



Hornet Parent Update: July 28, 2020

Monroe's Virtual Academy
 Orientation and registration will take place for Monroe's Virtual Academy this week. Parents must submit the online enrollment forms by 11:59 p.m. on **Friday, July 31**. A link to FAQs about our virtual program is shared in this email.

Video of the Week

This week , we highlight some of the mental health services and plans for mindfulness each school day for staff and students.

Backpack Policy
 In the fall, we are eliminating the use of lockers at the junior high and high school and have added a new backpack policy at MJHS and MHS to our operating plan. In this email, we share the highlights of this new policy.

Questions and Answers
 The district has received numerous questions from parents about our reopening plan. In this email, we share a link to the YouTube Live session held on July 15 and our written responses to these questions.

Virtual Academy Orientation/Registration

Tammy Larison, our Virtual Academy Coordinator, held orientation meetings yesterday for parents interested in the MLS Virtual Academy. Attending the orientation was mandatory for parents who wish to enroll their children in this option. The online enrollment forms shared after the parent orientation must be completed and submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 31.

Due to parent requests, we have added two more orientation sessions on our virtual academy:
 Tuesday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93509944981>

Wednesday, July 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93043047076>

[FAQs - MLS Virtual Academy](#)

Hybrid Model to Start 2020-2021 School Year

On July 27, the Monroe Board of Education held its regular meeting and discussed the district's reopening plans. Superintendent Kathy Demers shared that based on the level of COVID spread in the community and current health guidelines and resources, she recommends Monroe start the new school year with the Hybrid Model beginning on **Monday, August 24 through Friday, October 16 for students in grades K-12**. Due to the already reduced numbers in preschool, they will reopen as planned. The Board of Education discussed this plan and fully supports the Superintendent's recommendation. Our top priority as a district is keeping our staff and students healthy and safe.

The district details the Hybrid Model in the 2020-2021 School Operating Plan. The Hybrid Model combines

in-person learning with online learning and is used if state or local regulations determine we require additional social distancing. This model will allow for a reduced number of students in the building while providing a combination of in-person and online learning. All students will be in-person two days a week. When at home, students will work on online assignments and tasks assigned during the in-person days. See details under the Hybrid Model on page 14 of the [MLS Operating Plan](#).

The district plans to resume in-person instruction on Monday, October 19. This in-person start date could change again based on the most current health guidelines from our Governor, Ohio Department of Health, and Butler County Health Department.

Parent/Community FAQ

The district has received numerous questions from parents about our reopening plan. We answered many of these questions during the YouTube Live event held on July 15. The links below to the YouTube Live session and the FAQ will also be posted on our website at www.monroelocalschools.com.

- [YouTube Live FAQ Recording](#)
- [FAQs-Parent Restart/Reopen](#)

Video of the Week

The changes to our life since COVID and moving into the new school year has created added stress and anxiety for staff, students, and parents. The district plans to help all staff and students this school year through mindfulness, which will be added to every student and staff member's day. Our video talks more about our music mindfulness moments and introduces our mental health services to our families.

- [Mental Health Video](#)

New Locker/Backpack Policy at MHS/MJHS

We are eliminating the use of lockers this school year in both the junior high and high school. Student lockers create a social distancing issue that we cannot overcome without making drastic changes to our daily schedule and instructional time. Our team has looked at several different options, and we believe this gives us the greatest chance of protecting our students while maximizing instructional time in the classroom.

Since we are not using lockers, we will be providing students with clear backpacks to carry their books and items with them throughout the day and into their classrooms. This clear backpack will be the personal property of each student who will get to keep his or her backpack. Families are welcome to purchase their own clear backpack. Students will be permitted to carry personal hygiene items in small pouches/cases in their clear backpacks.

Helping Your Child Get Used to Wearing a Mask

Some students may have difficulty adjusting to wearing masks and seeing their teachers wear masks. Below is a blog post from Nationwide Children's Hospital and a link to a video produced by Cincinnati Children's Hospital to help prepare your child for wearing a mask when they return to school.

- [Helping Kids Get Used to Seeing and Wearing Masks](#)
- [Masked Heroes | Cincinnati Children's](#)

Important Dates

July 31	Deadline for enrolling in MLS Virtual Academy
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August 10	Parents must update student forms online via OneView
August 18	YouTube Live Parent Q&A meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
August 24	First day of school (Hybrid Model)