

FAQs addressed at the Town Hall

Mr. Saunders - Questions

1. All students in person at MSHS will be wearing masks, correct? I see a spot on the "in person" form to request an exemption from wearing a mask, however, isn't the online option available for those who cannot wear a mask?

Across all buildings, we are requiring masks to be worn. There is an exemption for medical reasons. We are not able to deny education with the exemption. Without the exemption, you will be encouraged to go online.

2. If we choose to send our kids to in person school and they get sick (coronavirus or other) or they are sent home for quarantine, how will they keep up with their school work? Will they be given the option to enroll in the online schooling while they are home for a few weeks?

If a student gets sick at school and goes into quarantine, they can go to online learning. We follow state and health dept guidelines for symptoms and when to test or quarantine.

3. Are masks going to be provided for our children and if so are they approved Covid masks?

Yes, two per marking period. Thank you to United Way and Masks for Marquette for assisting with providing masks. We will have disposable masks for students as well.

4. How will it be handled if someone in the class gets the virus? Will classes be stopped?

This is one of the most difficult questions. We consult with medical professionals and the health dept. Each case is unique. Example: student shows up feeling ill, they get a COVID test and wait three days, but class continues without symptoms. Would we then cancel 3 days later if no one shows symptoms once the test results are in? If there are transmissions through a class/building/district, then we seek to cancel. We will work to inform parents of status and when we will switch to an online platform.

5. If a child in a classroom tests positive who will be notified? Just those sitting in proximity to him/her? Those identified by the teacher as being in close proximity?

We will not specify who may have a case individually, so proximity to an individual may create a violation of privacy rights. We will notify all in a classroom that there is a case and all in a building that there is a case.

6. What about busing and transportation for kids that are going to be attending in person? What are your bussing plans for social distancing? How will the driver be able to drive safely and enforce these rules? Would you prefer parents who are able to drive their kids do so?

Yes we prefer self transport. Must wear masks on the bus and we will transport for those who need it. Hand sanitizer will be on the bus and there will be seating charts and family to be grouped. We will be trying to assign cohorts to keep contact groups the same.

7. As a parent that may use the before/after school programs, is this going to be available this year?

Yes, the programming providers are planning to continue to do so.

8. Is there any news about class size?

In Phase 5 we will be trying to social distance but no mandated caps on class size. After survey form choices are in, we will do our best to meet the numbers and work on social distancing in hallways and playgrounds as well.

Mr. Young - Questions

9. Will the MSHS Online Academy information be available prior to decision making on August 19th?

Yes, last week the email to families was sent with the outline of the program. There is also information on face to face and hybrid so they can decide the best option. There is a reminder going out tomorrow. There are also top 10 items for decision making to be included.

10. I assume you will extend the decision deadline until the Online Academy information is available? Unfortunately, the continued inability to access even the course listing does not bode well for the functionality of the online academy. The School District cannot expect parents to make a decision when there is no course list or further detail available for review.

Course list is included in the MI Virtual partnership and it includes how they align with MSHS courses. All courses offered for MSHS will be offered in an online format but some adaptations for things like woodworking. The courses are available in all three formats.

Not all courses are offered through MVHS. MSHS is partnering with MVHS to offer 99 courses with the additional courses solely offered by MSHS.

11. Are there AP English courses in the Online Academy? I skimmed the list last week and did not see any AP English courses, but cannot access the course list now to verify.

Yes, the course offerings will be available regardless of whether it appeared on the MVHS list. Our MSHS courses continue to be available; AP will follow normal AP guidelines in compliance with the College Board requirements.

12. Are all Online Academy courses asynchronous? It appears there will be no chance for online students to take part in classroom discussions with the teachers and other students?

Asynchronous is a class that is done independently without a teacher, self paced, no connection - MVHS.

Synchronous works with the teacher directly with a level of interaction and potential group with classes.

All offerings will be asynchronous but will have some synchronous opportunities. We cannot require this because of availability to connect and to be online at the same time.

13. Hello, will the students be getting time, say every 2 hours to spend 5 minutes outside no matter the weather to take off masks and get fresh air?

Yes, we are strongly encouraging outdoor education. PE classes, if 50 degrees or higher, will be outdoors. We are also looking to set up some outdoor classrooms for various other subjects.

14. What grades can do online?

Open for 9-12 with MVHS opportunities. Other principals will discuss their opportunities

15. Can the classes be done at any time during the day?

Yes, given that they are asynchronous, they can work around jobs, activities, whatever works for their schedule and pacing for their course. They may need to work around a schedule to ensure completion by end.

16. Will there be any meeting for parents before school starts?

Yes, we held a meeting last night for parents and it is available online. I welcome calls for information as well.

17. Can they participate in extracurricular activities like French Club trip if online? If a student chooses online can they participate in specials? Orchestra/band etc.?

It doesn't matter if you choose to be face to face, online, or hybrid. All are available in the extracurricular activities access. All programming is available to all our students.

18. Would they go through their guidance counselor to set up classes?

Families are going online to schedule. You won't need to do anything further. Guidance counselors have checked to meet the MI Merit Curriculum. If going online, we will move to the online format and we will reach out if there are any issues. If someone chooses Hybrid learning, we will reach out to determine the best courses face to face and which are best for online learning.

19. For those of us choosing the online option for our kids, how do we select the classes they will be in? Or will MAPS employees enroll them in the appropriate classes to match their current curriculum?

(see above)

20. Will lunches be served in the classroom?

Traditionally we have two: one for freshman and one for upperclassmen. We have two scheduled but we have multiple locations now to have more area available and separate students. Once we see numbers of families choosing face to face, we will determine what lunch numbers will look like. If we need to add additional lunch periods, we could go as high as 6 if necessary.

21. What will the hybrid option look like?

Some things to think about and examples:

- 1) You decide as a student that you want face to face for subjects that are difficult. I love one subject that I could do online. So core classes face to face may be the best option.
- 2) I don't want to use transportation so I can take off the first hour and arrive for the second period if time is the determining factor for this schedule.
- 3) Students who can't attend daily, may come M, T, W face to face. Th and F is online. This is another Hybrid option.

Ideally one class would be contained in one method or another, not split.

22. Will students who choose online school get physical books for studying subjects or is it purely electronic?

It will be a combination of both. Some MVHS require texts. Other options, teachers can manipulate curriculum and choose a local book as part of the online curriculum.

23. How will the kids enter the building at the day's beginning? Normally they congregate in the gym - but there's no way to distance in there with all the kids coming at the same time in the morning.

First thing we want is to encourage drop off between 7:15 and 7:30. Classrooms are open and students can go to classrooms then. They would be cohorted with classmates in that class. Some may need to arrive earlier so could be in the gym with greater social distancing.

24. Any sanctioned outdoor learning?

Yes, we are strongly encouraging to teach outside as much as possible. On a regular basis, they will use the campus space as much as possible. PE on a daily basis. Teachers ask to deliver instruction with alternative methods and strategies with devices to be creative. By doing this, we give better opportunity to social distance and take the mask off for a while.

Mrs. Pomeroy - Questions

25. I'd like to know more about the combination option for the school year. My son is going into 1st grade. What 2 days would he attend school? Would the online learning match what they're doing in school for that day? Work comes from his teacher? Are elementary kids going to have recess and eat lunch in the lunchroom?

Truth is that teachers will be doing everything differently this year as in the past. Experiences you have had in the past, there are traditional ways of teaching that have existed. We need to offer instruction in a combination of methods, and each teacher will have these mixed caseloads. We will be providing the same workloads across the board, but they will look differently. We want the experience to be as close across all methods.

26. Can you provide more information on what this virtual instruction would entail in terms of live online instruction/ learning, vs. online instruction that is pre-recorded or modules that can be done on own time, and non-online coursework?

At MSHS we will use MVHS as the basis for online and they are pre-recorded as asynchronous lessons. Peer to peer and student to teacher engagement is going to be incorporated but will be different in different classes. It depends on the subject and teachers are going to figure this out as we go. We will be problem solving and troubleshooting so these answers may change through the year.

27. My daughter is taking AP Chemistry and that requires a lab? How are labs being addressed?

All AP courses are prescribed by the College Board. They must be met and there are required labs in a virtual setting that meet the requirement. We will look for ways to augment with household items for labs to be more than just the simulation.

28. My major question/concern going into the school year is if a shut down were to occur again, and online learning was mandatory, what would be the plan for students whose parents are both essential workers? During the spring shut down our daycare remained open but they are unable to accommodate the numerous online learning times/help needed.

Beginning in late spring, each level had a committee working on this problem. What would we do in these situations? We have a plan and teachers will be creating these online experiences to create community solutions virtually. Creative solutions will be the problem solving response by our staff.

29. Are we able to change our choice, during the first semester, if we notice our child struggling (whether it is in person, online, or combination of the two) or do we need to stick with what we have chosen for the full first semester?

Our students and their learning are our number 1 priority. We want to help them learn in the best way possible. We will be handling issues as they arise. Toggling between learning formats may not be the answer. Maybe a direct intervention and looking at outside parameters in the area of learning will also be a concern to keep in mind.

30. Will our online kids interact with only teachers or teachers and fellow students?

We know this is a key educational need. The MVHS lessons are meant to be independent but we plan to incorporate peer to peer if possible. We won't really know the specifics until we get into this.

31. Will there be mandatory handwashing throughout the day?

District plan includes mandatory hand washing every 3 hours and sanitizing desks every hour. We have to do things differently to keep everything safe. Envision what it looks like for a student. If there are students in school, this is going to be a restricted structure. There will need to be some family time to schedule outside activities at home and some unrestricted types of decompression time. We are committed to making sure kids feel safe and are well educated. We have great empathy for your

kids, please allow your children to see you in this same light of positive thought. Politics should not be primary. We want to solve problems.

Dr. Smith - Questions

32. Are all Online Academy courses asynchronous? It appears there will be no chance for online students to take part in classroom discussions with the teachers and other students?

At K-5 level, you can be in any one of the three formats but you are a MAPS student who will be taught by a grade level teacher. There is no differentiation between how we see you. Synchronous live learning may be limited, but through SeeSaw and Google Classroom we will be involving students. It will look different but will be a good experience.

33. Hello, will the students be getting time, say every 2 hours to spend 5 minutes outside no matter the weather to take off masks and get fresh air?

Elementary levels will be building in time for mask breaks with snack time outside. Recess will also allow for mask breaks.

34. What grades can do online?

Online options and hybrid options are open from JK - grade 5. Parents will find that there will be a similar messaging format in Skyward and virtual classrooms will be in SeeSaw and Google Classroom in all four elementary schools

35. Can the classes be done at any time during the day?

Yes, there is greater flexibility. There may be times where they work during the school day with a scheduled event.

36. Will there be any meeting for parents before school starts?

Cherry Creek had their meeting last night for parent groups and they realize their efforts will look different for this year. Skyward messaging is being used to communicate with parents. We are responding to questions. There will be a virtual open house with teachers providing information for their classroom.

37. Can they participate in extracurricular activities like French Club trip if online? If a student chooses online can they participate in specials? Orchestra/band etc.?

Hybrid options for K-5 or extracurricular activities are available for all students at any point through the day. We are asking parents to work with principals for hybrid options first so we can best schedule and move between the two formats. We don't expect students to sit in front of a device online for an extended period. There are pre-recorded lessons and engagement with classroom teachers.

38. Would they go through their guidance counselor to set up classes?

We will use the survey by Wednesday so we can build the cohorts across the elementary buildings and develop the schedule. We need to work with the classroom teacher for the best approach.

39. For those of us choosing the online option for our kids, how do we select the classes they will be in? Or will MAPS employees enroll them in the appropriate classes to match their current curriculum?

(see above)

40. Will lunches be served in the classroom?

They will be served in the classroom, so not served in the cafeteria this year. Many students have allergies to food items and we will send home paperwork to identify so we can limit those foods in those classrooms where needed to be "free" of allergens.

41. Will students who choose online school get physical books for studying subjects or is it purely electronic?

A little bit of both will be used in our curriculum. Parents can get workbooks and lesson materials from the school.

42. How will the kids enter the building at the day's beginning? normally they congregate in the gym - but there's no way to distance in there with all the kids coming at the same time in the morning.

In elementary buildings, historically arrivals look different and we will adapt this year as well. Protocols will be in place and we need parent help and patience as we expect lines in the parking lots and staggered arrival times by alphabetic slots. There will be staging outside with different entrances and exits as assigned to maintain social distancing.

43. Any sanctioned outdoor learning? Travis, Bobby, Jon

We love those opportunities so we will embrace fun and creative ways to utilize the green space, woods, and playgrounds. This may be one silver lining to this issue.

Mrs. Longton - Questions

44. I'd like to know more about the combination option for the school year. My son is going into 1st grade. What 2 days would he attend school? Would the online learning match what they're doing in school for that day? Work comes from his teacher? Are elementary kids going to have recess and eat lunch in the lunchroom?

This will have to be worked out between principal and family so we can schedule the same kind of workload by grade level. (Important to note this isn't a set two days, this has been left for choice)

Definitely the same standards will be taught the same across all methods. Different grade levels will look different, but plan to make for seamless transitions between the methods.

Students are eating lunch in the classroom but teachers are also working for outdoor opportunities to get the students outside. Maybe bring a beach towel and wear sunscreen for outdoor time.

45. Can you provide more information on what this virtual instruction would entail in terms of live online instruction/learning, vs. online instruction that is pre-recorded or modules that can be done on own time, and non-online coursework?

We know families have different access so we are leaning more heavily on pre-recorded lessons. We will be using MobyMax as the online platform and will be digitizing as much as possible so all students can enjoy the same things.

46. How many hours would they be in front of a computer? How many hours would 2nd graders spend on-screen?

I am on the virtual academy committee and we are working on this. It will be different for each grade level. Each student takes a different amount of time to complete a task and to learn. You can take as much time as needed but we are considering the research for screen time and what is best for kids

47. My major question/concern going into the school year is if a shut down were to occur again, and online learning was mandatory, what would be the plan for students whose parents are both essential workers? During the spring shut down our daycare remained open but they are unable to accommodate the numerous online learning times/help needed.

Teachers are doing both in person and online at the same time. If we go to all online, the teachers would be available for synchronous activities during the school day.

48. Will our online kids interact with only teachers or teachers and fellow students?

They will be in the same SeeSaw or Google Classroom and can interact digitally with the classmates. Shared slides are capable and shared assignments can work across learning platforms. We have partnerships with NMU to provide these unique learning experiences.

49. Will students still bring snacks from home? Is lunch from home still allowed?

Snacks and lunches can be brought from home. We will be monitoring for allergens and those would not be allowed in an identified classroom.

50. Will there be mandatory handwashing throughout the day?

Yes, they will wash when they enter and leave. We will be working with best practices which will be different by grade level and pushing for scheduled hygiene times. We will have hand sanitizer and products available.

State has made us disable bubblers on drinking fountains due to risk.

School supply lists should include a water bottle and they can use the filling stations and we will make time for that.

Mrs. Barnes - Questions

51. Can kids wear face shields instead of masks?

Right now face shields do not comply with the Return to School Roadmap. The district is providing clear masks that do comply. Face shield may be medically necessary and we will make that available.

52. There was talk about younger students K-1 not wearing masks all day, is this happening?

Students are required to wear masks in school, on buses, in hallways. Teachers will show how to wear them. ECSE (Early Childhood students) may not need to wear them in the classroom but will be in movement through the building and on buses.

53. With my student being in special education for Reading and Math will he only have the special education teacher or will he have to work with the fourth grade teacher and the special education teacher?

That depends on the level of services in the IEP. If they indicate Sp Ed services for reading and math, that will be done by the special education teacher. The IEP accommodations would be with Gen Ed if not specified in the IEP. These will happen regardless of delivery method for instruction.

54. Sandra please also touch on services offered Special Ed. students who elect to be 100% online or hybrid

This is in discussion now and we would be selecting those specific classrooms for special education instruction. While students are on premises, we would want to provide ancillary services during that time. For totally online, then the IEP and level of need could be addressed through telecom options, but if need is such that they need to see face to face then we want to see on site. We would schedule one on one with a therapist.

Mr. Reichel - Questions

55. Are all Online Academy courses asynchronous? It appears there will be no chance for online students to take part in classroom discussions with the teachers and other students?

Similar to MSHS, they will be asynchronous but may have some live streaming depending on teacher level. There may be Google doc discussion questions that are included in the classroom discussion.

The teacher will have their method to include online but it will depend on the lesson and the subject if it is possible. The hope is that all can share in topics.

56. Hello, will the students be getting time, say every 2 hours to spend 5 minutes outside no matter the weather to take off masks and get fresh air?

Teachers work in teams at BMS and are planning to provide a schedule for each team of 4 for mask breaks every 2 - 3 hours. The canopies provide for some outside time even if the weather is poor.

57. What grades can do online?

Students in grades 6-8 will be utilizing Google Classroom and MobyMax. MobyMax will allow for pre-loaded modules and connect with Google Classroom.

58. Can the classes be done at any time during the day?

Like other levels, lessons will be asynchronous and self paced. We recommend parents have a routine and stay on schedule so they can follow along in the lessons. They won't want to fall behind so please set up a schedule and follow as normal of a day as possible.

59. Will there be any meeting for parents before school starts?

Planning to have a Zoom meeting with parents. The MSHS had a positive experience and we want to do this. There will be a virtual building tour and a 6th grade orientation virtual tour as well. Students can meet their teachers with the orientation.

60. Can they participate in extracurricular activities like French Club trip if online? If a student chooses online can they participate in specials? Orchestra/band etc.?

Absolutely, all enrolled students will have access to the programs. They may look differently and meet virtually but other clubs will meet. We welcome and encourage students to come for band and other electives.

61. Would they go through their guidance counselor to set up classes?

We allow the students to select their electives through Skyward. It is now closed so they will need to reach out to BMS principals for that. There is a PDF document for course offerings and they can select up to four electives. Families can reach out to counselors as well.

62. For those of us choosing the online option for our kids, how do we select the classes they will be in? Or will MAPS employees enroll them in the appropriate classes to match their current curriculum?

(see above)

63. Will lunches be served in the classroom?

We are using as much space as we can so lunches will be in various areas besides the cafeteria. Three lunch periods will be scheduled with cafeteria space and sports decks. We will be setting up tables in these areas. The survey results will dictate numbers we need to prepare for and so we will see how many students are going to be in person.

64. What will the hybrid option look like

It allows families to personalize their schedules so this is a popular option. For K-8, we don't block schedule electives but students could come two days a week or three days a week. Many different options to choose, but please reach out to principals to make the best determination for the family.

65. Will students who choose online school get physical books for studying subjects or is it purely electronic?

Like the other levels, it will be a mixture of both. We will provide a physical text book for online or in person if that is how the course is delivered.

66. How will the kids enter the building at the day's beginning? normally they congregate in the gym - but there's no way to distance in there with all the kids coming at the same time in the morning.

This is in process. There are usually lots of students in the canopy area. Parking and drop off areas are limited but we are planning to use the school yard and the gymnasium as areas to wait.

67. Any sanctioned outdoor learning?

We are encouraging outdoor learning and developing a schedule for those areas for teachers to reserve and provide mask breaks. Rain garden is being developed for part of a course in the front area.

Wrap Up - Final thoughts by Mr Saunders

Apologies for the loss of technologies. The FAQs will be posted and we have a COVID page going that provides information on the website @ www.mapsnet.org.

Because we couldn't do this live, I would extend the deadline for your decisions, we will move this to Thursday 8/20 for your learning option. As we build our cohorts, we need to balance the schedules to have as much social distancing as possible. We continue to rework the schedules so we need the information.

The Google form for transportation is also being extended a day. We encourage self transportation if possible. Please complete the form.

Many levels of stress and anxiety are present but we continue to place safety and health as a top priority. We will be flexible and adjust as we assess all educational and physical issues we face. We appreciate your support of MAPS.