



## Muscatine High School

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August 21, 2020

MHS Parents and Guardians,

We want to take a moment to welcome you to the upcoming school year! We've been very busy behind the scenes preparing for your students. I want to forewarn you that this email is lengthy, as I want to authentically explain to you how we will be starting the school year. Please bear with me as I explain the nuances of the 20-21 school year.

I want to take a moment to define the safety measures that we are applying to alleviate concerns about Hybrid attendance at school. Masking rules will be enforced for students and staff, sanitization procedures have been put into place to the level where each room will be sanitized between classes, restrooms/cafeteria/library/Commons and other such areas will be monitored by our custodial staff and sanitized as needed, and each room has sanitizer that can be used by students and staff. Additionally, the Hybrid schedule has allowed us to create manageable numbers each day. Muscatine High School typically educates over 1450+ students, but under our new format will be instructing 550 students on a daily basis. These numbers are very manageable for us to serve safely.

As you realize by now, we are offering two alternative formats for the school year. We are offering an MHS Hybrid Model where students have onsite and offsite alternating days of instruction, and we have an MHS Virtual Model that is entirely online. While this is somewhat easy to say, it's been a challenge to align staffing to make sure that each option offers rigorous learning opportunities. We can optimistically say that the stars have aligned, and we are in a good position to begin the year.

Due to staffing constraints we are informing you that we won't be allowing any further changes to your selection of Hybrid or Virtual. What we will promise you is that we will continually evaluate your student's progress and allow changes if it's apparent the model you are assigned isn't meeting the needs of your family. Additionally, if specialized concerns develop along the way, we will take these circumstances into account and may make a change before the nine-week checkpoint. If these changes are requested, we are requiring that a parent/guardian meeting be held to discuss the situation in more detail. A change won't be made without a meeting being held.

The [MHS Fall Kickoff](#) with introduction of all fall participants and football scrimmages will be held tonight at the Muscatine Community Stadium starting at 5pm. Introductions will begin at 6pm. A communication was sent out earlier this week with all the details along with [Spectator Guidelines](#).

Monday, August 24th will be new Muskie Day, as well as our Virtual Learning Parent/Student Orientation Meeting from 4:30-6pm. New Muskie Day will be for 9th grade Hybrid students only and will allow them to acquaint themselves with their teachers and the building, prior to all the students being in attendance. While all 9th grade Hybrid students will be in attendance, they will be sorted into their A-L and M-Z cohorts for the day's activities. The day will begin at 7:45 AM and end at 3:30 PM. [New Muskie Day Schedule](#)

Monday, August 24th will include an orientation for our “Virtual Only” students/families. The orientation will begin at 4:30 PM and conclude at 6:00 PM. Specific information on the night’s activities has been emailed to those families and students that have selected Virtual Only as their preference.

Tuesday, August 25th will be the first day of school for Hybrid students in the B Cohort group (last name beginning with M-Z or otherwise approved). They will go through a regular day schedule with enrichment time being used for orientation information for upperclassmen. A Cohort group (last name beginning with A-L or otherwise approved) will attend on Wednesday, August 26th and have a similar schedule. Again, students should arrive between 7:45 and 8:15 AM, ready to begin their day. Approved areas prior to school starting are the Commons, Cafeteria or Library. The school day will officially begin at 8:20 AM and conclude at 3:30 PM.

Additionally, Tuesday, August 25th is the first day of school for “Virtual Only” students. Students that have selected this approach to education will work daily online with their virtual instructors. (They do not follow the A-B Hybrid calendar/schedule.)

Wednesday, August 26th will be the first day of school for Hybrid students in the A Cohort group and will be onsite, while the B Cohort group will be offsite.

Thursday, August 27th the B Cohort will be onsite, while the A Cohort group will be offsite.

Friday, August 28th, the A Cohort group will be onsite, while the B Cohort group will be offsite.

[A-B Hybrid Calendar](#)

Special Note: Fridays will typically rotate between A and B Cohort Groups.

As a special note, I want to reinforce that offsite/virtual days have required work. Attendance will be tied to the work that they accomplish, so a student not completing virtual work, will have consequences through their grades and through their attendance. Please encourage your child/student to set time aside on their virtual days to complete all tasks that are assigned to them.

We’ve asked staff to take the first week or two to get to know their students and reorient them to their new beginning. They’ve been out of school for an extended period of time and will need time to readjust to being in school. I am confident that the MHS staff will work diligently to make sure that your child feels welcome and that they are prepared for completing high school requirements.

As I conclude, I want to assure all of our families that we will do whatever we can to maintain the highest levels of safety and security for our students while providing them with an outstanding educational experience. We are truly looking forward to seeing your students/children next week!

Take care and “Go Muskies!!”

Mr. Hogenson  
MHS Principal