



First day of school set for Wednesday, Sept. 9

Marion Central School students and staff will begin instruction for the 2020-21 school year on Wednesday, Sept. 9 in a hybrid learning model that brings students on campus to attend school in-person for five days per week.

[Click here to access all of Marion's reopening documents](#)

“Students will have the opportunity to be in school every day,” Superintendent Don Bavis said. “This provides an opportunity to return to routines and have the same structure every day. I believe ours is the best plan out there.”

The plan, developed with several community stakeholders, follows the guidelines of New York State, the Reimagine Education Advisory Council and the New York State Department of Health and the health and safety of the District's students and staff is its top priority.

The plan features several new policies that allow the District to comply with social distancing and other safety guidelines related to COVID-19.

Highlights include:

Students attending in smaller groups

Morning and afternoon cohorts allow the District to follow social distancing guidelines while permitting about half of the student population to attend school at one time.

Health checks upon arrival

All students will undergo health assessments each day when entering a school building. The health assessment will include taking the student's temperature and periodically asking a few questions about the student's general physical well-being. If the student is fever free and appears to be asymptomatic, the student will be permitted into the school building.

If the student has a fever and/or appears to have symptoms associated with COVID-19, the student will be sent to a designated isolation room where they will await pick-up from their parent or guardian.

Masks and physical distancing

Students will be expected to wear masks and maintain physical distancing while in the hallways and entering and exiting classrooms. Students may be allowed to remove their masks when they are seated and socially distanced at the teacher's discretion. Students must wear masks anytime physical distancing is not possible.



Based upon consultation with the Wayne County Department of Health, the District will limit capacity on buses to one student per seat with an exception made for students of the same household or childcare center. Unless there is an approved medical exemption, all students and drivers will be required to wear a mask.

Hand hygiene

It is expected that students will exercise rigorous hand hygiene throughout their day at school. Hand washing for at least 20 seconds, frequent use of hand sanitizer, and not touching your face are all common ways to decrease the likelihood of transmitting COVID-19, other viruses, bacterias, and germs.

Food service

The District will use a “grab and go” meal service. Students in the AM cohort will grab breakfast when entering school and report directly to their classroom to eat. At dismissal, the students in the AM cohort will grab their lunch on the way to the bus, and eat their lunch at home. Students in the PM cohort will grab lunch when entering school and report directly to their classroom to eat.

At dismissal, the students in the PM cohort will grab their breakfast for the next morning and bring it home. Food service will include a limited menu. School administrators, the school nurse, and food service staff will coordinate and communicate regarding those students who may be utilizing food service and have one, or more, documented food allergies.

Changeover time

This will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon. During this time classrooms will be sanitized by the cleaning crew. Teachers will have their lunch. In addition, this time may provide opportunities for teachers to communicate with parents and engage in professional development and department meetings.

The 2020-21 school year will provide new challenges for everyone involved, but the District is looking forward to having students back and embarking on this new journey together.

As Bavis said in his note to the staff in August, “Keep your heads up and know that brighter skies are ahead. In a world full of dark be a light.”

