

## **McGuffey School District**

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## Dear McGuffey Families:

COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of everyone during 2020. It has presented many challenges for the administration, staff, and students in McGuffey School District. In this everchanging environment, we wanted to reach out before the start of school. As many of you have visited the Return to School website, we are still in the process of making the many arrangements to start the 2020-2021 school year. Of the utmost importance is the health and safety of the students, staff and community.

One of the most common indicators of COVID-19 is temperature. We have purchased wrist thermometers to complete a temperature screening upon daily entry. In addition, we purchased facial temperature scanners for each building which will indicate two things. The facial temperature will take the visitor's temperature, and it will screen for a mask. Mask requirements are currently required as directed by Governor Wolf. If a student or staff member has an elevated temperature, they will be directed to an isolation room that has been created. The school health official will confirm the screening and contact the parent or guardian if necessary.

Classrooms will contain hand sanitizer. We have installed hygiene signage and staff will reinforce good hygiene skills. We will also have hand sanitization stations in various locations within the building to help deter additional COVID-19 cases. In addition, the water fountains are being converted to operate as bottle fill stations.

All classrooms have been set up to ensure social distancing. We have created two on-site student groups. The Blue Group will attend on mostly Monday and Tuesday. The Gold group will attend on mostly Thursday and Friday. For a complete schedule of the groupings, please see the FOCUS newsletter which is published on the McGuffey School District website. Markers indicating spacing and directional flows for students and staff will be installed during the next week. The cafeteria has also been set up to ensure social distancing. In addition to the physical building issues, we have also purchased additional sanitizing equipment as an additional line of defense.

In addition to the building preparation, we have been working to ensure multiple learning options are available for your family. We are currently operating on a blended (hybrid) learning schedule. We have dedicated training for the staff during the first week of school in order to provide instruction to implement the blended learning schedule. This fall, the at-home instruction will look different. Attendance and grading will be implemented in accordance with the district policies. We have also worked to create McCyber. McCyber is a McGuffey cyber school learning option. This year, students in K-5 will receive instruction through Lincoln Learning Solutions. We will have a district facilitator to assist with student monitoring and questions. The secondary cyber will operate through the FUSION program offered through Intermediate Unit I. The FUSION program will have individual teachers who provide the instruction via Moodle. We have parent training set up for students and parents who have chosen the McCyber option.

The first day for all elementary studens and in-school secondary students is August 27<sup>th</sup>. Secondary students in McCyber will start classes September 1st. We will be holding a Chromebook pickup during the week of August 24th at each of the district buildings. Dates for the pickup will be sent via district phone messaging service. On August 27th, the Blue group will report to school. On Friday,

Fax-724-663-3696

August 28<sup>th</sup>, the Gold group will report to school. This will enable the staff to see all students during the first week of school.

We empathize with parents and students regarding these current challenges. Our goal is to provide the quality education that you have come to expect. We appreciate your patience and understanding during the COVID 19 pandemic. As always, we look forward to serving the students of the McGuffey School District for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely, McGuffey School District Administration