

Safe Return to School
Marathon ISD 2020-2021 School Year Information

Marathon ISD is excited to welcome our students and staff members back to school on August 24, 2020. Guidance from local, state, and federal officials and agencies have been utilized, and will continue to be followed, in the District's plans for returning to school in the 2020-2021 school year. The District is working to ensure a safe and productive educational experience for our students, our staff, our parents and our community. Below are the current plans for the reopening of the Marathon ISD schools. Please note that the details of this plan are subject to change based on updates with our community health needs, and any requirements or recommendations from local, state, and federal authorities. Thank you, parents, teachers, and community members, for your input regarding the reopening of our schools for the 2020-2021 school year, and we appreciate your patience and understanding during these changing times.

Marathon ISD will offer both in person and virtual instruction beginning on August 24. However, please note that virtual learning and instruction will look much different than it did during the end of last school year. The state's requirements for virtual learning are significantly more demanding on the student's daily participation for attendance and completion of work at home. Full-time virtual, asynchronous learning will require more rigorous attendance. Students must log in daily, and complete an assignment for each class, as determined by the teacher, and grading will follow the same district policy as in-person instruction.

- All students will need to register for the 2020-2021 school year. At that time, all parents will be required to register their child for virtual learning. Before the end of the first 4 weeks of school, the parent will need to
- See the Marathon ISD 2020-2021 school calendar attached at the end of this document for the most up-to-date school calendar.
- School hours will be as follows:
 - o Marathon Elementary First Bell: 7:55am Last Bell: 3:45pm
 - o Marathon Jr/Sr High School First Bell: 7:55am Last Bell: 3:45pm 2

After the first 4 weeks of virtual learning (and possibly an additional 4 weeks if board approved), parents will select one of the two following options for their children:

- Option 1: Full-time in-person on campus
- Option 2: Full-time virtual, asynchronous learning
 - o Asynchronous learning means the student and teacher will not always be engaged (instructing, learning, or completing assignments) at the same time. In this method, students learn through instruction that is not necessarily being delivered

in-person or in real time. It will include online learning through the Texas Education Agency's Texas Home Learning platform.

- o Students who choose Option 2 will learn at the same pace and with the same rigor as the students in-person on campus.

- o Students who choose Option 2 will also be required to log in daily for attendance for each class. Otherwise an absence will be recorded. All truancy rules still apply for students who choose Option 2—Virtual, asynchronous learning. Note: If a parent chooses virtual, asynchronous learning for their child, the child must remain in this option (virtual, asynchronous learning) for the entire 6-week grading cycle. Students will not be allowed to move between Option 1 and Option 2 unless he/she tests positive for COVID-19. Parents will have the option at the end of each 6-week grading cycle to change Learning Options. Parents must inform the campus of the student's change by the deadline listed below.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHOOL HOURS LEARNING OPTIONS

Grading Period Notification Deadline Second Third Fourth Fifth Sixth Summer (if applicable) The district will provide laptops/Chromebooks for all students, including internet access as necessary. If a student, who has chosen the virtual learning option, is experiencing difficulties with technology, the student will also be provided paper copies of the instructional materials. After the first 4 weeks of virtual learning (and possibly an additional 4 weeks if board approved), attendance and grading will be as follows:

- Option 1: Full-time in-person on campus
 - o Attendance—students must report to each class at the required time in order to be counted present for the day (Elementary) or for the period (Jr/Sr High)
 - o Grading—teacher, campus, and district grading policies will be followed

- Option 2: Full-time virtual, asynchronous learning

- o Attendance—students must log in daily, and complete an assignment for each class, as determined by the teacher

- o Grading—teacher, campus, and district grading policies will be followed Note: Students learning at home or on campus will follow the same grading procedures. Students who choose to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities, student activity groups and specific CTE courses must choose the in-person on campus option once in-person instruction begins. These extracurricular activities include:

- All UIL activities

- o Athletics including Cheerleading

- o Band

- o Academics

Welding

- Art
- Band
- Robotics
- Other CTE courses to be determined

All students and parents of students will be required to sign a waiver to participate in extracurricular activities. This waiver states that there is always a risk of contracting COVID-19 while participating in extracurricular events. During the first 4 weeks of virtual learning (and possibly an additional 8 weeks if board approved), breakfast and lunch will be available for pick up at the cafeteria at designated times. Students will not be required to be in the vehicle when meals are picked up.

General guidance:

- Monitoring the potential impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Presidio county and adjoining counties, and follow guidance provided by local health professionals.
- The Marathon ISD administrative team will be meeting weekly and will make the final decisions on whether the school will close or remain open based on the most current information. Campus Procedures:
- Staff and visitors will have their temperatures checked at these stations as they enter the building every morning. Temperatures will only be taken one time per day.
- If a student has a fever higher than 99.9 degrees, he/she will be isolated and then sent home until they are 72 hours symptom-free, with no fever-reducing medication.
- Students (10 years and older) will wear masks while entering and exiting the building, during passing periods, and while in line for lunch and breakfast. While a student is seated, he/she will be encouraged to wear a mask.
- Physical distancing (6 feet or 2 arm's length) will be enforced when possible.
- Hand washing and/or hand sanitizing will be taught and required frequently throughout the day.
- All students (Elementary and JSHS), who are able, will wipe down their desks and chairs with disinfectant multiple times throughout the day. The teachers and students will play a big role in the daily cleaning process.
- Elementary students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. Junior high and high school students will eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. All seats will be 6 feet apart. Students will wear masks entering and exiting the cafeteria. One person at a time will be allowed in line while getting food.

- All bus riders will wear a mask while on the bus, with some exceptions as determined by the bus driver and administration. All students will have assigned seats for the 2020-2021 school year. Family members will be seated together. Riders will be seated in every other seat. Positive Cases of COVID-19 on Campus:

- Beverly Dutchover, Marathon ISD nurse, is the District's contact tracing specialist. If we have a positive case, she will complete a contact tracing investigation to determine if other steps need to be taken.

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the district will disinfect the entire facilities prior to students reporting to school the next day.

- If a MISD staff member tests positive for COVID-19, parents have the option to remove their child from school in order to self-quarantine if they so choose. There will be no mandatory quarantine for anyone other than the staff member.

- A student that has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school with a medical provider's release.

- All quarantine decisions pertaining to relatives, families, spouses, or siblings will be made on a case by case basis.

Information for Staff:

- Staff who test positive must provide the school with documentation of current infection and will not be allowed to return to school without a medical provider's release.

- If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, or has a family member that tests positive, or is under a doctor's order to quarantine, then that staff member will receive 10 additional days of leave until December 31, 2020.

- If a teacher elects not to teach at school but he/she has not tested positive for COVID-19, personal leave will be docked.