

Caregiver Q & A Board

Click on a question to find the answer about the first quarter of school and virtual learning

[En español](#)

Enrollment and Classes	Schedules Quarter 1	Materials and Curriculum	Virtual Learning Changes and Hybrid	Communication and Family Support
Can families opt for virtual instruction if we go to a hybrid or in person model?	How many days and hours per day can we expect from virtual learning?	What will be the learning focus, standards, or curriculum used?	What are the differences from spring?	How will families be updated each week?
Will students keep their teachers or get new ones?	When will we look at in person for our elementary students?	What will advanced learning instruction look like?	How are you seeing first quarter evolve?	How can families connect? Can emails be shared?
When we go hybrid, will students be with friends?	Will there be live learning instruction?	How are we going to get computers or devices?	Can you request families to be in the same group for hybrid?	Can parents volunteer or support the school?
Do we need school supplies?	How much screen time will there be?	Will there be a Social and Emotional Focus?	Will siblings be in the same group if hybrid?	Will we be getting any at home learning materials?
Can we do face to face meetings with teachers?	Will Specials be live?	How are you handling the different academic levels kids are at?	Could we utilize outdoor spaces?	Can school help with setting up childcare?

Can families opt for virtual instruction if we go to a hybrid or in person model?

At this point, there may be an option for some families to stay virtual if we return to in person or hybrid instruction. However this may be offerered district wide. This information will be made available as we know more.



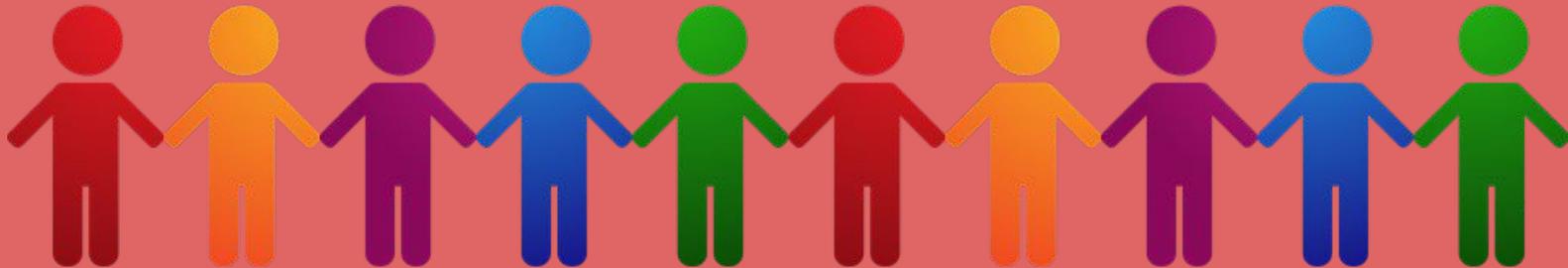
Will students keep their teachers or get new ones?

We will work to keep groups of students together when possible, and will work between grade levels to maintain relationships and foster new ones with both staff and students.



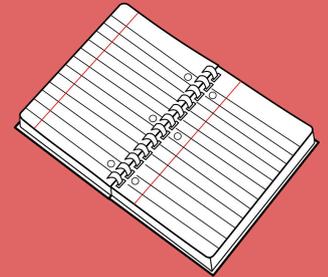
Will students stay in the same cohort of children?

We will do our best to ensure children are with other children they know and have friendships with in order to foster community.



Do we need to get school supplies?

Here is the official MMSD Covid Supply list if you want to take advantage of sales now. MMSD is working with community partners to put together home learning kits that will be distributed to any family who needs supplies and materials. More information to come.



For those who ordered supply kits from the PTO, we are working to develop a plan to get those to students prior to our start.

Can we do face to face meetings with teachers?

Right now teachers are not permitted to meet in person with children or parents. We will reassess as we get closer to the start of the school year taking into account guidance from Public Health and social distancing guidelines.



How many days and hours per day can we expect from virtual learning?

Students will be “at school” four days a week. We can expect a blend of live and recorded (synchronous and asynchronous respectively) lessons with about 100 minutes of synchronous teaching a day and some additional work that can be done independently. We will offer lessons for families to access on their own time as well. Wednesdays will be a fully asynchronous learning day.



When will we look at in person for our elementary students?

The district has confirmed virtual learning through October 30th (1st quarter). In a recent board meeting they brought up the idea of coming back in grade level bands, prioritizing the youngest students coming back first, but more information will be forthcoming and made at the district level.



Will there be live learning instruction?

Yes. We will refer to this as synchronous teaching. You can anticipate your child to engage in large and small groups with a teacher four days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). While your child will have a homeroom teacher, you can expect that they will engage with many different teachers over the course of each week.



How much screen time will there be?

This will vary based on grade level and days of the week. Students will engage in synchronous learning with their teachers and independent work using Seesaw on screens.



Will Specials be live?

Yes, some specials classes will be taught synchronously (live on zoom). There will be options for asynchronous specials access as well.

Specials include art, music, physical education, and strings for fifth graders. More info to come!



What will be the learning focus, standards, or curriculum used?

We will continue to use the MMSD curriculum used during the school year for Social Emotional Learning, Literacy, Math, and Science, in a modified format. We will provide grade level lessons with scaffolds and extensions for students who may need those.



What will advanced learning instruction look like?

Our Advanced Learning Specialist will be working with all grades to support extensions of lessons and differentiate materials. She will work with some small groups of learners in extending lessons or supporting talent development of students



How are we going to get computers or devices?

We are still waiting on information from the district about device distribution. We will do all we can to get devices into the hands of any student who is in need of a device. Contact Dana Prager (drprager@madison.k12.wi.us) if you would like to request a laptop or require support with a device.



Will there be a Social and Emotional Focus?

Our school strongly believes in direct social and emotional teaching and will be focused on fostering a classroom and school community. You can anticipate approaches to both goals in virtual learning this quarter.



How are you handling the different academic levels kids are at?

We will provide grade level instruction to all students with space for differentiation in small groups with a teacher. This could be the advanced learning teacher, special ed teacher, reading interventionist, ESL or classroom teacher.



What are the differences from spring?

There will be more expectations for participation, increased feedback and more synchronous (live) teaching each day. We will be more creative in fostering community virtually with students. We are working to ensure we are offering rigorous learning opportunities both on screen and off screen.



How are you seeing first quarter evolve?

We plan to start with building community with staff, caregivers, and students. You can expect synchronous teaching in large and small groups as the quarter progresses. We will begin with teaching everyone to use “see saw” the platform we will be using this quarter to deliver our content. Teachers will also be assessing all students in literacy and math.



Can you request families to be in the same group for hybrid?

Hybrid groups will be created later in the school year prior to our starting. They will be based on the oldest children in each family. MMUSD will assign families a cohort based on computerized methods. We will work with families to the best of our ability to support childcare and at home learning needs.



Will siblings be in the same group if we go hybrid?

Yes, MMSD Enrollment will prioritize siblings so they can be in the same cohort during virtual learning.



Could we utilize outdoor spaces?

Yes Van Hise will work to use our wooded areas, gardens, small grass areas, and parts of the playground into learning spaces.



How will families be updated each week?

Families can expect a newsletter from their classroom teacher with communication from specialists and other staff when appropriate.



How can families connect? Can emails be shared?

Families will be able to connect via Seesaw, and we will be using room parents as a method to connect classroom families. We will also look into getting families contact information soon after enrollment.



Will we be getting any at home learning materials?

We are still waiting on information about at home learning materials. We are working with our PTO to develop a system to support delivering items to homes. We will be able to provide limited materials to support paper-pencil tasks at home in addition to learning on devices.



Can parents volunteer or run clubs?

As of now, no adults, outside of staff, will be allowed in the school building. We will continue to identify Room Parents to foster community, and will be sharing more about the role of room parents in an upcoming PTO and/or classroom newsletter.



Can school help with childcare?

Currently Wisconsin Youth Company will be providing childcare in our school. They are offering scholarships to support access for all families. MSCR and other community partners are also running childcare in over 20 MMSD schools. Families may reach out to one another to coordinate child care and support others who may need support. As a school, we can share a list of sites, but do not endorse or recommend childcare.

