

Marathon Junior-Senior High School

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Ms. Holly E. Marcolina
Principal

Mrs. Rebecca Stone
Superintendent

March 16, 2021

Dear families,

Last year at this time, things began to shut down, lives began to change and the challenges we all faced came quickly. Now, a year later, things are still changing quickly, but in a more positive direction.

In early January, students in grades 9-12 began attending in-person three days a week. In early March, grades 6-8 began an additional day. As we continue to learn from our challenges and as we gain new guidance, we will be able to bring grades 7-12 students back for five days of in-person instruction starting Monday, April 5th. We will no longer operate on a hybrid schedule. Students will be either fully in person (5 days a week) or fully remote.

This has been our desire all along and a step toward getting back to normal. This shift is made possible due to a number of factors involving both transportation and procedures in the Jr-Sr HS building.

Transportation:

Front 2 seats - In the past, we have left the first 2 seats of each bus vacant. This was to create a space between the driver and the students as well as a buffer for those entering the bus. At this time, all employees have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated. In addition, in case of a possible Covid-19 exposure on the bus, as long as students and adults remain masked, students passing by one another when boarding a bus would not be quarantined based solely on the boarding process. By filling these two seats with students, we are gaining 2-4 passengers per bus.

Rerouting - There will be a need to reroute and reassign some students. Ms. Leber has been working hard to redesign bus routes. This will allow her to take some students off runs which would otherwise be too full and add those locations/students to different buses.

Reseating - Some children will have a new assigned seat. All students will need to remain in their assigned seats on a daily basis for contact tracing purposes.

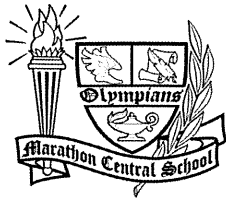
Appeals - If parents wish to change their mode of transportation to have the district begin transporting a student, they will need to file a written appeal. All appeals will be considered on a first come, first served basis and will not be reviewed until after April 14th, ensuring the new 5-day a week busing system has been implemented appropriately. Each appeal will be reviewed on a case by case basis, as bus ridership is different for every bus. Students who request an appeal to move from fully remote to in-person and are requesting bus transportation will also need to complete a transportation appeal. Appeals in this instance will also not be reviewed until after April 14th. All students will still be required to wear masks properly on the bus.

Parents will be alerted by phone about bus changes prior to spring break.

Jr-Sr HS Building:

Logistics - Construction of both the gym and library are complete. These spaces, in addition to re-imagining other spaces for student use, will allow us to have all 7-12th graders in person with appropriate social distancing. We will add individual student desks to the library. We are prepared to accommodate any increase in in-person enrollment by using plastic barriers and 3' social distancing in classes where we have reached capacity with our existing 6' social distancing. All students will enter/exit the building through multiple arrival/dismissal points. Sanitization

"EMBRACE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER"



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stations are located throughout the hallways and supplies are available in all classrooms. Students are required to continue to wear masks properly in school.

Meals - We have reconfigured lunch periods, including the duration of lunch periods, how meals are served, the types of meals offered, and the locations where students eat. We are discontinuing meal service at the end of the day. Fully remote students are still able to get school meals by calling the Main Office.

Scheduling - The daily Special Education program will be discontinued. All students will now attend their scheduled classes everyday. Specialized academic support periods are being developed in place of some study halls. To keep class sizes small and socially distanced, many teachers/staff members have taken on additional teaching periods and duties to make a 5 day/week return possible.

Mode of Learning Appeals - If a family wishes to change from in-person instruction to fully remote, or vice versa, please contact the main office for an appeal form. Once that form has been submitted, I will inform you if your appeal has been approved or denied. There is typically about a week delay with appeals as we individually make accommodations to student schedules and classroom social distancing. Please note that Mode of Learning appeals that involve transportation are difficult to accommodate. Submitting an appeal does not guarantee that it will be granted. Any Mode of Learning Appeal will not be reviewed until after April 14th, ensuring the new 5-day a week system has been implemented appropriately.

Travel Over Spring Break:

If your family is traveling over spring break, we ask that you review NY State's travel advisory overview (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>). There have been some recent changes and we expect that there will be more to come. Please be aware that all in-person students will need to complete the COVID screening questions and be symptom free to return to school on April 5th.

Marathon Central School continues to be a District committed to student safety and academic excellence. We will continue to make our decisions based on students first. I am grateful for the support of the community and the efforts from families and staff. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to a wonderful remainder of the school year with your child...in-person!

Sincerely,


Ms. Marcolina