



Dear MESA Families,

When planning for the 2019-2020 academic year we certainly did not include a worldwide pandemic; however, the MTEC/MESA community came together and conquered an unprecedented Spring semester. Thank you again to all of the staff and leadership team for your focus in closing out the year and to our families as we grew together in this experience.

Since our untimely closing in March we have been planning, as best we can, for the August 17th opening and beyond. **Based on the current information collected MESA will begin the 2020-2021 school year with a virtual classroom start called, MESA Cyber Crew.**

So, when will your child be able to return to campus? Well, the decision to reopen MESA for in-person learning is determined by several factors. First and foremost, the status reports from the Milwaukee Health Department, on the approval and recommendation to reopen schools for in-person learning. We are also monitoring the Center for Disease Control's recommended guidelines on how this could be done safely. For instance, each classroom has already been equipped with cleaning and safety kits, teachers issued protective equipment, along with pending school wide deep cleaning with painting, and the installation of hand-sanitizer stations throughout the building.

Efforts include the creation of multiple school based committees tasked with creating a plan to safely have students, teachers, and staff return to campus, identify what learning would look like, and how it can be done to keep all parties safe. We have also conferred with other charter and public school partners, nation-wide and locally, in sharing strategies, to make certain our scholars are seen, cared for, and educated.

Considerations and discussions also included planning strategies to confirm students are able to learn online, parents/guardians know how best to support them, and our teachers equipped on how to teach them in this new digital space.

Below I have included excerpts from the Milwaukee Environmental Sciences Academy, a MTEC Charter School Reopening Guide, which provides key information for returning students and parents. As you review this guide, the committees and I welcome your



feedback, questions and suggestions, as we create a dynamic 2020-2021 school year for your scholar.

- MESA will start school on August 17th with all students and staff using on-line learning.
- Thanks to parent feedback and our planning efforts with other charter and public school partners, nation-wide and locally, MESA Cyber Crew will be different from the spring experience.
- A sample daily schedule can be found below:

Sample Elementary Weekly Schedule for a 100% At-Home Remote Synchronous School Day
WORKING DRAFT

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:00	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day	Prepare for Day
8:00-8:15	Synchronous Morning Message and SEL Focus of the Week				
8:15-9:15	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
9:15-9:45	Special Areas: Art, Music, Physical Education, Workout for Wellness Daily Rotation				
9:45-11:00	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:00-11:30	Social Studies Asynchronous Learning (Pre-recorded Lesson and/or Independent Activity)				
11:30-12:00	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
12:00-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-2:15	One-on-one and small-group instruction language arts and math; Progress monitoring; Reviewing student work and providing feedback				
(30 min. in afternoon)	Flexible Independent Practice Reading, Math, Science				
2:15-3:00	Teacher Planning				
3:00-3:30	Teacher and Staff Meeting Time/Office Hours				

Blue = Synchronous Instruction with the Teacher Green = Asynchronous Instruction

- MTEC will continue to monitor progress from the Milwaukee Health Department and Center for Disease Control, as well as collaborate with other partners, as we strive to reopen for in-person learning, but I assure you, we will not do so until it is safe. Currently, the plan is to continue in virtual classrooms until the return from the October 19th intercession. Leading up to this, we will reassess reentry, following the fall break, and communicate accordingly.

- We also have new school hours. In working with our school authorizer and transportation provider, Milwaukee Public Schools, the goal is to have less children on a bus, upon our return to campus, this being the case, our school hours have been changed to 7:20-2:20 to accommodate additional routes. Thank you to the parents who shared your voice in this decision.
- When MESA reopens for in-person sessions, please note all CDC guidelines will be followed in regards to both safety and social distancing. Currently, the plan is to apply a hybrid model of instruction, meaning that students will attend on campus for select days only and other days learn virtually. Please see one current model of consideration below:

ALL GRADE LEVELS THREE STUDENT GROUPS

(Hybrid Model - AB/AB)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Group A			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Learning • Intervention Services for Students • Recovery Learning Services • Staff Planning/ Professional Development • Deep Cleaning of Buildings 		
Student Group B					
Student Group C					
	 Face-to-face instruction	 Distance Education		 Full-time remote	

- Once the MESA campus opens, we will continue to offer a virtual experience for those families who feel more comfortable with this option. We will also continue to assess the need for MESA Cyber Crew, along with the effectiveness of implementation, in December and again in April. Thank you in advance for responding to surveys when sent.



Here are the next steps. Please look for our virtual open house and welcome from Principal Colvin. In addition, look to hear from your child's teacher with regards to the first weeks of school and materials pick-up. Finally, please refer to our Covid-19 Communications page on the MESA website and our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram for ongoing updates. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's learning. We are looking forward to a safe and successful year and look forward to welcoming all MESA Crew.

Regards,

Laci Coppins Robbins, Ed.D.
MTEC Executive Director