



August 18, 2020

Dear MISD Families:

We hope you and your families are well during these uncertain times. Thank you all for your cooperation and patience during this Pandemic and the challenges we are experiencing with education, the economy and our community. Many of you responded to our survey, and we thank you for your thoughtful suggestions and recommendations for returning to school with feedback on the remote learning model. With the approaching end of our summer programs, and the anticipated beginning of our 2020-21 school year, many of you have concerns and questions regarding the district's plan for your student(s). During this critical time, as always, our concern and priority has been, and always will be, the safety and well-being of our families and employees. We have heard from many parents, who are hopeful, that we will be able to provide options for their children in returning to school.

In anticipating the needs of our programs, we began ordering PPE in late March including millions of masks, gowns, gloves, sanitizing supplies and equipment. Throughout the summer, we received recommendations from our building principals, teachers, paraprofessionals and ancillary staff on the type of (Personal Protection Equipment) PPE and equipment needed.

We have purchased an extensive variety of PPE including 7 million facemasks, sanitizing equipment as well as gloves, gowns and anything else that has been requested, including thermometers for protection and safety of our students and staff. Each of our buildings and staff will be equipped with the essential equipment and supplies. Our teachers and paraprofessionals will have extensive support as we welcome your student(s) back. Our transportation department will be sanitizing buses each day to ensure safety for all.

Last week, the Macomb County Health Department finalized their guidance and recommendations for all our school districts including the MISD on precisely what steps need to be taken to handle circumstances related to COVID-19 for individuals, classrooms or programs throughout the county. Those protocols are listed on the MISD website for you to review at www.misd.net.

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Many of you have been inquiring about the wearing of masks. We will be providing masks for our students and employees and will encourage, where possible, our students utilize this protection as a safety protocol. We recognize with our student population, we need to be flexible and take every precaution to protect the entire Macomb family.

Each week, we are regularly communicating—sometimes daily—to revise and make sure every decision we make is thoughtful and supported by medical experts. Last week, all 21 school districts, including the MISD, were in direct contact with Dr. Kevin Lokar, Chief Epidemiologist, from the Macomb County Health Department. Their medical team has assisted the MISD and the 21 districts in developing protocols and safety measures to provide a safe school environment.

While it is not required to take temperatures, we will be recommending that students be checked for any condition which should be reported to the parents and caregivers as we all make these decisions together. Should any of you wish to have your child tested for COVID-19, please refer to: <https://www.macombgov.org/covid19-canigettested> which provides information regarding testing here in Macomb County (some of which may be at no cost).

Everyone recognizes how difficult the decision to return to school is for parents and our employees this year given this Public Health and education environment. We are seeking your input as we move forward, and I can assure you that the organization is doing all that is humanly possible to provide you and your family with safe options to consider.

Every time I am contacted by the media, parents or citizens, I emphasize the importance that all school districts must give to special needs children during this 2020-21 school year. Based on the information that we have now, operating under Phase 4 of the Governor's Return-to-School Plan, we will try to give you options on some in-person instruction and support for those parents who may have another preference. If the Macomb County Health Department or Governor's office provides other information or changes a status we will obviously have to adjust our options. While we cannot guarantee each option will be available, your initial preferred choice is critical to our back to school plan for 2020-2021.

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Please be aware that posted on the MISD website (www.misd.net) are the following documents:

- The Board approved Preparedness and Response Plan that addresses the Governor's MI Safe Plan for Phases 1-5.
- A Frequently Asked Question and Answer document
- Macomb County Health Department's Guidance

SUMMARY

To summarize the important points of this letter please review the bullets below:

- A. We realize that the situation may change, and the Macomb County Health Department, as well as the Governor, could make a decision to move to a different status for our county.
- B. Based upon the Governor and the Macomb County Health Department's information, the intent is to offer an in-person instruction option as well as remote learning.
- C. We are planning to provide a phase-in option for some programs with adjusted classes and days. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.
- D. After your family's input is received **by Monday, August 24, 2020**, it will assist in determining your child's program development. Once the plan is developed, we will be in contact with you.

Please make sure you **click on the survey below** (and posted on our website) to complete the questionnaire through Survey Monkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTJBTPS>
Please respond by Monday, August 24, 2020.

Thank you again for your support, and we are available to assist you in making the best decision for your child depending on your particular situation.

Sincerely,



Michael R. DeVault
Superintendent