



UES Re-Entry Q and A

The following are questions posed by families between July 17th-24th. Please note the date next to each answer. Answers are based on the information available at the time of the dated section. Answers may change based on new information coming in from the health department or MCCSC. This running record will be updated each evening by 6:00 PM on the University website.

[MCCSC's June 30th Board Meeting PPT outlining district re-entry overview.](#)

[University School's Re-Entry Plan](#)

[University School's Supply List](#) (students attending online do not need these supplies)

July 20th, 2020

What will be the designated infection threshold for deciding when the school will need to close down?

- MCCSC will follow the guidance of the Monroe County Health Department when making any decisions about school closure.

Will children (siblings) of the same age and class grade be assigned to the same home room? Ex: twins?

- Unless otherwise requested by parents/guardians, University School will assign siblings to the same homeroom during the 2020-20201 school year. The only exception would be if one sibling was in ALPS and another was in a general education classroom.

Has MCCSC put guidelines in place for when schools might close? (ie, how many cases per 1,000 would warrant that the schools would go back online?) (In Germany, if there are more than 50 cases per 1,000 in a county, the local community closes down.)

- MCCSC will follow the guidance of the Monroe County Health Department when making any decisions about school closure.

If there is a spike in cases in Monroe County or the school(s) and the instruction is moved online at some point this semester, would the children who are in face-to-face classes be taught by the same teacher, just online or would they be added to the classes that are being taught virtually?

- If in-person instruction is moved to online at some point this semester/school year, children that are face-to-face would be taught by the same teacher online. Ex. If a student is in Mrs. Kopp's second grade class, in-person, Mrs. Kopp would teach that student online if/when we were to transition to online classes.

What is the process to change from one format to the other, once the school year has started? (in the 2-week window?)

- MCCSC is finalizing this process. We will notify families as soon as we have this information.
- Additional information about the online academy can be found [here](#).

Would it be possible for the children to be in classes with other children that they see outside of school, so they stay within the same cohort? For example, our children play with our neighbors.

- University School takes into account a variety of factors when developing classroom assignments including, but not limited to, reading levels, special education, English as a New Language, peer dynamics from the previous year, social/emotional needs, etc. We work diligently to create balanced classes as we believe that our students need to learn alongside people from all backgrounds with varying abilities. With that said, we know that safety is our first priority this year. We will take into consideration the interactions that are happening outside of school, but we do not want to create classrooms made up only of "Park Ridge East, Devonshire, Woodbridge, etc." This would create a new dynamic that would go against our mission of helping our children to learn alongside others from different backgrounds and varying abilities.

When is the trimester/semester for UES over - when students could move from online back into the in-person classes? and is there a "re-entry" plan for students who started online? (Is the curriculum being kept the same?)

- MCCSC will follow the calendar that was previously approved by the school board. You can find the calendar [here](#). Basically, we will follow the semester format with us ending in late December and resuming in early January.
- Families that decide to resume in-person instruction for the second semester, we will basically handle how we would "new students." The family would enroll for in-person learning, we would assign the student to a physical classroom, and we would continue learning.

- University School, as you know, is an International Baccalaureate School. There will be some components (ex. Units of Inquiry) that students in-person will engage in that online students will not. Students that are online will cover the same content (learning objectives/Indiana Standards) as in-person learners, but they will cover these standards through a different lens.

We love the IB curriculum and we are worried about missing out if we school at home /Online Academy. Will there be a way for Online Academy families to follow along with the IB units even if we have to work on them outside of the online curriculum?

- Teachers at University School will deliver instruction under the umbrella of IB. Online teachers are not trained in IB - their instruction will not follow this mode of delivery. For additional information about what online instruction will look like, please visit the [MCCSC online academy information page](#).

Will we continue to get updates (like Me Hopkins' Monday Minutes) about in-person school at University, even if we choose Online Academy?

- We want our families to remain connected to the school as possible. An easy way to do this is through school communication from Mr. Hopkins. At this time, families will continue to get information from his office (ex. Monday Minute, IB Monthly, newsletter, etc.). In addition to this, online families will receive communication from their online teacher.

Have any - and if so, how many - new staff been hired to help with additional duties? If not, could PTO/etc. enlist families/community partners to help provide needed resources?

- This is a very thoughtful question to help our school - thank you. We have been working all summer to develop a plan for re-entry, as you know. Part of our work has been to look at the staff we currently have to help ensure that we are able to have the right people in the right places throughout the day to cover all of the duties. Enrollment will play a big role as we continue this planning process.
- As shared in the re-entry plan, only students and MCCSC staff will be allowed in the building during the school day.
- We do have an opening that needs filled - we are hiring an additional daytime D5 custodian to assist with cleaning throughout the day. If you or someone you know is interested, please have them [apply online](#).
- Mr. Hopkins is talking with the PTO about a couple ways that families could help provide needed resources. If you have ideas, please reach out to Mr. Hopkins or the PTO.

If recess is spaced out where each class must stay with classmates for contact tracing purposes, why is lunch (which is higher risk as it is indoors without masks) not specified to be only with classmates? Relatedly, why is lunch not in classrooms? If students will be by students outside their classrooms for lunch, I would prefer they have this freedom at recess. One item that may be helpful for all students to be provided is a lanyard to keep their masks on them when not in use, but when needed for the hallway.

- Lunch, in the cafeteria, can accommodate one grade level at a time. When that grade level is in the lunchroom, they will be assigned a third of the cafeteria based on their class. Classes will not mix during lunch, they will only be with their classmates, at individual desks, socially distanced. There will be a couple timeslots where there will be grade levels that need to eat at the same time. These grade levels will be in an alternative classroom (ex. Science Project Room, Computer Lab 2) with their classmates for lunch. If/when weather permits, we would like to take students outside for lunch, socially distanced.
- A lanyard for students to clip to their facemask is a wonderful idea. While we encourage families to purchase one for their children, we are in the process of looking to purchase these for all of our students.

I recognize that with the large number of classes/students at UES it is a challenge, but has a scheduling matrix been developed where classrooms are given additional outside time for additional recess/outdoor teaching? Has UES coordinated with City Church to potentially use their parking lot/facilities for additional space beyond drop off/pick up times? Does UES need families to fund rental tents/fans/camp chairs/etc. or find additional outdoor space to help facilitate outdoor time?

- Our daily schedule has been developed taking into account that seven grade levels need access to the playground through the day for recess as well as specials when weather permits. As in the past, teachers are encouraged to utilize outdoor space when available. Teachers have always contacted the office to let them know that they are taking their class outside. This will continue.
- University School has a strong partnership with City Church that we are very grateful for. They currently allow us to use their inside space for if/when we need to evacuate the building (which we practice 2x/year) and they have graciously opened their parking lot to allow for families to park during pick up/drop off each day. Due to the traffic on Russell Road, we are not able to walk students across the road on a daily basis for additional space. We are brainstorming as a staff of how we can block off the bus lot after 9:15 each day to use that area as well as possibly the back parking lot next to the red playground. As we get into school and we are able to see how things work with students present, we will adjust our plans accordingly.

- MCCSC is providing our school with a huge party tent for the school year. Once we have this set up, we will be able to develop a wish list, if needed, for outdoor supplies.

What have teachers been instructed about mask wear and the 3-5 minutes breaks as needed? What is the maximum number of classroom breaks from masks? What will be done to supervise that teachers are requiring mask wear and students are following this new policy? Unfortunately, wearing a mask has become political and there is a broad spectrum of how people feel about the necessity of masks.

- Teachers have been made aware, as outlined by MCCSC, that students may remove their face masks for 3-5 minutes if static, socially distanced 6 feet apart, and facing in the same direction. There was no magical number set for mask breaks each day. What Mr. Hopkins has told teachers that it is their responsibility in the classroom to monitor and to use their professional judgement on this. Professional judgement does not mean personal beliefs (ex. "I don't believe in masks.") and it does not mean it is something to take advantage of. (By the way, nobody at University School has approached Mr. Hopkins to share this belief.) Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Guthrie will move around the building to check on mask wearing throughout the day. If it is determined that too many breaks are taking place, it will be addressed. Mr. Hopkins is confident, based on the conversations he has had this summer, as well as the body of work that he has observed over the past two years, that University teachers are committed to wearing mask for the safety of students and other adults in the building.
- Mr. Hopkins has shared with teachers, per MCCSC, they are to wear their masks at all times in the building with the exception of when they are alone in their classroom. If a teacher goes to make copies, they must wear their mask. When a teacher walks alone in the hallways to collect their students from specials, they must wear a mask. It is the responsibility of Mr. Hopkins to take action with any adults at University School that do not follow the guidelines set by MCCSC.

Why are drop off/pick up times not scheduled by last name (e.g., Binford's plan)? Why only one door for both car riders and walkers?

- We did not schedule by last name as we have more space that Binford/Rogers to drop off/pick up each day. We have the use of the City Church as needed to help keep cars off the main road if needed. Rogers/Binford does not have this luxury. We know that there will be more families driving to school. If we need to adjust our plan, we are prepared to do so.
- We have one door for car riders and walks because each school has been directed to have two points of entry into the school. The purpose of this is that we will have a mat at each door that will be used for cleaning shoes. Two mats - two doors. With the procedures that we have developed for walkers (families waiting on socially distanced spots on the sidewalk) coupled with

the fact that our head custodian only opens one car door at a time (sometimes the next car gets out on their own) we anticipate a natural, steady flow of students entering the building.

- Please note in our [re-entry plan](#), we have planned for entry and exit from school to begin earlier each day as we are anticipating more families not using the bus this year.

Why is UES not doing any temperature screening? Area businesses (e.g., Nicks) and international schools seem to be doing this fairly quickly (e.g., elbow screens). If it cannot be done at drop off, could it be a task that is randomly done throughout the day?

- This was discussed at the June MCCSC Board Meeting. [See slide 26 of the PPT](#). MCCSC families and staff are expected to conduct checks at home each day as outlined in the [re-entry plan](#).



July 21, 2020

You state that dismissal will begin at 3:20 for grades 1-6. Do parents need to be at the school and in the car line by 3:20? If you are dismissing different grades at different times, how will you handle families with children in different grades?

- Families are welcome to arrive before the end of the day, as they may have done in the past.
- We are not dismissing different grades at different times. Families will pull up to the curb, as they have done in the past, and a staff member will be outside to radio in to call for students over the PA system from their classroom.

When might we find out about Extended Day services and whether there is space for our child there?

- Extended Day is managed by School Age Care. Registration is currently open. Please visit the following link for information and to register your child for the program and to contact them with questions. <https://www.mccsc.edu/Page/4537>

When might we find out about Early Learning enrollment at University and whether our child has a spot?

- Early Learning is managed by School Age Care. Please visit the following website for information and to contact them with your questions. <https://www.mccsc.edu/Page/4531>

Can you give details about the bus procedures? If we don't start the year riding the bus, can we start later?

- Please see slides 30 and 31 of the [MCCSC Re-Entry PowerPoint](#) from June for information about how buses will function. The Transportation Department is currently working on routes which will be communicated to families once they know more about enrollment.
- Families can start riding the bus, as long as they live in the University district, whenever they want.

How will math be handled for students that are working above their grade level but are not able to leave their classroom?

- University School will continue to provide math instruction to our students based on their academic needs. This includes our math grouping in grades 3-6 where students are in math classes ranging from 3rd grade-Algebra.
- Students will remain in their homeroom for math, but they will be receiving math instruction through CANVAS. The homeroom teacher will be available to provide support to students as well as the math teacher that will be available via CANVAS. While we would all prefer to provide math instruction face to face, we believe it is important to continue to provide instruction at students' individual levels. Your child's math teacher will communicate this process with parents/guardians when school/math groups begin.

When will we get details re: clubs, including Coding Club and Choir (and Harry Potter Club)? Understand they may be held virtually...

- Our first priority at University School is to get school started. When we are able to find our footing with day-to-day activities, we will explore what clubs may look like. Please note that not all clubs will be able to take place this year due to the nature of the club.

If I am going to switch my kids schools do I need to let the school know?

- If you are going to switch to online or in-person, you will need to let the school know so that we can plan appropriately and help facilitate the change. As mentioned in a previous question/answer, we are still waiting on guidance from the district on how this process will work.

If the entire district were to go online for the entire semester, will the students that have chosen online academy have the option to be taught by their normal UES teacher? Is this also true for ALPS students?

- MCCSC is working on these logistics and will communicate this out to families when finalized.

If a student selects the online academy, where would they complete paperwork for 504 plans? Will UES communicate this to online academy teachers?

- Mrs. Guthrie, who is responsible for 504 paperwork, will communicate with online teachers to ensure that they are aware of the accommodations outlined in their individual plan.

Will all the kids get a temperature screening daily prior to entering the school?

- This was discussed at the June MCCSC Board Meeting. [See slide 26 of the PPT](#). MCCSC families and staff are expected to conduct checks at home each day as outlined in the [re-entry plan](#).

I am concerned about indoor singing during music class. Epidemiological studies have shown that the virus can easily spread by respiratory droplets that are expelled more vigorously during singing. Have you and Ms. Bowen considered disallowing singing during music class and instead focusing on rhythm exercises or music theory or outdoor music education?

- Mrs. Bowen will take her music classes outside when weather permits. Also, students will be distanced 6 feet apart during instruction. Music class will follow the same guidelines for wearing masks as the general education classrooms - students will wear masks while singing.
- Mrs. Bowen is constantly researching best practices in music education and instruction during this time period is no different. Mrs. Bowen is planning for engaging lessons that are safe for all students each day which will include a variety of exercises.

If more than half of the ALPS students register for online, is it possible to have the ALPS teachers teach an online ALPS?

- The MCCSC Online Academy will serve all MCCSC learners. We are looking to find a teacher with high ability licensure and/or training to be on the teaching staff of the Online Academy. The online teachers will work with the in-class ALPS teachers, other teachers who teach accelerated/advanced courses, and the Coordinator of High Ability Education to accelerate learning for high ability students. Online high ability students will not be receiving direct (virtual) instruction from in-class ALPS teachers.
- Mrs. Piekarsky, Mrs. Kinhead, and Ms. Cerwinske are assigned to in-person instruction.



July 22, 2020

How many new custodial staff will be at UES?

- University School will add one additional custodian to the day shift this would give us up to three custodians in the building during the day at strategic times (ex. lunch).
- Mr. Hopkins is currently looking at custodial schedules for the day and evening shifts to maximize the staff available for cleaning purposes while students are present while taking into account the work that must be done each evening in preparation for the next day.

I understand that the district is not requiring temperature checks, but is it requiring that UES does NOT conduct temperature checks?

- University School will follow the guidance from MCCSC as approved by the school board in the re-entry plan to not take temperature checks at school. University faculty and staff will be trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of COVID.
- If a student is exhibiting signs and/or symptoms, temperature checks will take place in the health office.
- MCCSC families and staff are expected to conduct checks at home each day as outlined in the [re-entry plan](#) and on [slide 26 of the MCCSC PPT](#).

What will be the requirements around children who come down with allergies or a cold(no fever)? Will children be required to stay home anytime they come down with a runny nose or cough?

- The CDC and Indiana Department of Health has just updated guidance for schools. MCCSC is working on updating parent information (ex. letter) that will be communicated to families as soon as possible.
- Students that exhibit any symptoms during school will be sent to the health office where they will be assessed which will include communication with families to rule out things like seasonal allergies.

How do I drop off my child's medication this year?

- Starting July 30th, families can call the health office to make an appointment to come to school to drop off medication. The health aid will meet families in our entryway to check in medication.



July 23, 2020

There were no new questions submitted for July 23rd.



July 24, 2020

There were no new questions submitted for July 23rd.