



# Monroe Local Schools

Superintendent: Kathy Demers ■ Treasurer: Holly J. Cahall, CPA

Central Office: 500 Yankee Road, Monroe, OH 45050 ■ p: (513) 539-2536 ■ f: (513) 539-2648

June 30, 2020

Dear Monroe Local Schools Parents/Guardians:

I hope that you have been enjoying your summer so far. We wanted to make you aware of our current plans for the upcoming school year. Governor DeWine and state education officials have indicated that Ohio's K-12 schools will be in session for the 2020-2021 school year. Monroe Local Schools have been given local control, with safety parameters in mind, as to how our district will return this August. We have been working closely with the Butler County Health Department to assist us as we make our final decisions for the start of school.

Our current plan is to safely return all staff and students for instruction all day every day with elevated safety, cleaning, and hygiene practices. **This plan is subject to change depending on ongoing guidance from State and Local authorities.**

We will be following the guidelines below to guide our planning and practices throughout the school year.

1. Monroe Local Schools will implement recommended safety protocols to the best of its abilities to minimize risk.
2. Monroe Local Schools will work with local health districts and community partners to promote safety in each school building and share guidance with our families.
3. Monroe Local Schools will be transparent with all stakeholders and communicate possible risks present with children and school district employees occupying school district facilities.
4. Monroe Local Schools recognizes the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations have individual differences and practices that may be adjusted according to the district/school needs.
5. Monroe Local Schools will work to the best of their abilities to maintain current school calendars and events.
6. Monroe Local Schools will follow current pandemic plans and communicate plans to staff and parents if school buildings must be closed due to illness.
7. Monroe Local Schools will revisit the safety guidelines regularly to ensure that safety protocols are met, and guidelines meet the current needs of staff and students.

More information will be forthcoming about our safety procedures; however, a few of our expected practices are noted below:

- Masks are highly recommended for staff and students when less than 6 feet apart.
- Student desks will need to be separated as much as possible with current class sizes.
- Personal hand sanitizers and masks are recommended for each student.
- Staff and students will complete daily self-assessment temperature checks at home.
- Increased handwashing.
- Limiting traffic in hallways.

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**Monroe Sr. High**  
220 Yankee Road  
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p: (513) 539-8471  
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**Monroe Jr. High**  
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**Monroe Elementary**  
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**Monroe Primary**  
225 Macready Ave.  
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- Limiting visitors to schools.
- Limited sharing of materials.
- No self-serve in the cafeteria.
- Assigned seating on the bus.
- Buses cleaned between routes.

At this time, Monroe Local School District is preparing for two (2) scenarios:

## Plan A:

Students/staff go back to school, in buildings. A full offering of five days of instruction on-site with safety protocols in place.

We are gathering further information/feedback from our parents/guardians who may not have their child return to school until a vaccine is available. We will use the information collected from this second survey to help guide our planning for a remote learning option for families who do not wish for their child to attend school.

## Plan B:

When in-person learning is not permitted, we will be prepared to deliver all instruction remotely.

*Please note: These options refer to our K-12 model. Our preschool requires different licensing and is not a part of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Our preschool licensing is derived from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) and procedures for preschool will be in accordance with ODJFS guidelines. More information will be forthcoming on our preschool return model.*

## Parent Survey Results

We appreciate the parent response to our survey regarding the reopening of school. We received 1,297 responses with more than 70% of parents supporting a full return to school. A total of 13% of parents support a remote learning model until a vaccine is available.

Parents top five responses regarding their concerns:

- Classroom and student gatherings
- Public health regulations not being followed
- Disinfectant availability
- No concerns
- Interaction with others

## Parent Survey #2

We are gathering further information/feedback from our parents/guardians who may not have their child return to school until a vaccine is available. We will use the information collected from this second survey to help

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guide our planning for a remote learning option for families who do not wish for their child to attend school. Please complete the following [survey](#) by Wednesday, July 8, to help us gauge the interest for a remote option in the fall.

## Remote Learning Platform

Based on our parent survey data, it is clear that the district needs to move to only one platform for instructional delivery. Monroe Local Schools will provide the instruction through the following Learning Management Systems: Google Classroom for all K-12 students. Google Sites will be used to streamline grade level and department curriculum, instruction, and learning resources. Zoom will be the platform for all online class times and breakout groups.

## Calendar Change for Professional Development

Our staff surveys indicated the need for time to collaborate and align for consistency and professional development on our district platforms and remote learning models. We are modifying the school calendar and designating **August 17-21 for staff collaboration, professional development, and planning. Students will now start school on Monday, August 24.** This school calendar revision will be approved at the July board meeting.

## Communication Plans

As we continue to plan throughout the summer, we will provide weekly updates to parents beginning July 14 and continuing July 21, July 28, August 4, August 11, August 17, and August 18. We will be sharing these updates via email, social media, and the district website. Our plan is to share informational videos and written guidelines on topics such as attendance, safety protocols, grading, instructional delivery, and expectations.

## Budget Update

We also want to update you on our budget and budget reductions. As it stands now, the budget reductions in K-12 public education are still speculative and we may not know any more until September or October. Our plans at this time are to look at budgets and continue to trim where we can without impacting our quality of education and programming for students.

We just cannot tell you how excited we are to have our students return in the fall. I know we will all work together as one team and each do our part for the health and well-being of our staff and students.

We hope you continue to have a fun and relaxing summer!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Demers

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