



2023-2024 Safe Return & Continuity of Services

Maryetta Public School

470819 E. 810 Road, Stilwell OK 74960

918-696-2285

PROTECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

The following guidelines are shared with our school communities, including students, families, and staff, in an effort to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Over the past few years, representatives from the various district's stakeholder groups, as well as leaders in specialized areas of the school district's service areas, have been researching the constantly evolving literature from the education, medical, and public health sectors. The goal has been to create carefully layered, flexible, and developmentally appropriate practices that will ensure the strongest advice given by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): *All policy considerations for the school year have a goal of students being physically present in school.*

A host of reasons support this AAP recommendation, from the importance of in-person learning to the damage of social isolation; and Maryetta Public School is in complete agreement. The truth remains, however, that ensuring this goal will require all of us to work together.

The information presented in this document is shared so that our district community can begin the school year with a shared understanding of our responsibility regarding COVID-19. We know we cannot eliminate the virus; but with wise choices and layers of protection we can mitigate it.

The CDC, Oklahoma State Health Department and Cherokee Nation Health Services recommend everyone six(6) months and older get the COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccinations are readily available through the Adair Co. Health Dept. and Cherokee Nation Health Services. Our school nurse can help answer any questions regarding the vaccination and recommend services.

Plans below are subject to change as new information becomes available or as new situations arise related to COVID-19.

LAYERED MITIGATION PRACTICES

SCREENING AND MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS – Students and staff who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as a severe cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhea, should stay home. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. If symptoms persist or worsen you should seek medical attention.

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE - Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Signage is posted throughout the buildings as a reminder to wash hands often. Students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating. Students will also have access to an alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the school building when hand-washing opportunities are not readily available.

SCHOOL CLEANING/VENTILATION PRACTICES - High-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected multiple times throughout the day by the site custodial staff and/or grade-level teachers/assistants. Portable disinfectant foggers are used to sanitize surfaces and large areas. Air purifiers have been purchased for all classrooms and common areas.

Increasing circulation of outdoor air/ventilation is an ongoing priority to help contain the spread of COVID-19. Air purifiers have been installed in every classroom and office. MERV-13 filters have been installed in all HVAC systems to help reduce the risk of airborne spread of viruses.

Classroom teachers will intermittently open doors to allow for fresh air to circulate in their rooms and are encouraged to take their devices and hot spots to utilize outdoor classroom areas.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

As students arrive at school in the morning, they will be dropped off in grade band locations. Students will not be gathered in large groups to wait for their school day to begin. All parents will be encouraged to remain in their cars and drive through the drop-off line to ensure a safe exit from and entrance into their family vehicles. While awaiting dismissal, students will return to their grade band locations. Below is the chart to indicate where your student will be dropped off / picked-up:

Morning Drop Off: 6:30 a.m.- 8:15 a.m. **Afternoon Pick-Up:** 3:00 p.m. -3:15 p.m.

GRADE LEVEL:	Designated Pick-up/Drop off Area:
Preschool 3 & 4's	EAST Preschool Porch Area (look for DARK BLUE banner) *Afternoon pickup begins at 2:50 p.m.
Kindergarten	WEST Preschool Lobby Doors (look for RED banner) *Afternoon pickup begins at 2:50 p.m.
1 st Grade	Pool Doors by the Flag Poles (look for WHITE banner)
2 nd Grade	Boys & Girls Club West Entrance (look for BLACK banner)
3 rd Grade	
4th Grade	West Preschool <u>Parking Lot</u> (look for YELLOW banner)
5th Grade	
6th, 7th & 8th Grades	Activity Center Front Lobby Area (look for LIGHT BLUE banner) *Morning drop off at 6:30 a.m.- 7:45 a.m. *<u>Afternoon</u> pickup at <u>Jr. High Bldg</u> beginning at 3:00 p.m.

BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

Before and After Care programs in each building will follow the guidelines established by MPS. If you are wanting your child to be a part of the extended day program, they will be given enrollment documents with further instructions of how to proceed. These extended day services will provide tutoring, STEAM programming, social-emotional mentoring, physical education, healthy snacks and much more.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students will wash hands prior to eating. MPS has completed a cafeteria expansion providing an additional 120 seat capacity. Students will be seated in grade bands for breakfast and lunch. Students in Pre-Kindergarten will be eating in their classrooms and classroom teachers will establish meal procedures

SUPPLIES

The district will provide each student with his/her own clear, plastic box with supplies. Sharing of supplies such as crayons, markers, scissors and pencils is discouraged. Any manipulatives needed for instructional purposes will be sanitized prior to use for students.

RECESS

Each grade level classroom will develop a recess schedule that allows daily outdoor playtime for all students.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

If a teacher suspects that a student may have COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will sent to the school nurse. Parents or guardians will be contacted to pick up their child if symptoms are severe.

ONSITE COVID-19 TESTING

No onsite COVID-19 testing will be given for students or staff.

DIAGNOSES & RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19

- ❖ MPS encourages staff and students to see their primary care physician or health clinic for COVID-19 testing and quarantine guidance.
- ❖ For more information regarding COVID-19 guidelines, visit the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>
- ❖ If your child is out sick for three or more days, they will need a doctor's note to return and to be excused for days absent.

As always, be sure to call the school or contact your child's teacher to report **any** absences.

WATER FOUNTAINS

The entire school now has water bottle filling stations available to students and faculty. Students and staff are encouraged to bring water bottles or other non-breakable water containers to school with them. Classroom teachers will have their own procedures for water bottle sanitation and cleaning.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/SPORTS

Extra and co-curricular activities such as band, PE, athletics of all descriptions, and Service & Leadership are vital elements of an elementary student's experience. Research is ongoing by the Organization of Rural Elementary Schools (ORES), Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to help us know and apply the best precautions to take in order to protect our students and staff involved in extracurricular activities. Our hope is that fans will be able to enjoy a comparatively healthy setting by following safety precautions set forth by the school district.

Open House, Family Engagement Activities, Parent Orientation & Parent-Teacher Conferences

The district will host an Open House on August 9, 2023 informing students of their classroom assignments, answer questions about enrollment, share digital resource information, designated drop off/pick up areas, extended day procedures, class schedules and much more!

Parent / Teacher conferences will be held in October and March. Parents will be contacted by their students' teacher for more information and time slots for the conferences.

Family Literacy Engagement Nights will be hosted throughout the year. Parent participation is highly encouraged.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

For the 2023-2024 school year, new families to our district may contact the front office to obtain an enrollment packet for students in Preschool through the eighth grade. Returning students will receive an enrollment packet on the first day of school.

SCHOOL TRANSFERS

With the enactment of Senate Bill 783 (2021), the Legislature made comprehensive reforms to Oklahoma's school transfer laws, namely revising the requirements for accepting and denying student transfers and requiring school districts to set and list enrollment capacities on their websites. These changes, among others, go into effect January 1, 2022, and make students eligible to request a transfer to any district in the state, regardless of where they live.

Parents/guardians can access information related to school transfers along with a transfer application on the school website. www.maryetta.k12.ok.us

IMMUNIZATIONS

For school enrollment, a parent or guardian shall provide one of the following:

1. Current, up-to-date immunization records; or
2. A completed and signed exemption form.

SPECIAL EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

All accommodations and modifications that are made to ensure a safe return to school for general education students will be in place for students with disabilities or requiring special education/professional services. Students with specific learning plans, receiving speech and language services and/or who suffer with any disability will have included in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) a contingency plan regarding remote and distance learning.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL and MENTAL HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the well-being and mental health of students, families, teachers and school staff. The district realizes the importance of having in place mental health supports, social and emotional learning experiences and safety procedures to reduce anxiety related to crisis situations caused by the pandemic. Maryetta will provide Second-Step SEL enrichment classes for all grades as well as provide access for all students and families to report mental health or safety issues to administration by using the STOP It! app. Plus, district staff will be given training in Olweus Bullying Prevention and Rave Panic Button

to report crisis or threatening situations. Maryetta School will provide counseling services, a School Psychologist, a Family Engagement Specialist, Family Liaison, a School Based Specialist/social worker and a school nurse. Above all, the district board of education and administration believe that by meeting the social/emotional and mental health needs of students, families and school staff, we will aid in addressing students' academic needs or learning loss due to COVID-19. It is impossible to improve or move forward into the 2023-2024 school year without first addressing essential basic needs of each of our members within the Maryetta community.

FINAL NOTE

Maryetta Public School understands that information surrounding COVID-19 continues to rapidly evolve. We will continue to take a measured and flexible approach to ensure we adapt to situations as new information arises. Simply put, we will adapt to changes and plan accordingly throughout this school year. We are grateful to begin school and are planning for a positive, productive year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Ms. Lori Means (Superintendent) at 918.797.0208 or 918.696.2285 Ext. 3000
Mrs. Carlene Yell (Principal) at 918.797.0238 or 918.696.2285 Ext. 3010