

MARBLE FALLS ISD IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR (FAQ)

We are pleased to announce that Marble Falls ISD is planning for school to reopen for all students, every day, next year.

As you can imagine, this will be an evolving process. We have been receiving guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Commissioner Mike Morath, and Governor Abbott during this time. We know that TEA will continue to release information to school districts and we will share information as it becomes available.

In the meantime, we want to immediately address some of the questions that are on the minds of our parents, students and community.

When will school resume for the 2020-21 school year?

School will begin on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

What does the calendar look like for 2020-21?

The Board of Trustees approved the 2020-21 school calendar on December 16, 2019. Administration has recommended no changes to this calendar to this point. Use this link for the 2020-2021 calendar. [2020-21 Instructional Calendar](#)

Will parents be able to decide whether their child attends school in person or by way of remote instruction for the 2020-2021 school year?

Parents will have the option to select how their student receives instruction. However, parents and students need to understand that remote instruction will match the level of rigor used during in-person instruction. In addition, remote instruction grading guidelines, GPA calculation, time on tasks, attendance requirements, and other practices and expectations will match in-person instruction as closely as is reasonably possible. Those who select remote instruction will be provided a "Remote Learning Acknowledgement Form" that will detail more of this information.

What will remote learning look like this fall for students 3rd grade-12th grade?

Remote learning will look different than it did in the Spring of 2020 - spring instruction was not designed to sustain learning at a level needed to be effective for an entire school year. Parents and students should be prepared to attend remote instruction every day, at set times, and following a daily schedule. They should anticipate assignments that must be completed daily to meet attendance requirements. Student attendance will be recorded, and the State's rules regarding required attendance will apply. Remote instruction will be delivered in a manner that is sensitive to students of different ages/ability levels.

What will remote learning look like this fall for students PreK-2nd grade?

Remote learning will look different than it did in the Spring of 2020 - spring instruction was not designed to sustain learning at a level needed to be effective for an entire school year. Students will learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time and may include various forms of digital and online learning (for example, prerecorded video lessons, game-based learning tasks, pre-assigned work, and formative assessments). The biggest difference parents will notice is that the State will require attendance to be recorded daily. Parents should anticipate assignments that must be completed daily to meet attendance recording requirements.

What will my student need if we choose for them to participate in remote learning?

A learning device, access to the internet, and the student's ability to structure their time and work without direct supervision. Marble Falls ISD will continue to issue learning devices, and some families may be eligible for assistance with obtaining internet access.

Will parents be able to change their decision for a student to receive online or face-to-face instruction after the year begins?

Yes, at the end of a grading period, campus and district staff will work with families to change learning models should parents request it.

What measures will the District take to lessen the spread of infectious disease for those who attend school in person?

The list below is not an exhaustive or fully detailed explanation of efforts to stop the spread, but it is what we can confidently communicate at this time. We are likely to take steps beyond what's below, but are waiting for TEA requirements before sharing more information.

- Hand sanitizer will be in every classroom, common areas, and entrance to facilities.
- At the start of the school year, all students will be taught how to appropriately wash their hands and twice daily will participate in supervised hand-washing (for at least 20 seconds).
- Visitors to campus will be limited and those who do enter a campus will be required to engage in certain screening/health protocols prior to accessing a facility.
- Medical face-masks, although not required at this time, will be encouraged among our staff and students.
- The District will modify its practices to promote social distancing and avoid group gatherings (for example - adjustments to morning assemblies, Pep rallies, and field trips/special events).
- All District/campus staff and students will be trained on protocols associated with minimizing the spread of COVID-19. In addition, staff will be trained on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Educational posters and signage will be prominently displayed across all District facilities.
- Each campus will have a designated staff person to serve as the COVID-19 contact person/liaison.
- All District and campus staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming on to campus each day.
- All students will be screened at the start of every week to determine if they have COVID-19 symptoms or if they have had close contact with an individual who is confirmed with COVID-19.
- The District will follow all requirements associated with response to an exposure to or diagnosis of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Custodial staff will be cleaning and sanitizing facilities regularly including electrostatic disinfectant spray. Particular attention will be focused on cleaning and disinfecting doorknobs, handrails, and other highly used surfaces during the day and at the end of each day.

It is likely there will be additional measures that may be required based on recommendations from TEA in the coming weeks/months.

How will the district determine class size?

The number of students in the classroom will follow the class-size standards currently in place unless modified by TEA. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

How will transportation work?

Our transportation department is currently developing plans for transporting students balanced with student health concerns and reviewing daily disinfecting/cleaning practices on buses. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

What will the attendance policy be for the District? How will daily attendance be taken?

The state has not changed state compulsory attendance requirements at this time. We will continue to seek guidance and information from TEA and share updates as they are received.

Will services for students with special needs continue?

Yes, special education services will be provided at each campus. As required by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), services are based on the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee decision. The scope and delivery of services may be updated based on state and federal guidelines pertaining to COVID-19.

Will schools provide meals to students while they are on remote learning?

Yes, the district will continue the meal service program similar to that used at the end of the last school year or the summer meal program. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

Will students still be able to participate in extra-curricular/co-curricular programs?

Leaders of our extra-curricular/co-curricular programs are closely monitoring UIL and TEA guidelines to determine how these programs will be conducted. Additional information will be shared as we receive more information.

Will there be a STAAR test this year?

TEA has communicated that all aspects of the State's Academic Accountability System, including administration of the STAAR exam, will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

What if the number of COVID-19 cases increases in Burnet County?

As with all COVID-19 plans, it is important to note that details may be subject to changes depending on the condition of our local community health as we approach the first day of school. We will continue to communicate with stakeholders often as information becomes available from relevant State and local agencies.

Will all teachers return to school this fall?

Staff will be expected to return to schools this fall to support both in-person instruction and teacher directed remote instruction. In order to provide in-person and remote instruction and to keep students safely distanced while in-person, we will need all staff to be active contributors to both instructional delivery platforms. The instruction delivered remotely will be at the same level of rigor as delivered in-person.

What about teachers who have extenuating circumstances and will not be able to physically return to school?

The district is developing guidelines to support employees with extenuating circumstances. Additional information will be shared as plans are finalized.