

## Marlborough Elementary School – August 25, 2021

<p>Mask Wearing</p>	<p>All Marlborough Elementary School staff, students, and visitors, per the Governor’s Executive Order 13A, will be wearing masks inside the building. We understand that the requirement for masks indoors in schools is disappointing because we would all wish for this pandemic to be in the rearview mirror and no one wants to wear a mask. However, at least as of now, the wearing of masks is not optional in Connecticut schools.</p> <p>Governor’s Office and the Commissioner of the State Department of Education (SDE) outlined:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>In preparation for the upcoming school year, the Connecticut Department of Health and the State Department of Education are in the process of reviewing and if necessary, updating statewide policies requiring masks in schools. That policy will be released prior to the start of the upcoming school year. However, it should be noted that <u>until that policy is issued, Governor Lamont’s statewide mask policy and current orders in effect continue to require that everyone wear masks while inside of schools, regardless of vaccination status.</u></i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 5, 2021 Governor Lamont Press Release</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Masks will be required in schools through September 30th, per Governor’s Executive Order, unless rescinded or changed.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">August 9, 2021 SDE Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker in a statewide meeting with Superintendents</p>
<p>Mask Exemptions</p>	<p>As outlined in the Updated Guidance for the Use of Mitigation Strategies in Connecticut’s Pre-K Schools, <i>‘The need for a medical exemption for the wearing of face coverings of the styles recommended for use in schools for source control is rare. Medical contraindications to the wearing of cloth or other similar loose-fitting masks are generally limited to individuals suffering from severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) such as might be seen with cystic fibrosis, severe emphysema, heart failure, or significant facial burns that would cause extreme pain or interfere with the healing of a skin graft. These severe medical conditions will be rare in students or staff capable of presenting to the school for work or instruction. Mild or intermittent respiratory or other common conditions such as asthma, cardiovascular diseases, kidney disease, or other similar conditions are generally not considered contraindications to the wearing of face coverings.</i></p> <p><b>Process: Any requests will need to be reviewed by our district Medical Advisor before the school approves. Students/Staff will be required to</b></p>

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	wear a mask while the request is in the review process. If approved, other mitigation tools may be required, such as face shields.
Exception to Teachers Wearing Masks While Indoors (for fully vaccinated teachers only)	Per recent state guidance, fully vaccinated teachers may choose to remove their masks when delivering active/direct instruction when “in front of the classroom,” meaning at least 6’ away from students with the students seated and the teacher static. This can be particularly helpful to the delivery of instruction in the primary grades during phonics instruction. At this time, MES is choosing to allow this per the state’s Adapt, Advance, Achieve Fall, 2021 guidance.
Hand Hygiene	MES will continue to practice excellent hand hygiene as an integral part of our school day. Continuing from last year, hand washing / sanitizing will be completed after using the bathroom or blowing your nose, prior to eating and when returning from outside of the classroom (ie. recess, essential arts).
Cleaning and Ventilation	Custodial crew will complete a thorough nightly cleaning of the building, with special attention to high touch areas and bathrooms. In spring of 2021, rooftop air handlers were serviced and this summer - all classroom blower units were cleaned, and filters were changed out.
Staying Home If Sick and Notify School If Child is COVID-positive	Staff and students should stay home when they are feeling sick with symptoms consistent with COVID19. Please contact our nurse, Alice Mecca, if you have any questions or are needing assistance finding care or diagnostic testing. Please contact the school as soon as you are aware of your child being COVID positive.
Quarantine / Contact Tracing	<p>Each classroom will be their own pod this year (including 6th grade). Classrooms will return to a more normal look (tables/desks, carpets). Children may be working in small groups and will be able to work collaboratively on projects. In the event that a child in a classroom should be diagnosed with COVID, the entire class/cohort will be quarantined. The entire class will move to a remote learning setting with their teacher. The quarantine period is 10 days, with no early return.</p> <p>Other quarantines: Others will quarantine for 10 days, although they may end quarantine after 7 days with a negative PCR test on or after the 5th day of quarantine, as long as they do not have symptoms. This includes elementary students whose close contact was someone outside of the classroom (bus, outside of school activities, tier/enrichment).</p>
Essential Arts Classes	Children will participate in an essential arts class for a block of three weeks, having the same special each day for 40 minutes. All essential arts classes will take place in the essential arts spaces.

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Tier / Enrichment	Tier and enrichment services will return in the fall of 2021. We will use a combination of June 2021 and September 2021 data to create our initial structure. The tier / enrichment block will be between 30 to 40 minutes per day.
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Academy	Sixth grade students will return to our Sixth Grade Academy model this year, in a modified format. Sixth graders will move as a homeroom cohort to each of their classes/teachers.
Lunch	Lunch will be delivered to classrooms to start the 2021 – 2022 school year. We will reassess use of the Cafeteria at the holiday break.
Recess	Recess is a 30-minute block in the middle of day (either prior to or after the lunch block). No masks need to be worn at recess. Kindergarten students typically have a morning recess block as well – usually 15-20 minutes.
Visitors	The majority of meetings involving visitors will continue to be held via Zoom at the start of this school year and until further notice. While we value and miss visitors, our students are unvaccinated at this time and we are therefore limiting non-essential visitors. We are holding student/family events that are so important to our community (Meet & Greet and Open House with all persons masked), but keeping our building closed to visitors as the year starts. We will be constantly monitoring information from the CT Department of Public Health with hopes of having visitors later in the year.
Bus Transportation	Per current guidance, anyone riding a school bus will wear a mask (same as 2020 – 2021 school year) to and from school. The 2021 – 2022 school year will have bus seating return to our Pre-COVID approach of our younger children sitting closer to the front of the bus.
Drop Off / Pick Up	Drop-off and Pick-Up will be in the Community Room parking lot. Staff will be outside on the sidewalk to greet the children / assist them with getting out of the car. We continue to appreciate patience as we load / unload vehicles. Our little ones move quickly, and their safety is our total focus. With larger numbers of families dropping off / picking up, the line can get long. Please know that we work hard to keep the line moving. Specific details regarding the 2021 – 2022 pick-up will be shared closer to the start of the school year.