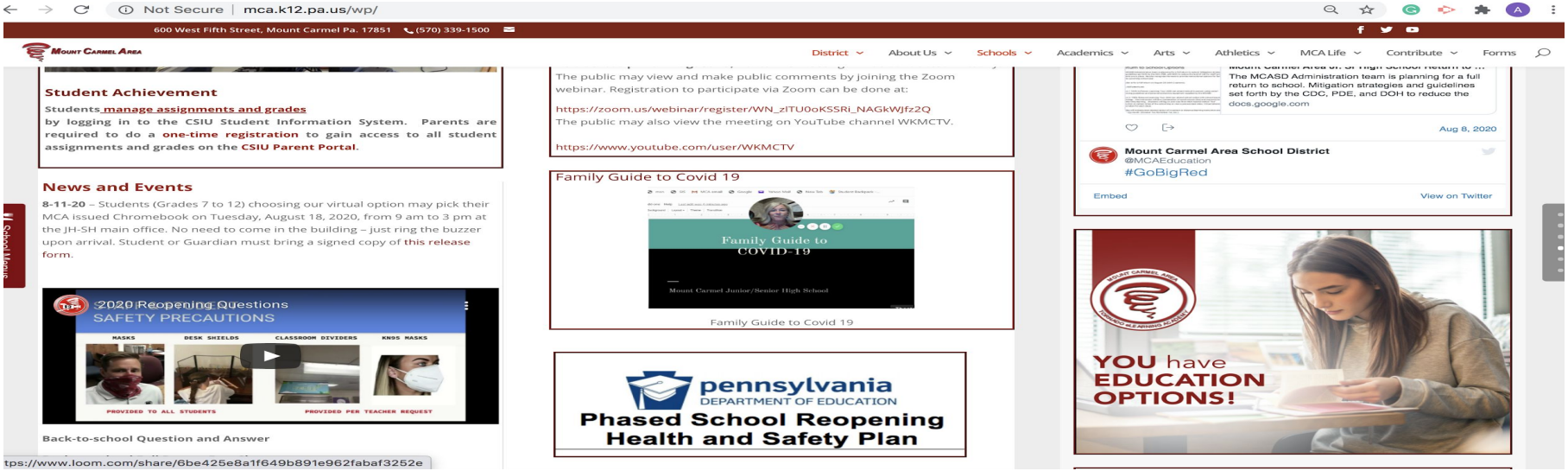
Mount Carmel Area Superintendent Update

School Board Back to School Update
August 13, 2020

Health and Safety Plan

- The MCA Health and Safety Plan has been developed based on the District's capability to follow the state, local and federal guidelines to the best of our ability; however, ***the plan is developed to reduce the level of risk, but does not completely eliminate risks and exposure.***
- Our plan is found on our main website.
- The plan will be updated based on new information from local, state, and federal guidelines.



Newest guidance

- We have been planning all summer for things to change at a moments notice and they did on Monday, August 10th.
- PDE and PA DOH guidance to schools:

  https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/Pages/DeterminingInstructionalModels.aspx

- “Determining Instructional Models During the COVID 19 Pandemic” was issued
- Guidance will be updated weekly
- We will watch this data closely and make the best decision for our learning community

How does this change "Back to School" for MCA

TRANSITION-HYBRID SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August 24	**August 25**	**August 26**	**August 27**	**August 28**
Students Last Name (A-L) In person Students Last Name (M-Z) Virtual	Students Last Name (A-L) In person Students Last Name (M-Z) Virtual	Students Last Name (A-L) Virtual Students Last Name (M-Z) In Person	Students Last Name (A-L) Virtual Students Last Name (M-Z) In Person	ALL STUDENTS VIRTUAL
August 31	**September 1**	**September 2**	**September 3**	**September 4**
All students return (Those choosing virtual will work at home remotely)	All students return (Those choosing virtual will work at home remotely)	All students return (Those choosing virtual will work at home remotely)	All students return (Those choosing virtual will work at home remotely)	All students return (Those choosing virtual will work at home remotely)

**** *Families with multiple last names within household may attend on August 24 and 25*

**** *All students in Pre K, K and 1 are in session on August 24, 25, 26 and 27*

**** *IEP/GIEP students are encouraged and welcome to attend August 24, 25, 26 and 27.*

Monday, August 31st - Full return of all Students (Families can still choose coming in person vs. virtual learning)

Can I still choose to keep my child at home and learn virtually?

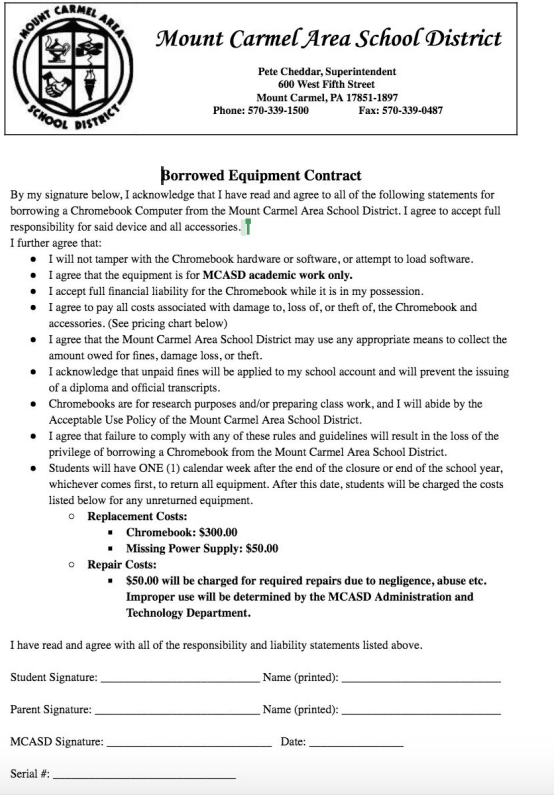
- Yes.
- Parent/Guardian can still choose to keep their child at home. We will ask for your decision every 1st of the month (October 1, November 1, etc.)
- Student will log on for live synchronous instruction daily
- Asynchronous options will be available
- Assignments will be completed within 24 hours for attendance purposes.
- Grades 7 to 12 Chromebook distribution (for virtual students only) will be o Tuesday, August 18 from 9am to 3pm at the JH-SH main office.
- Elementary Virtual Students will be contacted individually.

Will we still be using “synchronous” learning option for those that pick “virtual instruction?”

- Yes.
- All classrooms will be “live” and have “synchronous” and “asynchronous” options for students to complete their work.
- IMPORTANT! We are awaiting shipment of our Chromebook Order that was place in June.
- When order arrives fully - Grades 5 to 12 will have their own personal Chromebook.
- Grades K - 4 will have classroom level carts.

Grade 7 to 12 virtual students make pick up their MCA issued Chromebook on August 18th between 9am and 3pm.

Elementary aged students will be contacted individually.



Mount Carmel Area School District

Pete Cheddar, Superintendent
600 West Fifth Street
Mount Carmel, PA 17851-1897
Phone: 570-339-1500 Fax: 570-339-0487

Borrowed Equipment Contract

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to all of the following statements for borrowing a Chromebook Computer from the Mount Carmel Area School District. I agree to accept full responsibility for said device and all accessories.

I further agree that:

- I will not tamper with the Chromebook hardware or software, or attempt to load software.
- I agree that the equipment is for **MCASD academic work only.**
- I accept full financial liability for the Chromebook while it is in my possession.
- I agree to pay all costs associated with damage to, loss of, or theft of, the Chromebook and accessories. (See pricing chart below)
- I agree that the Mount Carmel Area School District may use any appropriate means to collect the amount owed for fines, damage loss, or theft.
- I acknowledge that unpaid fines will be applied to my school account and will prevent the issuing of a diploma and official transcripts.
- Chromebooks are for research purposes and/or preparing class work, and I will abide by the Acceptable Use Policy of the Mount Carmel Area School District.
- I agree that failure to comply with any of these rules and guidelines will result in the loss of the privilege of borrowing a Chromebook from the Mount Carmel Area School District.
- Students will have ONE (1) calendar week after the end of the closure or end of the school year, whichever comes first, to return all equipment. After this date, students will be charged the costs listed below for any unreturned equipment.
  - **Replacement Costs:**
    - **Chromebook: $300.00**
    - **Missing Power Supply: $50.00**
  - **Repair Costs:**
    - **$50.00 will be charged for required repairs due to negligence, abuse etc. Improper use will be determined by the MCASD Administration and Technology Department.**

I have read and agree with all of the responsibility and liability statements listed above.

Student Signature: _____ Name (printed): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Name (printed): _____

MCASD Signature: _____ Date: _____

Serial #: _____

What is new concerning attendance?

- Attendance will be tracked as normal for in person instruction during hybrid days.
- Students attending virtually will be tracked by attending live (synchronous) or by viewing lesson recordings and completing daily assignments (every 24 hours.)
- If absent - the student can attend virtually (if possible.)
- Notes are still expected when absent
- We will ask families to update us by the 1st of every month their schooling choice (in person or virtual.)

Start Time in JH-SH and Elementary

JH-SH

- Doors open at 7:30am in the JH-SH
- Must be present by 7:42am
- 2:05 dismissal

ELEMENTARY

- Doors open at 8:50am
- Must be present by 9:10
- Pre K Counts: 8:45 - 2pm

- Bus Transportation times will be on our main website.

Important!

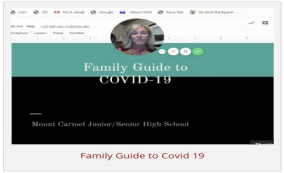
NEWS AND EVENTS

8-7-20 – Mount Carmel Area School District's August School Board meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on August 13, 2020. The meeting will be conducted virtually. The public may view and make public comments by joining the Zoom webinar. Registration to participate via Zoom can be done at:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zlTU0oKSSRi_NAGkWJfz2Q

The public may also view the meeting on YouTube channel WKMCTV.

https://www.youtube.com/user/WKMCTV



Family Guide to Covid 19

- Parents and Guardians will complete a screening for their children each morning.
- See Mrs. Ryan's video on our main website!
- CDC Guidelines Updated July 23, 2020
- Keep your child home if sick
- School must have updated and current contact information!

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html

Daily Home Screening for Students

Parents: Please complete this short check each morning and report your child's information [INSERT YOUR SCHOOL REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS] in the morning before your child leaves for school.

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

☐	Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
☐	Sore throat;
☐	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/ asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
☐	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
☐	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

☐	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
☐	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2; OR
☐	Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the Community Mitigation Framework
☐	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/ asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
☐	Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the Community Mitigation Framework) while the school remains open

What's new?

- Students may carry water bottles
- Students can use clear or mesh backpacks only (to limit locker usage)
- Desk Shields will be given to students on the 1st day of school. Shields do not go home! It is the student responsibility to keep the shield in their homeroom.

What's new?

The MCASD Board of Directors and Administration recognize the need to **temporarily** relax the school dress code during the current COVID Pandemic. The following will apply at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

- Students will not be required to adhere to the Dress Code Guidelines to start the year.
- Students will follow current Dress Down Day guidelines on a daily basis.
- **This change will only be in effect for the duration of the Pandemic. When the Pandemic Crisis ends, all students will need to comply with the original Dress Code guideline.**
- Parents will be given ample time when the school will return to Dress Code Guidelines.
- **No intention to get rid of or relax dress code permanently.**

Reminder on Face Coverings

- **Hybrid option will help with social distancing guidelines and will allow more ability to remove mask and when meeting guidance below:**

Governor Wolf's Mask Wearing Order
https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-sec-of-health-signs-expanded-mask-wearing-order/
And The PA Department of Health's announcement on face coverings:
https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Waivers/MaskWearing/Pages/default.aspx

New Guidance issued on CDC Website (August 11, 2020)

- **When can my child take off their mask?**
  - eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart
  - seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart
  - engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g. face covering breaks, recess, band, choir, etc.)
  ***There will also be scheduled face covering breaks throughout the day.**

- **What if my child has asthma or other respiratory issues?**
  -May wear a face shield (must cover nose and mouth)
  -504 plan or revision to IEP may be considered upon recommendation from the child's physician

Lunch Pickup

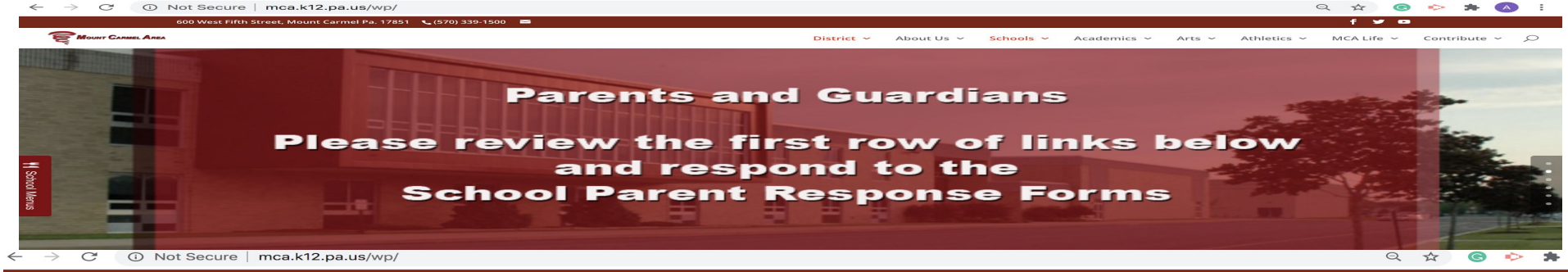
- The following schedule will be available for students who choose the virtual option or are not present during certain Hybrid days.

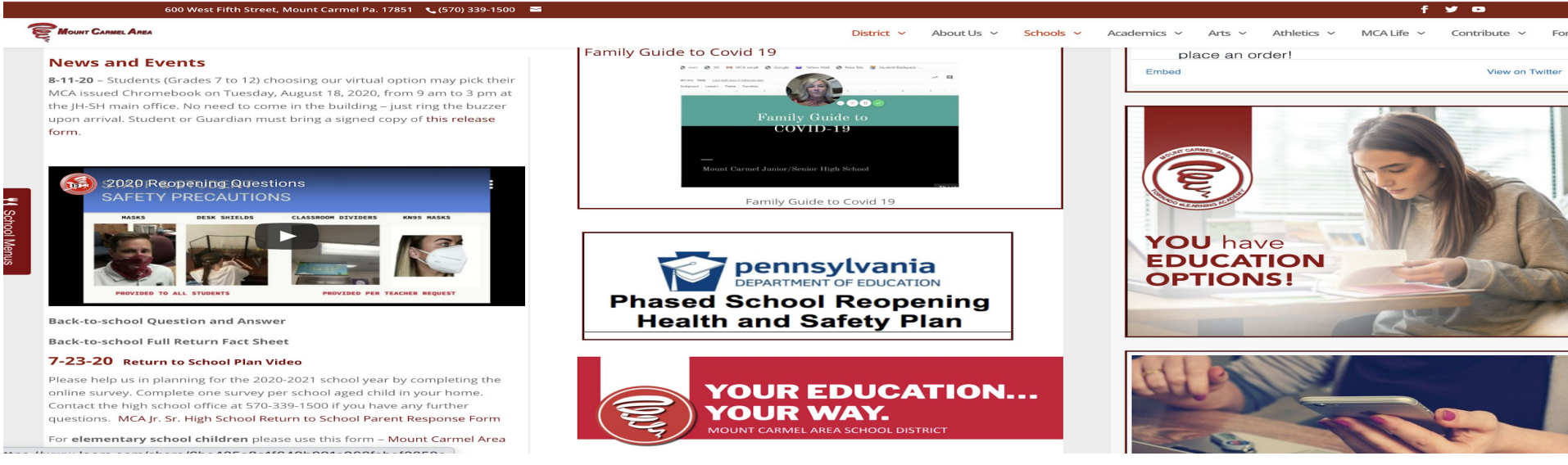
JH-SH : Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12:30-1pm

Elementary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 1:15 - 1:45.

http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/food-services-2/

Check our main website for the most up to date information!





Thank you teachers and administration!

We will overcome!

Go Big Red!