

7/29/2020 FAQs:

Will there be ample notice if Madison City Schools decides to allow students to return to schools? I'm seeing some drop in COVID-19 cases and need time to make arrangements if students are allowed to return to classrooms.

Madison City Schools is committed to the all-virtual school start on August 12. We are reassessing the infection rate in the community and getting advice from the Madison County Health Officer about reopening schools face to face. We do not expect to change the virtual platform at the beginning of school any earlier than Labor Day. We are expecting new updates on quarantining from the ADPH early next week. We will base the decision to change from the virtual platform to school based on input mainly from state and local health officials. Parents will be given ample notice if school-based instruction will resume and how that will occur.

I tried to sign up to pick up a device, but all the slots were full. What should I do?

We offered nearly 1,000 time slots, and they filled up very quickly. We are working on additional opportunities for families who need devices. We will message all parents and post to our website when those slots are ready. If your child has a device with a web browser, you do not need a MCS device.

Will teachers utilize online curriculum to support virtual learning?

The District has purchased an online curriculum: Edgenuity (grades 6-12) and Edgenuity/PathBlazer (K-5). Teachers also have access to the statewide ACCESS curriculum (7-12) and the state-purchased SchoolsPLP (K-12).

What is Schoology?

Schoology is a leading learning management system. Schoology can facilitate communication, course work, grading, etc., just as Google Classroom has done in the past. It is a significantly more robust system, however, and we are excited about our students and teachers having the opportunity to use its features. We are committed to using it exclusively for all virtual work, beginning this school year. Google Classroom will no longer be used with students. A link to our instance of Schoology is available on our district website in the dropdown under Parents & Students.

Do I or my children need anything special to use Schoology?

Schoology can be accessed from any web browser on any device. There is also a mobile app. We have found the app to be somewhat limiting for students (though useful for simpler tasks), but it is very useful for parents (i.e. communication with teachers, checking assignments, checking grades, etc.)

How do I access the Schoology parent portal?

Parents will be able to have access to every child's Schoology information with a single login in a web browser or in the app. As the school year approaches, more information will come from your school(s) and teacher(s) regarding access to student information.

Will I check my child's grades in Schoology?

Teachers will post grades into Schoology each week, but iNow (aka Chalkable) is still the official platform for all grades and report cards.