coverings. While working in the classroom, all will be required to have the face covering in place if 6' physical distancing is not maintainable.

Grades 3-5 students in the primary building will be required to have face coverings/masks readily available (**on or in their desks or on person**) to be put in place if 6' physical distancing cannot be maintained. All will be required to employ face coverings when leaving the classroom and passing through common interior and exterior areas.

Grades 1-2 students in cottages and future new classrooms will be required to have face coverings/masks readily available (**on tabletops or person**) to be put in place if 6' physical distancing cannot be maintained. All will be required to employ face coverings when leaving the classroom and passing through common interior and exterior areas.

ECE children in all preschool and kindergarten classrooms will NOT be required to use face coverings/masks during normal interior or exterior school activities. If a student demonstrates COVID-19 symptoms, staff will provide a face covering for the child while waiting in the Student Medical Safe Room for parental pick up. All staff working with ECE will follow staff guidelines.

Parents/caregivers may opt to have children wear masks at all times and must communicate with the class teacher and main office regarding parental wishes. Teachers/staff will communicate with parents if children are unable to maintain proper use of face coverings per parent/caregiver request. At no time will a staff member require that a student remove a face covering.

Students who are unable to follow the school guidelines for face coverings and who do not have a valid and approved medical exemption will not be able to attend in-person classes and are encouraged to participate in the remote learning option. Adults who are unable to follow guidelines will not be permitted on campus. [Mask/Face Covering Dos and Don'ts](#)

Additional PPE will be provided to staff including face coverings, masks, face shields, gloves, and sanitizer. Supplies will be provided to students as needed or requested by parent/caregiver.

Handwashing

Hand washing and sanitizing will be required at regularly scheduled times during the school day for all in-person learning. These schedules will be communicated with parents/caregivers at each grade level. Students or families who refuse to follow the hand-washing protocols will not be able to attend in-person classes and are encouraged to participate with the full remote-learning option.

Physical Distancing

All MCPS staff and grades students will practice physical distancing, and utilize face coverings/masks per grade/age level requirements when 6 feet of physical distance is not possible to maintain.

Employees will practice 6 feet physical distancing from one another. This includes during lunch breaks, planning periods, and in staff meetings or other professional development. Where possible, meetings of employees will be conducted virtually. Some exceptions for employees will exist for special responsibilities that require less than 6 feet distancing and in these situations, appropriate protective equipment and hygiene/sanitation must be used. Employees who fail to adhere to these provisions to limit employee contact will be subject to disciplinary action including dismissal.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

School classrooms and common areas will be cleaned regularly, and sanitized as needed, according to protocols developed by JCPH and CDPHE and guidance from the Jeffco Custodial

Services Department. Cleaning will be completed primarily by our custodial company, with light sanitizing spray/maintenance completed by school staff during the school day..

Quarantining and Building/School Closure

Decisions relating to quarantining of a specific class, building or entire school closures will be made in collaboration with JCPH based on the facts and the individual circumstances. Minimally, if a student or staff member tests positive, the other students in their cohort, or any they may have had contact with, will be quarantined for a period of 14 days and transition to remote learning for that time.

Health Screening Processes and Medical Safe Spaces

Daily health checks and screenings (temperature and screening questions) **will be conducted by parents/caregivers using the Parent Square system** prior to arrival to school OR by trained staff upon arrival for those students who have not been screened prior to arrival. Any individual who does not successfully pass symptom screening will be moved to a medical safe space in the room (separated from the main office health clinic) located adjacent to the main office where they will be re-screened and supported until able to return home. Any student with a fever of 100.4 F or greater will be escorted to the medical safe room.

Trained MPCS staff wearing the appropriate district-provided protective equipment will conduct temperature screening protocols and monitor students and staff entering buildings. Specifically, health aides, paraprofessionals, campus supervisors, office staff, and administrators will conduct screenings. Other staff may volunteer to provide these vital services and they will also be specially trained on proper procedures and provided the necessary protective equipment.

Student & Employee COVID-19 Testing

The District will provide for rapid availability testing for symptomatic staff and students or those who believe they were exposed to the virus. More information will be shared with the MPCS community at a later date.

Building Ventilation and Air Filtration

Ventilation system improvements and modifications are being made to all MPCS buildings to reduce virus spread. All buildings have ventilation systems designed to bring in fresh air. While occupied, the ventilation systems operate continuously. Ventilation systems use specifically designed air filters to provide the maximum amount of filtration while not impacting air changes to rooms. They are inspected and changed on a regular basis by the MPCS facilities manager.

The MPCs Governing Council approved funding to upgrade all ventilation systems with enhanced filters meeting medical facility specifications.