



The Return-to-Campus FAQ Guide for Students and Families

We are very excited to begin the process of ultimately getting all our kids back to campus full time! As you can imagine, this is a very challenging project that has many problems that need to be identified, evaluated, and solved. This will take total cooperation of all of our stakeholders working together to ensure that the campus is safe and conducive to the high quality of learning for which our community is so well known. Below you will find a living document that will be updated as we work our way from where we are now to a point where everything looks familiar. It will be updated and re-posted as necessary as new developments occur. You will also see that there are several direct links to outside resources. These links were active at the time of this publication. If you find an inactive link, please let the school know and we will make appropriate adjustments. The Administration, Faculty, and Staff want to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of you for your support throughout the pandemic and we look forward to seeing you all again.

The Basics

When is MLWGS re-opening to students to attend classes on campus?

Parents will be given the opportunity to choose to send their students back to campus on a limited basis beginning Monday March 15th. To maintain CDC recommendations, we need to limit our campus load to about 50%. Students will have the opportunity to attend campus two days a week. As conditions and recommendations change, we may increase or decrease our students' on campus opportunities.

To facilitate our reopening, our largest districts (Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, and Richmond) will be split evenly for transportation; students with last names A-Li will be on Mon & Tues. Students with last names Lia-Z will be on Wed & Thurs. Goochland, Hopewell, and Powhatan will be on Mon & Tues. Charles City, King & Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, and Prince George will be on Wed & Thurs. Friday will remain an asynchronous learning day.

What are the hours of operation?

The school will follow the current schedule with classes beginning at 8:40 AM and ending at 3:00 PM. Following Spring Break, we will evaluate the bell schedule and see if any adjustments

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need to be made. Students not participating in after-school activities will need to leave the building by 6:00 PM.

Will transportation be provided for the students to attend classes on campus?

Yes. Each district has agreed to provide transportation to and from campus for their students. We encourage parents who can do so to provide their own transportation to reduce capacity on the buses.

Can my student drive to school?

Yes! The Student parking lot will be open to Seniors and Juniors. All fees and the need for passes will be waived for the remainder of the school year. Registration for parking will be completed online. A link will be sent before March 1st.

Screening and Covid-19 Mitigation Procedures

How will students and staff be screened prior to entering the building?

Safety begins at home! Prior to leaving the house, all students and staff should view the CDC self-screening document found at the link below. If the answer to any of the questions is “Yes”, the person must remain at home. The CDC lists next steps on the form to ensure the safety of the individual. All students and staff will be asked to give a “thumbs up” upon arrival that they reviewed the questions at home and were able to answer “no” to all.

<https://www.cdc.gov/screening/paper-version.pdf>

All persons entering the building will enter through the Bluestone or Student Parking Lot entrances. They will receive a temperature screening. Any person registering a temperature of greater than 100.4 will be denied entrance past the Bluestone, moved to the clinic’s isolation area, and will need to return home.

What other mitigation methods are going to be employed?

Everyone entering the building will be required to properly wear a face mask at all times when in the building with the exception of when they are in a designated eating area or in their offices.

Signage at all points of entry & on all bulletin boards regarding social distancing & mask usage.

Signage in all student restrooms regarding proper hand washing.

Social distancing markers throughout school along with one-way hallways for travel.

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All classrooms and common spaces have been reconfigured for 50% capacity and 6 feet of social distancing.

Disposable masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, wipes, disinfectant, and paper towels have been placed in all classrooms.

Additional day custodial staff has been hired to help with daily cleaning of common areas, restrooms, contact points, and touch surfaces.

A full time Registered Nurse has been hired to help coordinate contact tracing, communication, and our Covid-19 response plan.

Hand sanitizer stations have been placed in all classrooms, and 12 additional wall mounted units & six free standing units have been installed throughout the school.

Water fountains have been disabled but the bottle fill stations still operate.

An Airphyx system has been installed for common areas, with miniature units installed in offices. Additionally, the HVAC system has been re-configured to allow for the building to be fully vented twice daily with an air turnover rate increased to 6-10 times per hour. All air filters have been upgraded from MERV 7 to MERV 11.

Plexiglas for all public facing stations in school: reception, security, attendance, and technology.

When and where are masked allowed to be removed for eating/drinking?

Lunch block: cafeteria (reduced capacity), commons (reduced capacity), other designated areas

Transition (hallways): water bottles between classes

Outdoor lunch and on athletic field (faculty/staff/students)

What are classroom cleaning procedures?

At the end of class, the teacher distributes paper towels & sprays desks. Students will wipe down the desk, dispose of paper towels, and transition.

What are class change procedures like for teachers and students?

One way flow for all hallway traffic and stairwells, additional time for transitions.

What happens if someone at school becomes sick during the day?

In the event that a student becomes sick during the day, they will go to the clinic and be screened by the School Nurse. If they are showing symptoms consistent with Covid-19, they will be placed into a section of the clinic is designated as an "isolation area." A parent or guardian must come and pick up the student. The school does not have the ability to conduct Covid-19 tests and the responsibility for testing will remain with the families.

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What if a student or teacher has a positive Covid-19 test result and has recently been at school?

If a student or teacher reports that they have tested positive for Covid-19, the contact tracing and quarantine procedures set forth by the CDC will be followed. The full text can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Contact tracing will begin upon our notification of a positive test result. All students and staff that had “close contact” with the infected person will be specifically notified. “Close contact” is defined by the CDC as being within 6 feet for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period.

In addition to those students and staff identified through contact tracing, the entire school community will be notified that a positive test was reported. In this case, all members of our community will need to be vigilant and monitor their own health for any potential symptoms. Again, using the guide below to determine if they should remain at home. If they can answer “No” to all questions, they may continue to attend school.

<https://www.cdc.gov/screening/paper-version.pdf>

I have been exposed to someone through close contact outside of school who may have Covid-19. What do I do?

Follow the guidelines from the CDC. Remain at home and quarantine for 14 days or until you have met the requirements to return to school listed below.

I tested positive for Covid-19. When can I return to school?

Following the guidelines set forth by the CDC, if a student receives a **positive** Covid-19 test result they should not attend school and should isolate:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
- 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication AND
- Other symptoms of Covid-19 are improving (see [Isolate If You Are Sick](#) for more information)

For more detailed information, here is the link to the CDC guidelines on returning to school:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html#:~:text=If%20the%20student%20receives%20a,without%20fever%20reducing%20medication%20AND>

Lunch

Will the cafeteria be open for lunch?

Yes. The cafeteria will be open and a sealed “grab and go” lunch will be available. The vending machines will also be stocked and the microwave ovens will be available for students to use.

Where can I eat?

There will be seats spaced six feet apart in the cafeteria, the commons area, and a few other places that will be designated as eating areas. There will also be tents set up outside for use at lunch.

Instruction and Academics

What will instruction look like in the classroom?

Instruction will continue to be delivered in the virtual format as it is now, however you will physically be in the classroom with the teacher and about half your class. Teachers and students will be wearing masks if they are in class together even while working on the Zoom platform. You will be able to interact to a certain extent with your classmates as well as your teacher in a socially distanced fashion as well as those who are online.

How will attendance be taken?

It will be taken the same way that it is now. You will need to be logged in to the Zoom session to be counted as present, even if you are in the classroom at the time.

My teacher is unable to be on campus. Where do I go?

Designated areas such as the cafeteria and commons will be where you will be able to sit and be “in class” while your teacher teaches from a remote location. This area will be supervised, and you will have 6 feet of space between you and any other student.

I have a study hall. Where do I go?

Just like during the regular school year, there will be designated areas where to can go to study during your study hall. You will need to sign in at the Attendance Office for contact tracing purposes and remain in the area that you indicated. These may include the Commons, the Cafeteria, the library, and the Forum. This will be worked out prior to March 15th. Regardless, you will be able to maintain 6 feet of distance in these areas.

I have a study hall during 1st, 2nd, 7th or 8th period. If I have a ride, can I come to school late or leave early?

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Yes! We encourage you to arrive late or leave early if you have transportation and have a study hall 1st, 2nd, 7th, or 8th. You must sign in or out as the case may be at the attendance office.

How will Health and Physical Education classes work?

The locker rooms will not be used for changing. Students will be instructed when they have a PE day to come in activewear (sweats/yoga pants etc.) so they can participate inside or outside. If the weather permits, the students will be outside with masks, playing-frisbee golf, soccer, tennis, walking the track, archery etc. If they are in the gym, students will play in their masks, basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, etc. The fitness center most likely won't be used. But if it is, the teachers will wipe all surfaces before the students come into the room and then they will wipe and spray the room at the end. The teachers and students will be masked at all times. We will limit the fitness room to 7-9 students and the teacher which give the fitness room 10 people total.

What about SOL testing in May/June?

We are still waiting to hear from the VDOE. It is safe to assume that there will be SOL tests this year.

How are AP exams being administered / tracked? When is the exact testing window?

College Board just sent us information. AP tests are being offered in the traditional way and online. We are working through the details and requirements and will have information to everyone as soon as possible.

Will the Counseling Office be open to students?

Yes. The Counseling Office will operate as normal.

Will lockers be assigned to students?

Yes. The information can be found in PowerSchool.

Will the library be open to students?

Yes, the library will be open during from 8:30am to 3:15pm but there will be no eating in the library. Face coverings are required. Sign-in/sign-out will be on a Google form to facilitate contact tracing while reducing transmissions. Students will sign in and out on their own devices. Seating will be socially distanced and students must be seated in a chair rather than on the floor. Chairs and tables will be wiped down between uses.

Is Ms. DeGroat available for research consultations?

Yes. These can be scheduled via Zoom or in-person at a mutually agreeable time. To request a consult, submit the following form: <http://bit.ly/researchconsultrequest>

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May students use library computers?

Students should use their own computers. However, if a student needs to log on to a computer to print a document (not create or edit it), one or two library computers will be available for printing only.

May students borrow library books?

Yes. However, returned library books may not be checked out by another student until 72 hours after they are returned. When browsing the library shelves, students should not reshelve books they decide not to check out. There will be a cart or box for these books. Students learning from home may continue to make requests for library books using the current protocol; these books will be placed on a cart in the Bluestone lobby for pickup.

Will the library continue to hold Walker Wednesdays?

Yes. Ms. DeGroat will continue to host Walker Wednesdays virtually via the Zoom link available in the Dragons Create group on Schoology.

Technology Department

Classrooms:

With Zoom based instruction continuing, students will be required to bring a personal laptop device to school every day. They will also need a set of earbuds or headphones, and to mute their microphones unless speaking.

Device Charging:

Classrooms have an abundance of outlets for charging devices, allowing good spacing for students to be maintained. Additional device charging areas will be available throughout the building, including common areas, the cafeteria and the library.

Static/Desktop and Cart/Mobile Computer Labs:

Use of school computer labs will not be permitted. Students currently using loaned school devices will continue to do so; students needing use of a loaned school device starting March 15th should be coordinating with MWTech to secure a device for their use each day. The device will be picked up/returned to a mobile charging station location by room 113 every morning/afternoon.

Printing:

Limited printing will be available in the Library.

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MWTech HelpDesk:

A new HelpDesk is under construction! This will be an online system that will better facilitate the management of technology service and support requests. While still in Beta testing, we plan to have this available for use later this Spring.

Until then, emailing Deborah Snagg at dsnagg@gsgis.k12.va.us is the proper action to take, or call her at (804) 354-6800 x 1141. She is in room 113, and can provide support via email, phone, Zoom or in person (by appointment).

Sports, Activities, and Social Events

Will we have sports?

Yes. We are fully participating in the VHSL sports seasons.

Can clubs meet?

Yes. It is recommended that they continue to meet virtually so that all members can participate, however in person meeting can take place.

Will there be a Prom this year?

Yes. We are likely going to rent a very large tent and as long as we are permitted to have social gatherings of a decent size, we will have a Prom on the Lawn here at school. Hopefully by May the number permitted for gatherings will be higher than 10!

Will there be a Senior Night?

Yes. Depending upon the gathering restrictions mentioned above, it may be outside.

Will there be an in-person graduation?

Yes. We have the Altria reserved for June 18th. The size and details will be dependent on how many people we will be permitted to have in that space, but seniors will be able to graduate with at least some, if not all, of their classmates.

Will there be a Freshmen lock-in?

Yes. As soon as we can have all the freshmen together, we will have the lock in. It will likely be sometime in the fall.

Are the class commons going to be open?

Yes. People will need to maintain the six foot social distance.

Moving Forward

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What happens next?

As conditions and guidelines change, we will continually evaluate where we are with the ultimate goal of returning all students and staff back to campus for full-time in person instruction. There is no timeline for this as it is being driven largely by the building's capacity and restrictions on gatherings. It is important to remember that MLWGS is a regional school that pulls from a very large geographic area. Conditions can be very different in some of our partner districts than others and we need to be sure that we operate in a safe manner.

Can I change my mind about either coming to campus or staying home?

Yes, but we are asking for commitments to last at least three weeks. This allows us time to work with the divisional transportation directors to provide transportation. It also allows us to plan more effectively for campus load numbers.