Dear MCS Community,

MCS is committed to the safety and health of our students and staff.  We are working closely with the Cuyahoga Department of Health and would like to inform you of our procedures and policies:

As we have learned in the past, there is no one mitigating factor that will create enough barriers to keep the risk factors at a minimum for students and staff. The list of protocols we have in place gives us a map for reducing risk. We have purchased air purification systems which are now in each classroom, Windows are open throughout the day for ventilation, and a professional cleaning company comes nightly for additional steaming and sanitizing. There is no 100% guarantee, but if we - students, staff, families, and the community - use these protocols to the best of our abilities we can and will stay safe and stay in school, in person. Furthermore, we are doing a lot of teaching outdoors on our beautiful grounds. ***By the way, have you seen our beautiful fencing encompassing the campus to prevent any children from going outside of our grounds? Well, check it out and thank Gabby Johnson!***

We will continue to monitor the situation and consult with County Public Health as well as local and regional health care professionals. Our goal is to always keep students safe first while keeping them in school without interruption. Should the spread of COVID-19 reach a level that warrants additional mitigation protocols, MCS will not hesitate to implement new and/or tougher strategies in a school building for the benefit of our students. I have confidence and trust in the MCS Community. Together we can finish the fight we started 17 months ago against COVID-19. In a school community of almost 100 students who are supported by parents, family, and friends, there are an uncountable number of beliefs and opinions’, tradition and pride have allowed us to continually come together in support of our students and school. At this point in time, respecting our individual differences while coming together as a community in support of the education and safety of our students has never been more important!

We have masks for everyone and anyone and they are highly recommended, but not mandated. Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. *IF YOUR CHILD IS COUGHING, SNEEZING AND NO FEVER AND YOU BELIEVE ITS ALLERGIES, DO NOT SEND TO SCHOOL PLEASE. WE ARE NOT TAKING THE RISK. TEMP CHECKS- We are not doing temperature checks.* Parents are responsible for their child and taking their temperature and knowing if their child is sick or not.

* Student **negative** COVID-19 test result.
  + Student(s) return to school following existing school illness management policies.

Student **positive**COVID-19 test result.

* + Student(s) found to have COVID-19 and begins home isolation.
  + COVID-19 POC starts a list of close contacts of the ill student(s) and informs staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure[5](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html#footnote5).
  + COVID-19 POC works with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of student(s) that had contact with the ill student(s).[6](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html#footnote6)
  + Parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts are advised to keep their children home (quarantine according to local health department requirements) and to consult with the student(s)’ healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test[7](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html#footnote7).
  + Members of the ill student(s)’ household and staff who had close contact with the student are advised to quarantine according to local health department requirements[7](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html#footnote7).
  + The ill student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:
    - 10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND
    - Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND
    - Symptoms have improved.

**How You Can Help if your child has been exposed** Continue to check your child for COVID-19 symptoms daily: fever or chills, new uncontrolled cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, new onset of severe headache.

* If NO symptoms develop, your child may continue to attend school and extracurricular activities.
* If your child does develop symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, they should isolate at home. Contact their health care provider and notify the school office.
* Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 Care Line at 1-800-720-9616.

Thank you for helping to keep people safe and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community and school. If you have any questions, please contact MCS.

Mrs. Nina M. Casterline

Administrative Director