

9.18.2020

If my child moves from virtual to face to face why do they have to change teachers?

Due to the movement between virtual and school-based learning, teaching assignments may be altered to accommodate the need of additional virtual classes or school-based classes; therefore, if a student moves from virtual to school-based, then the student will likely change teachers.

Will face to face classes be too overcrowded if I send my child to school instead of continuing with virtual?

The district continuously reviews student enrollment and class sizes to make adjustments to teaching units as needed. The district sets and follows guidelines for class sizes to help prevent overcrowding.

Will my child be able to be in the yearbook if they are virtual? How will their picture be taken?

Information about yearbook pictures for virtual students will be released in the near future.

Is it true that virtual elementary teachers have 40-50 students?

As with face to face classes, the district sets and follows guidelines for class sizes. Virtual classes could be slightly larger than face to face classes but should not approach 40+ students.

Will I have another chance this school year to move my child from virtual to face to face?

At the end of the 9 week grading periods, elementary (K-5) students selecting the Virtual Learning Academy Option may remain virtual or return to school through the School-Based Learning Option. At the end of the first semester, secondary (6-12) students selecting the Virtual Learning Academy Option may remain virtual or return to school through the School-Based Learning Option.

Can I decide to move my child to face to face after Fall Break?

At the end of the 9 week grading periods, elementary (K-5) students selecting the Virtual Learning Academy Option may remain virtual or return to school through the School-Based Learning Option. At the end of the first semester, secondary (6-12) students selecting the Virtual Learning Academy Option may remain virtual or return to school through the School-Based Learning Option.

Will I be notified if a student in my child's class tests positive for COVID?

Please see link to MSC Health, Wellness, Safety, & Prevention guidelines:

<https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Page/5903>

8.31.2020

If I originally chose school based and now want to remain virtual, can I do that? What if those who chose virtual now want to do school-based?

Families were asked to complete the Virtual Learning Academy Intent Form before school started to let the district know if their student(s) would prefer to learn virtually or school-based.

Class rosters were based on requests at the beginning of the school year for school-based or virtual. A request to switch to school-based or virtual should be emailed to the principal so students can be added to a waiting list.

Therefore, students requesting a switch to school-based or virtual at this time will be put on a waiting list.

- Students on the waiting list may be moved to school-based or virtual if there is room within the school schedule.
- After verification from the principal that there is room within the school, students can make the transition as early as the first day of in-person instruction.
- After verification from the principal that there is **not** room to accommodate within the school schedule, students can remain on the waiting list in case a seat becomes available.
- A request to switch a student with an IEP, 504, or an I-ELP to the school-based or virtual option should be emailed to the principal and will be considered on a case by case basis based on the student's IEP or I-ELP, language development level, and individual student's needs.

Why separate the students? What is the difference between Group A and Group B?

This will allow each school to familiarize their students with new school protocols & procedures, as well as introduce children back to the classroom setting. The A/B rotation will be alphabetical and determined by each school. **Parents/Guardians should contact the school(s) if conflicts arise in siblings' assigned rotation.**

- First Class Pre-K – **Group A is A-L and Group B is M-Z**
- Columbia - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**
- Heritage - **Group A is A-L and Group B is M-Z**
- Horizon - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**
- Madison - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**
- Mill Creek - **Group A is A-M and Group B is N-Z**
- Rainbow - **Group A is A-H and Group B is I-Z**
- West Madison - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**
- Discovery - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**
- Liberty - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**
- Bob Jones - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**
- James Clemens - **Group A is A-K and Group B is L-Z**

Can siblings with different last names be put in synch in the A-B rotations?

Yes, accommodations can be made to do that by working with your school principal

Will the classrooms maintain 6 feet of social distancing?

We cannot guarantee that students will be 6 feet apart for the duration of the school day. We will distance as best we can and move to large spaces when we can. Students will be in seating assignments distanced apart. Students and teachers will wear face masks and there will be plexiglass shields on desks and tables.

Will the after school programs be available when in-person school begins again?

There will be no extended day at this time. A reevaluation will be conducted after fall break.

Will virtual students still be able to pick up lunch?

Lunch will be provided at schools for school-based learners. Virtual students can still order ahead of time for pickup at their school.

Will Transportation be provided?

Buses will be running their normal routes.

For students with a MCS-issued chrome book, do they bring it to school with them?

Further details will be given in the next school reentry update this week.

8/13/20

How is attendance taken?

Attendance is monitored by your student logging into and completing coursework in Schoology. As previously stated, synchronous learning is expected and encouraged; however, we understand there are situations where this is not possible. Students must log in to each class, every day. In addition, work must be completed and submitted by the assigned due date.

Do I have to have a new Webex link for each synchronous session?

Not necessarily, but it's possible depending upon the course and teacher's preference. All teachers have been equipped and trained on how to make WebEx as simple as possible, but there are a lot of reasons that a teacher may choose to have a different link for each synchronous session. Further, some teachers have begun to adopt WebEx built right into Schoology, and we estimate that this simpler usage style will become the norm. When this happens with your specific teachers' courses, WebEx links may become something of the past for most uses.

Can Madison City Schools monitor my personal information?

We do protect students' Google accounts through software such as Gaggle and Bark. These programs will automatically flag any personal safety issues found in all google docs, sheets, slides, or any other google services. These pieces of software protect our students but will not read your personal passwords or any data on your machine. If you have an MCS Chromebook, you have additional protection by a product we use called GoGuardian. Because these are school-owned devices, we use GoGuardian to filter the internet connection for that device only (even if it's on your home WiFi) and to monitor for safety.

We missed the signup for school meals. What is the process?

During the virtual learning period, CNP staffs for Madison City Schools are providing meal packs for pickup at our schools. Meal pickup days are every Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at a school that will be assigned to you. Federal guidelines prohibit meal delivery by schools like was done in the months immediately following the school shutdown last March. Use the following link to order and be assigned to a school for pickup. <https://forms.gle/jR5nrmVCgU6mAq5Y6> If you have already completed the survey, disregard this reminder.

Do we need to order each week if we want to pick up school meals?

It is crucial for CNP staffs to have meal planning consistency. Therefore, there will not be a survey each week. Once you have completed the survey above, you have opted in to pick up meals on the Tuesday-Thursday pickup days. If at some point you opt to no longer pick up meals, please contact cnp@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Where can I find information on qualifying for free and reduced meals?

You can find this information under the Child Nutrition Program link on our website: <https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/domain/129> . If you need a paper application, they are available at each food pickup site at the schools.

8/12/2020

How does my child use WebEx to join a synchronous lesson?

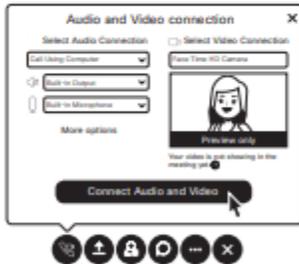
Webex Meetings Quick Start Guide for Students

Join a class virtually:

01. Select the **Join** button on the **Cisco Webex Meetings** notification a few minutes before class or the meeting will start.
02. The join button appears up to 15 minutes before a scheduled meeting.

Connect to Audio and Video:

01. From the **Select Audio Connection** drop-down list, select your audio connection.
02. From the **Select Video Connection** drop-down list, select your video connection.
03. Select **Connect Audio, Start My Video**, or **Connect Audio and Video**.



Share your screen so everyone can see:

01. Select **Share**.
02. Select the application from the list of open applications.

To Stop Sharing:

01. Hover your mouse over the orange **Your Sharing** button, if you don't see the red **Stop Sharing** button.

You're sharing your screen.

02. Click **Stop Sharing** button on the floating bar.



Whiteboard live with everyone:

01. Select **Share**.
02. Select **New Whiteboard**.

Allow others to write on the whiteboard:

01. Click on the **Participant** menu.
02. Select **Assign Privileges**.
03. Select **Participants**.
04. Tick the **Annotate** check box.

Cisco Webex

How do I join Webex for a parent/teacher conference?

The same instructions that students, use, parents may use as well. Please see above.

8/3/2020

When will I find out my schedule/teacher?

Our goal is to have each student schedule and teacher assignments by Tuesday August 11, 2020.

Will there be open houses?

All open houses will be done virtually and scheduled by your school.

My rising senior and rising 7th grader signed up for classes already. Will the virtual start affect course offerings and/or require them to register again? The virtual start will not affect course offerings and those who have completed the online registration process will not have to register again. If students chose the virtual option, the courses available may be more limited than the school-based courses.

Middle schools are on a rotating block. Will the weekly rotation apply to the virtual platform?

During the time of virtual learning, middle school schedules will not rotate. Class schedules will remain: A, B, C, D, E. Block schedule rotations may resume once school-based students are allowed to attend courses in schools.

Will there be confirmation of my choice of learning platform, Virtual Learning Academy or School Based? The completion of the virtual learning intent form that was shared by Dr. Nichols enrolled students in the Virtual Learning Academy. If this form was not completed, students were enrolled in the School-Based option. No confirmation will be sent. However, if parents are unsure, they may contact the school to verify.

How many electives are going to be offered? Please see our July 31, 2020 Reentry plan release. We are happy to announce we have over 100 electives at the high school level, and over 40 at the middle school level for our Virtual Learning Academy. Those students attending remote learning with a plan to return to school will have the same electives as previously offered in the spring so that their schedule may remain as close to their original elective choices as possible.

How will online learning affect dual enrollment? Students will still be allowed to dual enroll. Students who are participating in dual enrollment classes will follow the procedures set in place by the college where they are attending dual enrollment classes.

Will there still be class fees? Class fees will still apply, but these will be re-evaluated due to the current circumstances to see if they need to be adjusted. Class fees are not currently due, because of this.

What if a class I chose in the spring is unavailable?

The goal is honor as many course requests as possible. If for some reason a course was chosen and is not being offered, we will go to your registration form and select one of your alternate choices. If that is not available, you will be contacted directly to make another selection.

What is the district doing to support our families that may face hardships during the first 9 weeks? A community collaboration task force has been created with local businesses, nonprofits, faith groups, local governments, and parents to provide resources to support potential hardships. We also have created a unique email, emotionalsupport@madisoncity.k12.al.us, for students and families to use if they need emotional support during this time.

What will be the procedures for positive CoVid Tests in schools?

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is publishing recommendations for schools to use. These will include isolation procedures and notification procedures. Once published we will look to this recommendation to adopt our procedure.

How will substitute teachers work if a teacher is sick?

Additional permanent subs are being hired at each school who will be undergoing the same virtual PD training as regular teachers.

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.

7/22/2020 FAQ:**What led to this decision?**

The health and safety of our students, employees and families is our No. 1 priority. As we look at the COVID-19 numbers and trend lines across the community, we feel that starting remotely is the best decision at this time to meet that safety objective. Today's decision will enable our school systems to focus on providing a high quality education through remote learning while strengthening protocols for in-school instruction.

How will virtual learning be different than the spring?

There will be several differences. 1. All staff will be back in school buildings. This will allow more access and assistance for our staff to engage with technology tools, synchronous instruction, and classroom materials & supplies. 2. We now have a learning management system (Schoology), so that all curriculum can be managed in one system. 3. We now have an online curriculum. For more detailed information, please see page 5 & 6 of our July 22 update.

Will school-based learning be brought back?

We will evaluate the COVID-19 situation a month after our school start to determine whether in-school learning can be implemented. If so, there will probably be a phased in return of those students while the Virtual Academy for students who opted for virtual learning will continue.

How will the determination be made on when we can return to in person learning?

The main driving factors to determine this are: 1. the level of virus spread in our community, today, we are in a high risk area, 2. Recommendation from state and local health officials, 3. What percentage of occupancy do we have to meet, to safely open without the requirement of closing an entire class or school with one positive test result.

What will virtual learning look like?

The detailed framework and specific expectations for all of our virtual learners will be coming in the next few days.

Will more information on the virtual platform be available to parents?

There is a Parent Learning Academy section on our website being built. Here, parents will find information on specific curriculum, schoology, and other platforms that will be used to instruct our students.

Will the day be structured?

We intend to have as much structure in the day as possible, as well as, designated times for students to receive assistance in a one on one or small group fashion from their teacher. We understand that with working families, this may not be at an ideal time while we are all virtual. Therefore, we will have lessons recorded, so all children will have the same opportunity to receive instruction.

Will the Virtual Academy & School Based Learning that is starting virtual be different curriculums?

All students attending Madison City Schools will follow the same curriculum.

What is the difference between Virtual Learning Academy and virtual learning?

When we begin school on August 12th, all students will begin as a virtual learner. When we are able to phase back into having students in our buildings, those who wish to continue their experience in the virtual learning format will be identified as Virtual Learning Academy students.

Will my student have the same virtual teacher as he/she does when they returns to school?

If your student begins in the school based option, their original virtual teacher will be their classroom teacher when we reenter the classroom in person. If your student is enrolled in the Virtual Academy, and chooses after 9 weeks or a semester to return to in person education, it is likely, they will not have the same teacher. We will make every effort for your student's teacher to be based at the school that your child is enrolled in.

Will virtual teachers be Madison City School teachers?

Yes, all school teachers will be Madison City School Board employees, unless the student enrolls in an ACCESS course. In that case, the teacher will be a certified teacher in the state of Alabama.

Is schoology web or app based? What type of device is required?

Schoology is web based, and can be accessed by most devices.

What if I need a device for my student?

Device pick up will be July 30th. More details will be on locations and times will be coming. When you enrolled or reenrolled your student this summer, you were asked to indicate if you needed a device.

How does this affect the school start?

The previous staggered start for school-based learners on Aug. 10 is no longer valid. The new remote school start for ALL Madison City students is Aug. 12.

How will this impact sports and extra curriculum activities?

We will follow guidance from the Alabama High Schools Athletics Association and allow those activities that can be done safely. Our virtual students will be able to participate in after school activities.

Are Special Education services provided?

Yes, special education will be provided virtually according to your Individualized Education Plan.

What about children without an IEP or 504 that needs extra assistance?

If the child has been or qualifies for RTI or another program, this will still be offered to the child virtually.

Will students be fed?

Plans are being made for CNP staffs to prepare breakfasts and lunches with distribution details still being worked out.

I have completed the enrollment process and registered my child(ren) on the previous learning intent form. Do I need to complete any new form to indicate his/her learning preference?

A revised form, the [Virtual Learning Academy Intent](#), has been created that must be filled out by July 27. If you wish for your child(ren) to participate in the virtual option, you must complete the Virtual Learning Academy intent form for each child. If you prefer for your child(ren) to participate in the school-based option, there is no other form to complete. Changes can be made to learning options at the end of the nine weeks for elementary students and at the end of the semester for secondary (grades 6-12)

What about preordered school supplies at the Elementary level?

Each school that participated in the option of preordered school supplies, will make arrangements for pick up with parents.

Will there still be a fall and spring break?

All breaks/holidays remain the same as in the previously adopted 2020-2021 calendar, including the May 17 graduation and May 26 end date for students.