

# Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools

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*Our schools are caring, creative, and equitable communities that empower all children to build on their talents and passions to grow into engaged citizens and life-long learners.*

## RETURN TO SCHOOL FAQ #2

In Person/Virtual

7/27/2020

**Q: Are you asking us to commit to a full year in our answer to the in person/virtual schedule?**

A: For right now, yes. This does have the potential to change, particularly at the high school level where the structure is very different. This virus will influence schooling until there is a vaccine. We are a very small district and are utilizing our entire staff in a different way to create these two options for families and faculty and mitigate risk as much as possible. We are also redesigning our in person classrooms, hallways, offices, and common rooms to accommodate students and adults. The rules and guidelines will not change for this school year. We are making quite a heavy lift right now. The same lift would be impossible mid-year.

**Q: I would like to send my child to school for two days a week and then have my child learn virtually the rest of the days. Is this possible?**

A: No. We do not have the capacity to build different schedules for each individual family in our district. We have also made a commitment to our teachers that we would not be asking them to teach both virtually and in person at the same time. This would be impossible to do well.

Schools that are choosing to do a hybrid schedule (eg. kids in school for a couple days and virtual for a few days) are typically making that decision because of their space limitations. Our K-8 buildings do not have such limitations.

**Q: If my family chooses to travel to a location where we will need to quarantine upon return, can my child join the virtual academy for those two weeks of quarantine?**

A: No. Regardless of in person or virtual, our teachers will be building relationships with students as they would any school year. Students jumping between options puts an undue burden on our system and the stability we are striving to create.

**Q: Who makes the call if school needs to close completely again?**

A: The Agency and Education in conjunction with the Department of Health will make this call.

**Q: If we do have to close completely again, does my child switch into the virtual academy?**

A: Yes and No. In the event that we close altogether, our in person teachers will move to the virtual world. At that point in time, our virtual teachers will have experience and knowledge regarding how to do virtual learning well and will help guide their colleagues. We have a culture of collaboration in MRPS and will support each other through another closure. Any closure will not look similar to the patterns of last spring, but will look more like the tentative schedule spelled out in [this document](#). Your child's teacher will remain the same for the entire school year.

**Q: Are there any circumstances a child could be moved from in person to virtual?**

A: Yes. If a child's own health or an immediate family member's health changes unexpectedly for a long period of time, administration will collaborate with families to make the best choice for the child.

In addition, MRPS staff will not be engaging in power struggles regarding masks with students. Masks are mandatory. With the exception of those children who cannot wear a mask because of a special need or medical condition, students who refuse to wear a mask will be enrolled in the Virtual Academy.

Parents are encouraged to reach out to administration throughout the year in the event that the choice is significantly influencing their child in a detrimental way. Administrators will work with families to remedy the situation. This would be on a case by case basis.

**Q: How will decisions be made for in person PODs should there be a positive case for COVID-19?**

A: The superintendent will collaborate with the Department of Health on the steps that will need to be taken in this event. There is the possibility that the affected POD (teachers and students) will go virtual for a small period of time and then return to in person instruction.

**Q: Who are the teachers who will be staffing the Virtual Academy?**

A: MRPS teachers will be staffing the K-8 Virtual Academy. Once we know how much staff we will need based on the survey data, we will determine who on our staff will be teaching virtually.