



Montgomery
SCHOOL

2020-21

RETURNING SAFELY TO CAMPUS

A Road Map to Campus Learning this Fall

PLANNING FOR THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

Our planning effort began in the late spring as we settled into remote learning. A Reopening Work Group and several subcommittees were established for tracking and responding to the ever changing COVID-19 landscape. We closely monitored guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), state and local Departments of Health, collaborated with colleagues in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Association of Delaware Valley Independent School (ADVIS), the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), as well as our peer schools in surrounding counties, and engaged with medical professionals from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). This research and these conversations have helped inform us as we worked to develop robust and supportive plans to prioritize health and safety while ensuring academic excellence regardless of the delivery system.

Our decisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are guided by the following principles:

- Protect the **health and safety** of students, faculty, staff, and the Montgomery community.
- **Fulfill our mission** and **ensure academic excellence** across all instructional modalities.
- **Strengthen the bonds** of our community in new ways.

***We plan to return
to on-campus
learning this fall***

In reviewing all the available medical and operational guidance and assessing current conditions in the local area, we believe that we can reopen campus with appropriate modifications for health and safety.

PLANNING & PREPARATION TO PRESERVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We plan to return on-campus in a physically **enhanced learning environment** through modifications to existing health and safety protocols, technology, professional development of faculty, as well as creative use of schedule, space, and staffing.



Health Protocols and PPE Procurement

Following CDC guidelines, the core of our safety strategy is a strong partnership with parents to ensure that daily health screenings take place before coming to school and that students remain home when ill, maintain physical distance, practice good hand hygiene, and have procedures in place for handling any illness that develops at school. Additionally, we will invest in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and resources, including, but not limited to masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer.



Technology

We plan to invest in new technology for teachers and in classrooms to improve the experience for remote learners. Students in grades 2-8 will be assigned a Chromebook for their use when in school.



Outdoor Spaces

Our 60-acre campus is a big advantage for Montgomery School, and we plan to maximize the use of the outdoors for learning instruction and play.



Establishing Campus Wide Safeguards

To maximize the social distancing on campus and follow recommendations of the CDC, we are following these precautions:

- Maintaining consistent separation between grade levels during the school day.
- Minimizing movement throughout campus.
- Maximizing the use of outdoor spaces for instruction and discussion-based lessons.
- Making necessary adjustments in the classrooms to allow for appropriate distancing.
- Reconfiguring common areas to be utilized for class instruction.
- Minimizing shared supplies and resources.
- Establishing clear, safe bathroom procedures and expectations.
- Increased hand-washing and sanitizing throughout the day.
- Wearing of masks and face shields.
- Installing social distancing markers and signage.

PROVIDING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ANYWHERE

While we are excited to resume in-person teaching and learning, we recognize the need to maintain the flexibility to deliver our academic program remotely. Some students and families, who are considered high risk, may not feel comfortable returning to campus. Any student or adult who exhibits symptoms associated with COVID-19, or who is exposed to an individual who tests positive for the virus or is presumed positive, will not be permitted on campus until they meet specific health requirements, or they can provide documentation of a negative viral test.

We will be providing a flexible academic program, so that in-person classes on campus and remote learning can happen if health concerns, illness, or potential exposure prevents on-campus presence. We look forward to supporting all of our students, both on campus and off, with a challenging, engaging curriculum in the year ahead.

BASED ON OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Faculty and staff will maintain a **safe and healthy learning environment** by practicing social distancing, utilizing PPE supplies, and enhanced cleaning & disinfecting of workspace and learning stations.
- Teachers will receive additional training and support in Canvas to **enhance instruction, assessment, and feedback**.
- **Schedules will be created** based on the different learning environments.
- We will create opportunities over the summer for students and teachers/advisors to meet virtually or on campus to begin **building relationships**.



*We will provide a
flexible academic program
on-campus and through
remote learning.*



LEARNING SCENARIOS

We have formulated two scenarios: Hybrid and Remote Learning

Both scenarios are strong and viable for our fall return and the balance of the 2020-21 school year, knowing that COVID-19 will evolve in the weeks and months ahead. Our planning was informed by the following key areas of importance—**health and safety, program integrity, and personal connections.**

WE ARE MONTGOMERY

We value every individual learner. We will ensure all students excel and progress, whether they are learning on campus or at home.

We value relationships between faculty and students. Our hybrid program is designed to give homebound students the mentorship and oversight of caring faculty and staff.

We value childhood. The psychological and social effects of connecting with peers are of utmost importance. Synchronous opportunities will be offered daily to ensure student-to-student connections.

HYBRID

On-campus synchronous learning with support for at-home learning as needed



REMOTE LEARNING

HYBRID: ON CAMPUS SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

WITH SUPPORT FOR AT-HOME LEARNING AS NEEDED

While we plan to return to campus this fall, we understand that some students may need to stay home for health or family reasons. Our teachers will use the school's technology platforms to deliver hybrid learning to support the needs of their students. We will utilize our learnings and growing expertise of remote learning to supplement or replace many on-campus experiences. While not every on-campus experience can be replicated for students, we are excited to offer this option as needed to deliver on Montgomery's values for each and every learner.

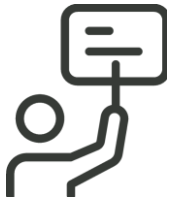
We are all in this together, and we will work with each family to determine what their child needs as the year progresses.

Our program provides outstanding synchronous learning on campus and the ability for students to reap the benefits of Montgomery's education and values if they need to be home.



HYBRID: ON CAMPUS SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

WITH SUPPORT FOR AT-HOME LEARNING AS NEEDED



Program Strategy

- The educational program will allow all students to progress and excel whether on campus or at home
- Teachers will use technology to have some synchronous instruction for at-home students and keep students connected to adults and peers
- Lower School teachers will keep home base classrooms with some flexibility
- Middle School teachers will travel to cohorts of students
- Specials teachers travel to grade level classrooms for instruction
- Chromebooks are assigned to individual students in grades 2-8 on campus (no sharing required)
- At-home learners will work with the school if additional technology support is needed
- Canvas set-up to support in-person and at home learners
- Chapel will broadcast weekly
- Middle School Athletics will take place as originally planned. However, if games and travel are not allowed, teams will continue to practice sport-specific training on campus



Health Protocols

- If ill, students and school personnel stay home
- Daily health assessments must be completed before coming to campus
- If a student or school employee becomes symptomatic, we will follow protocols and guidelines set by the state and CDC
- Enhanced cleaning & disinfecting of workspace and learning stations
- Hand sanitizer readily available; frequent hand washing encouraged
- Masks utilized when physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain
- Physical distancing where feasible
- Adequate stock of PPE (i.e. masks, face shields, and gloves)

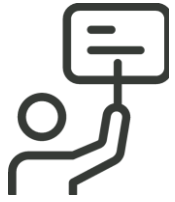


Operations Strategy

- Boxed lunches will be delivered to classrooms
- Lower School students will eat lunch in their primary classrooms
- Middle School students will eat lunch with cohort groups
- Extended Day/Afternoon Program and Enrichments to be offered with adjustments made for physical distancing
- We are monitoring and planning for busing/transportation issues. We will have plans in place, if busing is reduced; times are modified (affecting daily start times/end times for school); or contracted busing is not available for sports/games

REMOTE LEARNING

IN THE EVENT OF MANDATED SCHOOL CLOSURE



Program Strategy

- All students and faculty in remote learning
- Ensure continuity and quality of instruction
- Access to emotional and learning support for all students
- No group athletic or community events
- Chapel will broadcast weekly



Health Protocols

- Campus is closed with the exception of essential personnel
- If ill, personnel stay home
- Essential personnel will self-screen before coming to campus, wear masks, practice physical distancing and good hand hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning & disinfecting



Operations Strategy

- No busing
- No enrichment, afternoons or on-campus extracurricular programming

PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH & WELLNESS

We are committed to fostering a culture of wellness

Creating and maintaining a healthy campus environment is essential and will require the support and participation of our entire community. In preparation for fall, families can help reinforce safety protocols by:



Teaching Healthy Hygiene Practices

- Encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Practice coughing and sneezing into elbows, followed by handwashing or hand sanitizing
- Add daily symptom surveillance to morning routines.



Maintain Preventative Health Practices

- Continue regular doctor visits and well-child appointments.
- Keep immunizations and physicals current.
- Encourage daily physical activity and time outside.



Help Keep Children Emotionally Safe

- Ask how they are feeling and give them space to share and ask questions.
- Maintain a routine at home to provide stability.
- Reach out for help. Our School Counselor is available throughout the summer to provide support.

Teaching And Encouraging Health Protocols

- Visually show and practice keeping six-foot distance.
- Practice wearing a cloth face covering.
Note: Face coverings should not be used on children under two years old or anyone who has trouble breathing.

REOPENING TEAM

REOPENING WORK GROUP

TRUSTEES

Saroj Ramdas
Michele Long
Dan Goldsmith
Staci Williams Seeley

ADMINISTRATORS

Sally Keidel
Tom McManus
Jamie McConnel
Carolyn Blair
Susan Marotta
Paulsson Rajarigam
Marianne Kaplan



PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEES

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Sally Keidel
Tom McManus
Susan Marotta
Paulsson Rajarigam

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Carolyn Blair
Jamie McConnel
Taryn Conroy
Kim Baggio

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Sally Keidel
Jamie McConnel
Marianne Kaplan
Drew Cocco
Katie Sillup
Nancy Oddo
Carolyn Blair



Montgomery
SCHOOL

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

We've really missed having everyone on campus and are looking forward to the start of the new school year.