

Good afternoon MCS Community!

I am so thankful to be back in the building for the start of 2021! I hope you had a nice break and was able to relax.

At MCS, we are aware that COVID-19 cases in the region are on the rise, which has caused reflection, much discussion, and a renewed commitment to our safety protocols when returning to school. COVID cases within MCS continue to be limited. Furthermore, the feedback we have received from the Essex County DOH has been overwhelmingly positive due to the safety measures we have in place at MCS.

Safety remains our highest priority in all of our decisions, and we continue to closely monitor this situation. Please understand that the changing nature of the situation may lead us to modify our decision on short notice. Therefore, if MCS has to pivot to remote learning, we will notify you immediately.

We remain committed to in-person instruction and believe one of the safest places for our students is school, where we can provide a structured and safe educational experience. We appreciate your partnership and your commitment to remaining open for in-person instruction in the coming months. However, we can not emphasize enough the importance of keeping yourself and your children home if they have symptoms associated with Covid-19. We can not overemphasize the importance of stringent handwashing procedures, proper mask-wearing and remaining 6 foot distanced. We need your continued partnership to emphasize and support this message at home with our students; WEAR A MASK ~ GET TESTED ~ STOP THE SPREAD.

Communication mandates around Covid Testing & DoH Quarantine Orders

Accurate reporting is critical as the district is held accountable for entering up-to-date information about testing and quarantine information into the NYS DOH Portal daily. Students, faculty, and staff who are tested for Covid and who are placed in quarantine by DOH need to inform the district immediately.

Process:

- Student is Covid Tested: Parent informs the school nurse that they are having the test and the results.
- Student is placed on DOH Ordered Quarantine: Parent informs the school nurse that they have been placed on DoH Ordered Quarantine and sends a copy of the DOH Order to the Nurse/Main office.
- MCS Faculty/Staff is Covid Tested: Individual informs the Superintendent.
- MCS Faculty/Staff is placed on DOH Quarantine: Individual informs the Superintendent who will inform the school nurse: Nurse will request DOH quarantine orders.

Thank you for your continued support!

Be safe.

Kyle H. McFarland