

Morning Star Academy

Back to School Plan 2020

We are excited to be welcoming our students back with in-person learning except Fridays where distance/virtual learning will take place to accommodate students amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Crews will clean and disinfect buildings on Fridays; no students are to be on campus on Fridays. Thank you for your patience and prayers as we finalized our reopening plans.

Our goal has been to open on time and to stay open, returning to as much normalcy as possible. We need to stay safe, comply with health protocols, and show care for all, especially the higher risk members of our community. To achieve a safe and successful school year, we will need the support and cooperation of our entire school community as we adhere to these new guidelines.

We intend to follow our previously published calendar and deliver strong academic programming. In order to achieve our goals, we are making necessary modifications. Through the guidance of multiple health and governmental agencies and our faculty and staff and school leadership. We have developed our plan to return to school while following necessary safety guidelines.

These guidelines and new protocols are meant to be flexible, practical, feasible and appropriate for child and adolescent development. These guidelines also reflect some modifications that are specific to various grade levels while some are applicable building-wide.

We can not predict potential future developments regarding COVID-19 and we will remain diligent in responding to new research and information being published by health officials. We will remain flexible and liquid to adjust to potential changes while maintaining our goal of on-campus education and online if necessary.

We acknowledge the challenges associated with these directives, but look forward to delivering the inspiring education and thriving community of Morning Star Academy in the 2020-21 school year. Thank you for being a part of the MSA family as we enter this new season.

Following the recommendations of Dr. Kristina Box (ISDH)
Believing the best thing for students is to get them back in the classroom; we've designed the following guidelines to promote safety and wellness for all students, faculty, and staff as we look forward to opening in August.

MSA Leadership Team will continue to monitor the most recent local, state, and federal guidelines to ensure reasonable compliance. MSA staff will receive training before the school year begins and will be given guidelines. In the event of a large spike, MSA will return to e-learning with a virtual model for a period of time.

New Procedures:

Entering/Exiting building doors

Picking and dropping off

Early Childhood Department will enter through Regular MSA doors. Sign-in is required for children 6 weeks-Pre-K

K-8th Grade drop off will be through Door A (Door by the alley by church side/currently using) map to follow. All students coming in late will have to go around and enter through the regular MSA entrance and report at front desk.

All students will have their temperature checked when exiting vehicles when arriving for school. If the temperature is 100.4 degrees or above students will not be able to attend school until being fever free for 24 hours without medication. If family has COVID at home, all children must be tested before returning to school. For faculty/staff check temperatures prior to coming to school each day will also be practiced. - if 100.4 degrees or above, same guidelines apply. Please see school guidelines.

Visitors will be allowed in the building for essential and critical school and classroom needs. As a precaution, a mask is needed, and temperature check will be administered before entering the building.

Students will wear mask upon entering building and mask should remain on until they reach the classroom

Masks are removed when in classroom at desk

Student desks will be spaced out as much as physically possible to support social distancing. Students will have assigned seats in each classroom

Student desks will be aligned in the same direction rather than facing each other

Each student brings his/her own mask (no mask/ no entering)

Regular hand-washing practices will be promoted, and hand sanitizers will be available in all rooms.

Fountains will not be available; water bottle are strongly encouraged.

Health screening will take place several times a day or as needed - temperature check/symptom monitoring in classrooms

Shared objects that are difficult to clean or disinfect will be discouraged. Teachers ask all students to keep belongings in individually labeled containers for use.

Additional cleaning precautions will be put into place through teacher, administration, and custodian collaboration.

Remember: YOU as Parents are the first line of defense. By sending your student to school, you are confirming that - each day -you have screened your student using the MSA covid-19 checklist.

Any student who tests positive for COVID-19, comes into contact with someone who tested positive, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 is asked to notify their principal right way. The student will need to stay home for 10 days. MSA will have frequent communication regarding any cases of COVID 19 within school families/faculty/staff.

There will be limited small group gatherings – modify chapel program work at individual spaces, and modified schedules for recess and breaks allows fewer students outside at one time for. Lunch time will be in the classroom and boxed lunches will be provided. As a reminder we are a peanut free building. Students with food allergies will be accommodated in the classroom for lunch as safe as possible. MSA will make modifications to promote social distancing and proper handling of all food and condiments.

In the event of a large spike MSA has develop a plan by adding additional technology assessable to students to stay on track should a lengthy time away from the classroom be required. This plan is also for any students who are ill or have to be quarantined. Every Student will be assigned a Chromebook Laptop for their schoolwork. Because Wi-Fi will be needed MSA will work with parents to provide hotspots but it can't be guarantee.

Afterschool care services will still be provided for pre-registered students in cohorts to reduce interactions.

Due to COVID-19, start of school activities, orientations, parent nights, parent social visits, and other events are being redesigned to avoid large gatherings. Plans will be communicated by each specific school area. Orientations slides can be found in the MSA website under parent portal.

Once again, we acknowledge the challenges associated with these directives, but look forward to delivering the inspiring education and thriving community of Morning Star Academy in the 2020-21 school year. Thank you for being a part of the MSA family as we enter this new season.