

A Guide to the Opening of MESMS

_____As we **ALL** prepare to return to Michael E. Smith Middle School, it is important to acknowledge the guidelines we will be following. Some remain from last year's re-entry to school but many others have been rolled back by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

In order to make the information I'm sharing most helpful, I have put it in the form of a chronological school day:

- If your student is riding district transportation to school, they must wear a mask. The mask must cover the nose and mouth. Gators or masks with vents are not acceptable. Bus routes are posted on our website under the "MESMS Parents" tab.
- If you are dropping off your student, please enter the main parking lot and follow to the side of the building; you're making a big U turn. Pull up as far as you can and let your student out. 8th graders will walk to the front of the building and 5, 6, and 7 will go to the back. I will help with traffic direction. **Students cannot be dropped off until 7:30am as there is no adult supervision.**
- While students are outside the building, masks are not required.
- When students enter the building in the morning, a mask must be worn. The mask must cover the nose and mouth. Gators or masks with vents are not acceptable.
- Students will be using their lockers in all grades. I am asking that students restrict the use of their lockers to jackets, backpacks and books. This will hopefully alleviate the materials that fall out when a locker is opened. Apart from a few decorations, please keep lockers free of excess materials.
- When students enter their classrooms, they will be asked to sanitize their hands.
- Classroom desks will be separated to the extent that space allows and based on the educational practices that a teacher is using.
- Students should bring their chromebooks to school every day. The devices will not be used to the same degree as last year.
- Students will be given mask breaks.
- The water fountains are back on. We suggest each student bring their own.
- Students will be asked to walk in a single file in the hallway and not congregate.
- Lunch is the only time during the day that students will remove their masks while in the building. During this time we will distance the students at their tables and tell them not to talk when their masks are down. This does not mean students cannot talk at lunch, it means they have to have their masks up to do so. **Breakfast and lunch are free to all students, all year.**
- Recess will not have restrictions.
- If your student is riding district transportation from school, they must wear a mask. The mask must cover the nose and mouth. Gators or masks with filters are not acceptable.
- If you are picking your student up, you will again enter the main parking lot. The first vehicle in line will stop behind the saw horse that limits entry to the blacktop area. Just before 2:25pm, vehicles will travel around the back and side of the building to form the

pick-up line. Students will enter their cars (preferably the driver's side) when they pull up. When exiting, please stay out of the left lane unless you are heading up Mosier St.

- If your student is sick or feeling unwell, please do not send them to school. At this time, sick students (as deemed by our school nurse) will be sent home. You must keep your contact and emergency information updated as we require sick students to exit the building as quickly as possible.

_____ There you have it, a day in the life of a MESMS student. I don't think I have left anything out but I'm sure that bubble will burst very quickly! We are going to do our utmost to make this a positive experience for staff, students and families.

Restrictions, guidance or a lack thereof can evoke many different emotions. I'm always available to listen to your viewpoints and share all the information that I have. I ask that when we engage each other, we do so respectfully. There are thousands of individuals associated with MESMS and together we can work together to be one community.

Best wishes

David Gallagher, MESMS Principal