

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

I want to begin by thanking you for your support and patience as we have all traversed this first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. This fall has been a challenging time for all of our Madison City Schools' family. I want to thank our school district teachers, support staff and administrators for their determination and flexibility to make this unusual year a great year for our kids.

As we have reviewed the first semester, I feel that we need to make some changes for the second semester. While our virtual option is in many ways better than last spring, I believe the level of learning and accountability for students can be improved by incorporating changes, including the addition of daily synchronous instruction. Also, it is not possible to try and sustain a hybrid mixture and have our teachers try and maintain school-based and virtual in the same class.

Therefore, you are receiving this communication because we feel that all parents, after reviewing the new virtual guidelines, should have the opportunity to select the School-Based or Virtual Academy option for the second semester.

Once you have read through the following changes carefully, click on the [Second Semester Intent Form](#) to share your choice of school-based or virtual for the second semester. **If you choose virtual as an option, you will need to complete a new course request found in the Second Semester Intent Form. Even if you completed the intent form a few weeks ago, we ask that you please submit this new intent form for your student to participate in the virtual or school-based platform for the second semester.** You must complete the Second Semester Intent Form for each of your students (grades 6-12 only). **If a response to the Second Semester Intent Form is not submitted by 8 am on November 30, then your student will be placed in school-based classes for the spring semester.**

Due to the demand of scheduling all requested classes, the virtual classes may be taught by a teacher from your child's current school, or a teacher from another school in the district, an ACCESS teacher through the ACCESS* learning platform, or an Edgenuity** learning platform. Every attempt will be made to schedule Madison City teachers first for these classes, but we cannot guarantee that other options may not be needed to meet course requests. Students who are assigned a class through the online platform of ACCESS* or Edgenuity** can expect a high level of rigor within the class. These ACCESS* and Edgenuity** classes will be asynchronous, and students should expect the time demand to be very similar to that of a face-to-face course. Courses taught virtually by a Madison City Schools teacher will be fully synchronous.

Please note that when you choose for your student to be virtual or school-based, you are committing your child for the entire spring semester.

- 1. For virtual courses taught by Madison City Schools' teachers, students will be required to log into each of their classes and participate for the duration of the block. These courses are synchronous, and the times for the virtual blocks will mirror the regular school day schedule.** Students who do not log in for the duration of the virtual class block will

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be considered absent. Virtual courses taught through platforms such as ACCESS* or Edgenuity** are asynchronous so there will not be a set block of the day that a student must participate; however, students who do not log into ACCESS* and/or Edgenuity** classes daily and complete assigned work by the due date will be considered absent. If a student cannot attend a virtual class, then a parent note or doctor's note should be submitted to mcsattendance@madisoncity.k12.al.us. Current policies for attendance will be enforced (see Madison City Policies 6.1.4 and 6.1.5).

2. Students must participate in their virtual classes with their camera on and communicate with their teacher and peers during each block. Students in virtual classes may be asked to complete final exams in-person in the school building.
3. In addition to synchronous learning, students will be asked to complete additional work outside the virtual classroom, much as they would if they were a school-based student.
4. Once you have made your decision, students **will not** be allowed to move from the school-based to the virtual option unless the student or a family member is diagnosed with a high-risk medical condition. Information from your physician documenting this medical issue may be required. This does not pertain to students who may be quarantined due to COVID-19 or who may become ill with COVID-19; these students would still remain in their school-based classes.
 - a. If an exception is granted for your student to move from school-based learning to virtual learning, your student will be removed from his/her school-based classes and will be given a completely virtual course load through the Edgenuity** platform. Furthermore, your student will not be allowed to return to school-based instruction for the remainder of the year. Since Edgenuity** does not allow for testing to determine where your student is in his/her understanding of content skills, your student will be required to complete ALL coursework in each of the Edgenuity** courses. In addition, if a course that your student was taking in school-based learning is not available through Edgenuity, your child will be placed in an alternative Edgenuity** course. These courses will not be taught by Madison City Schools teachers; instead, Edgenuity employs teachers who will be responsible for teaching these asynchronous courses.
5. Students selecting the virtual option for the spring semester must submit a new course request form (See link above) because virtual course offerings will be limited. (See the attached list of possible virtual courses.)
6. Students selecting the virtual option will not be allowed to switch to school-based learning during the spring semester because course offerings and the pace of the courses may differ.
7. **Students in grades 6th-8th** who select the Virtual Academy will not be allowed to participate in any face-to-face offerings during the school day. However, in keeping with the current practice, these students can still participate in before/after school activities such as athletics and clubs.
8. **Students in grades 9th-12th** who select the Virtual Academy for the spring semester will be allowed to participate in the school-based offerings for performing arts, career tech, and athletics due to the hands-on nature, the performance aspect, or the inability to offer these courses virtually (please contact the Virtual Administrator if interested). Virtual students can still participate in before/after school activities.

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9. If your student selects the virtual option, he/she will still be a student at his/her current secondary school and will be held accountable to follow all governing rules in the MCS Student Handbook; however, schedules will be built by our Virtual School Administrator, Ms. Jackie Jennings, and all communication about grades, absences, discipline, etc. will be with the Virtual School Administrator (rather than the principal or counselor of your child's current school). Questions about virtual learning can be sent to the Virtual School Administrator: virtual@madisoncity.k12.al.us or (256) 464-8370.
10. Virtual classes may be taught by a teacher from your child's current school or from another school in the district. However, virtual classes could also be taught by a teacher from ACCESS* or Edgenuity**. Madison City Schools administration will determine whether a class is taught by a teacher in Madison City or through Edgenuity or ACCESS, based on the master schedule and available courses. In making these decisions, administration will first prioritize scheduling with Madison City teachers to teach virtual classes and then identify opportunities for ACCESS* or Edgenuity** virtual classes. Virtual learning in the spring will differ from the structure in place this fall so we can still provide a variety of course offerings for students; however, we cannot continue to ask our teachers to teach both virtual and school-based students at the same time.
11. Students who are assigned a class through online platforms such as ACCESS* or Edgenuity** can expect the same high level of rigor within the class. Although these classes will be asynchronous, the demand on a student's time will be very similar to that of a school-based course or a MCS teacher virtual course. For example, if a student is assigned all classes in the Edgenuity** platform, they can expect to spend 6-7 hours daily to complete their work. Students not willing to commit to the amount of time needed will not be successful in these courses.

These changes are being made out of concern for our students. Currently, many students are not performing as they normally would in a school-based environment, and we are concerned that many students are falling behind. We must commit teachers to either virtual or school-based so that our virtual students can have a full day of instruction and receive the support that they need in order to succeed. This change will decrease the number of virtual course offerings taught by MCS teachers but will provide all of our students with more individual support.

Our school administrations are working to build the school schedules for the spring semester. **To ensure the best opportunity for success for your student moving forward, once you commit your intent on this form, you will not be allowed to move your student from the platform you have chosen for the remainder of the second semester.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Nichols
Superintendent
Madison City Schools

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VIRTUAL COURSE OFFERINGS

The following courses are options for students selecting to learn virtually through the end of the spring semester. These courses could be taught by a teacher in Madison City Schools or through the online programs of ACCESS and Edgenuity. Madison City Schools administration will determine whether a class is taught by a teacher in Madison City or through Edgenuity or ACCESS because the master schedule and class rosters will be adjusted based on the responses received through the intent form.

Students should log into iNow to see their current spring schedule to help guide them through the virtual course request for the spring. Students should build their course request from the virtual course options listed below. Students should select alternate courses in the course request form because, as always, due to conflicts and constraints, students may not get all of the courses requested.

Middle School Virtual Courses Grades 6-8

Language Arts 6	Chorus
Honors Language Arts 6	CodeSpace - Intro to Python
Math 6	P.E. Grades 6, 7, and 8
Accelerated Math 6	Introduction to Visual Arts
Earth and Space Science	Survey of World Languages A (Latin, German, French, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish)
Social Studies 6	Survey of World Languages B (Latin, German, French, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish)
Language Arts 7	French I
Honors Language Arts 7	German I
Math 7	Mandarin Chinese I
Accelerated Math 7	Latin I
Geography	Spanish I
Civics	STEM
Life Science	Coding
Language Arts 8	Money Money
Honors Language Arts 8	Digital Publishing Tools
Math 8	Innovative Explorations (Gifted)
Algebra I	Public Speaking
Physical Science 8	PLTW Flight and Space
World History 8	
PreAP World History	
Career Preparedness	
Band	

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High School Virtual Courses Grades 9-12

English 9	AP Art History
PreAP English 9	AP Computer Science A
English 10	Accounting
PreAP English 10	Business Technology Applications
English 11	Child Development
Honors English 11	Marketing Principles
AP Language	Exploring Computer Science
English 12	AP Computer Science Principles
Honors English 12	Video Game Development
AP Literature	Child Development
Algebra I with Probability	Education and Training
Geometry	Family and Community Services
PreAP Geometry	Fashion
Algebraic Connections	Introduction to Engineering Design
Algebra II with Trigonometry	Cybersecurity I
PreAP Algebra II with Trigonometry	Cyber Security II
Algebra II	Orientation to Health Science
PreCalculus	Hospitality & Tourism
PreAP PreCalculus	French I
AP Calculus AB	French II
AP Calculus BC	French III
AP Statistics	German I
Mathematical Modeling	German II
World History (Grade 9)	German III
AP World History	Latin I
US History I (Grade 10)	Latin II
US History II (Grade 11)	Latin III
AP US History	Mandarin Chinese I
AP Human Geography	Spanish I
US Government	Spanish II
US Economics	Spanish III
AP US Government and Politics	Spanish IV
AP Macroeconomics	Beginning Kinesiology
Biology	Career Preparedness
Physical Science	Health
PreAP Biology	Test Prep ACT
Chemistry	Test Prep PSAT
Physics	Theater I
AP Biology	Visual Art I
Environmental Science	Air Force JROTC - Leadership and Science of Flight
Forensic Science	Air Force JROTC - Leadership and Aviation History
AP Environmental Science	Advanced BTA
Creative Writing	Sports Marketing
Psychology	Work-based Learning
AP Psychology	IT Fundamentals
Sociology	Software Development
Law in Society	
Marine Science	
Human Anatomy & Physiology	

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