

Early Childhood - FAQ

I know typically students do not find out who their teacher is until the day before school starts. With parents unable to enter buildings, will there be a virtual introduction before?

- Students will have the opportunity to meet their teachers in some type of format. At this time, Meet the Teacher is scheduled for August 25th; we are still determining how this will look. More information will be available soon!

What is the plan for providing IEP related services to our children?

- If you are not comfortable sending your child to school and they have an IEP, we are still determining how services could be provided (virtual, itinerant basis, etc.) Please contact Dr. Ann Westbrook at awestbrook@msdr9.org if this applies to your family. If we are in Plan C (Connected Learning), your case manager will be contacting you to determine how a distance learning plan can be implemented in a Connected Learning environment.

Will the virtual school be available for Early Ed? If so, what will that look like, and what will tuition be?

- The Mehlville@Home virtual academy is only an option for students in K-12. If you choose to send your child to school and Connected learning has to be implemented, a virtual option is available until in-person school resumes.

If we choose not to send our children in the Fall, could we choose to send them for the 2nd semester (will their "spot" be saved)?

- Yes, their space will be held for the second semester.

If in-person, do you plan to social distance and require masks for preschoolers?

- Social distancing will be implemented at table time and at circle time; at this time, masks for students under the age of 9 are not required but encouraged.

If school does go completely virtual from the beginning, will preschoolers still have some sort of curriculum to follow?

- Yes; we will have a Google Site where families can access the curriculum. If your child is attending on a tuition-basis, tuition would then change to \$55/month for the duration of Plan C (Connected Learning).

Will parent pick up and drop off be different?

- Yes, parents are to remain in their cars. At the John Cary location, we will re-route the pick-up/drop-off system and release this information to you soon.

How many people will be in each classroom?

- Our ECSE class sizes are usually around 12 with one teacher and one or two paraprofessionals. Throughout the day, therapists also push into these classrooms. Our EC classes (Hagemann, and Point EC) can have up to 20 students with two teachers and a paraprofessional; however, this year we are monitoring enrollment to keep the class sizes below 16.

If it is a blended approach, how will that work for EC? Will they attend the same days as their older siblings? Or will they stay on their days?

- In Plan B (Blended), Early Childhood classes would remain on their regularly scheduled days and times, Monday-Thursday.

Will students be educated on why they have to be socially distant?

- This will be connected to our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) teaching around "Taking Care of Yourself" and "Taking Care of Each Other." As with all teaching, this will take many repetitions and practice until mastery.

How would the connected learning work for parents who work during the times their child is in school?

- As of now, families will have access to the Google Site where they can access pre-recorded sessions. Teachers would be reaching out to determine your family's and child's needs. More information and details will be communicated soon.

Are the teachers wearing masks and face shields?

- We have ordered clear face shields to go along with masks. Shields are optional for teachers to wear, but masks will be required.

How will the interactions be monitored with the classes that are in the schools with K-12?

- Passing times will be staggered in the hallways for restroom breaks and transitions between the playground and building.

How will the children keep their masks clean during the day so they are not being dropped on the ground or shared amongst friends?

- Break-away lanyards can be worn by the child and hooked to the mask earloop, or eyeglass holder necklaces. Then the mask will always be with the child.

If we decide not to send our child when is the cut off date you need to know by?

- The cutoff date to let the front office know if you will not be sending your child is August 10th.

If our children are possibly exposed, can we go to virtual while self-isolating even if the other kids are still in class?

- We are still working on a plan to address this. More information will be coming soon.

If our child goes to a remote school, would they follow A, B, and C based on John Cary, or the school (Hagemann, for example)? If Hagemann goes to all virtual, but John Cary is still on B, I'm assuming the early ed at Hagemann would go virtual with that building?

- Plan A, B, and C would be consistent with the Early Childhood department/based on John Cary ECC. If the district moves to Plan C (Connected), then Early Childhood would also move to Plan C (Connected).