



Milwaukee Academy of Science

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July 22, 2020

Dear MAS Families,

The past several weeks, my time has been consumed with considering a variety of reopening plans with the assistance of our school administrative team, other area school leaders, responses from staff surveys, and the responses from your parent survey completed in early July. As you know, this is a difficult time, and I wanted to make sure the decisions I make for all of you and our MAS scholars took into account the latest research on COVID-19, guidance from the CDC, and Milwaukee's Health Department.

Reopening Plan

Today I write to confirm that, **per the City of Milwaukee's Health Department's current guidance, MAS will start the school year with a virtual learning program.** I genuinely hope that someday soon we will be able to open our doors to our scholars, but there are several factors that must be taken into account before we can reopen. We will monitor feedback from the Milwaukee Health Department and other sources and will strive to reopen our campuses for in-person school as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. **When we do, we plan to offer a hybrid model where we will continue offering both a virtual option that parents can choose and a socially-distant, in-person option with safety measures in place (ie. temperature checks, masks, etc).**

School Start Date

In order to start our year with the best possible virtual program, we need to make time for the associated professional development for teachers and preparation for parents and students. Thus, we are pushing our **first day of school back to August 31, 2020.** This also aligns our schedule closer to MPS' and many suburban districts. While I am very proud of the virtual program we carried out this spring, we are planning improvements to provide a more structured schedule, more live instruction, and, most importantly, parent communication and trainings to ensure parents know exactly what is expected of their children on Google Classroom and how to help keep things on track.

Back-to-School Registration

Finally, more information on our back-to-school registration process will be coming soon. If you have not considered updating your immunizations due to the pandemic, I

urge you to consider this now as we look toward the start of the school year. Most doctors' offices have revamped their operations to have quick, safe options for immunizations. Especially for those with students in 6th grade, there is an important immunization that typically holds up families for compliance at the start of the year. **I urge you to keep a close eye on your email, Dojo, and school social media accounts for more information about registration coming soon.**

Meeting Your Needs

MAS will continue to meet the needs of families during the virtual learning program. Our curbside meal program will continue this fall. MAS will continue to offer device check out this fall (ie. tablets and Chromebooks) to any scholar, in any academy, that is in need of one. Please reach out to an administrator or our Family Engagement Coordinator, Tierra Williams, with other immediate needs (text 414-406-8131). We will connect you with resources and intend to support our families through this ongoing health crisis.

MAS is an amazing place and I take pride in making decisions that I genuinely believe are in the best interest of our scholars and staff. In these unprecedented times there is no single right answer. We are working diligently to ensure the health and safety of our staff and scholars and academic success for each student. Thank you all for your patience during this process.

Have a blessed rest of the week and stay safe,

Anthony McHenry