

# Reopening Schools: Frequently Asked Questions

*These were the questions asked most often by parents, guardians, and employees.*

*Note: This FAQ page is a living resource. As CMCSS receives questions from families, employees, and the community district leaders will continue to update this page with pertinent information. For specific questions regarding your student, email [questions@cmcss.net](mailto:questions@cmcss.net).*

## **Q: What is the Continuum of Learning (previously known as the Continuum of Options)?**

A: No matter the circumstances of the pandemic, CMCSS will continue to provide a high-quality education for all students. The Continuum of Learning (previously known as the Continuum of Options) allows the district to shift from different models of instruction, traditional or remote, to provide the safest setting for students without disrupting their learning. For the 2020-2021 school year, there will be accountability, should it be necessary to move to a remote learning model, by using programs such as SchoolsPLP.

## **Q: What is CMCSS K-12 Virtual?**

A: Erin Hedrick, long-time principal of Sango Elementary, has been named the administrator of CMCSS K-12 Virtual.

CMCSS K-12 Virtual...

- is a full-time, virtual learning environment
- is staffed by CMCSS teachers who are certified by the Tennessee Department of Education
- provides technology devices for enrolled students
- provides internet service (hotspots) to enrolled students in need
- offers core content (English-language arts, math, science, and social studies) in grades K-8
- offers high school courses that closely mimic the offerings in the traditional setting
- follows the same traditional CMCSS calendar

Information about CMCSS K-12 Virtual was released in the CMCSS Reopening Plan. In the coming days, open enrollment forms and further details for parents will be released. Stay tuned to the CMCSS website and Facebook page for more information.

**Q: How was information from stakeholders used in the decision making process?**

A: Getting feedback from stakeholders was extremely important for the Communicable Disease Team to determine the level of comfortability of both parents/guardians and employees. It also allowed the school system to understand what health and safety precautions are important to families. Ultimately, the information was used to influence the decision of the district, but was not a voting process.

**Q: Will masks be required for the 2020-2021 school year?**

A: CMCSS has issued the following parameters regarding masks for students as part of its reopening plan:

- All students utilizing CMCSS transportation are **required** to wear masks while riding on the bus.
- Special education and elementary students will not be required but are **encouraged** to wear masks in common areas (hallways, restrooms, etc.) in the school building and when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Middle and high school students will be **required** to wear masks in common areas (hallways, restrooms, etc.) in the school building and when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Employees are required to wear masks in common areas (hallways, restrooms, etc.).
- There will be special considerations and exemptions made as needed regarding mask requirements. The district understands that some students may have health concerns or physical and emotional limitations that make masks difficult to wear.
- Click [here](#) for recommendations from the CDC regarding face coverings.

Students and employees are urged to bring their own masks. However, the district will have masks available for any students or employees who do not have their own.

CMCSS hopes families will partner with the district to promote an overall goal of increased personal hygiene. Parents can help by reinforcing new temporary social limitations while children are in school, such as not giving hugs or high-fives, as well as encouraging increased handwashing.

## Instruction and Curriculum

**Q: If my child is eligible for Pre-K, what options are provided in the reopening plan to offer that service?**

A: More information regarding Pre-K will be available in the coming days.

**Q: How are the needs of students receiving specialized instruction (including but not limited to IEP and 504) taken into consideration under the options available in the reopening plan?**

Regardless of the mode of instruction in use under the Continuum of Learning, students who have an IEP will have the same opportunities as students without IEPs. The district will work to provide whatever is necessary to meet a student's least restrictive environment (LRE) for a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

As a school of choice, CMCSS K-12 Virtual does not offer every educational service a zoned school may offer in a traditional setting. Case reviews will be utilized to determine if the student's needs can be met in the virtual setting.

**Q: How does CMCSS K-12 Virtual compare to other online learning or homeschool virtual opportunities?**

A: CMCSS K-12 Virtual is a free virtual learning opportunity available to all families of K-12 students living in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. The virtual classrooms are run by certified and licensed CMCSS teachers. Unlike other virtual or homeschool options, the parent is not responsible for curriculum or teaching the students. However, as with any educational instruction, parents should share some responsibility as far as monitoring students' time engaged in learning.

**Q: Will schools still offer extracurricular activities (band, JROTC, clubs, and organizations)?**

A: In a traditional setting, most extracurricular opportunities will still be offered. However, individual schools will determine these offerings. CMCSS will adhere to national, state, and local health department guidance to determine the safety of specific activities during the pandemic and provide timely and appropriate guidelines and recommendations. As the conditions of the pandemic are ever-changing, the school district will remain flexible knowing that the health and safety of students and employees is the first priority.

**Q: If my family chooses CMCSS K-12 Virtual, are students provided with a laptop and access to the internet (if necessary) via a hotspot?**

Laptops will be provided for students in the CMCSS K-12 option. Internet service (hotspots) will be offered to families enrolled in the school of choice who are in need.

## Technology

**Q: If the school system moves to remote learning under the Continuum of Learning are students provided with a laptop and access to the internet (if necessary) via a hotspot?**

A: For the 2020-2021 school year, the district is extending the 1:1 program, previously available to all grade 4-12 students, to include 2nd and 3rd grade students. In the event that the district uses a remote learning model, laptops will be issued for home use for all students grades 2-12. Students in grades K-1 will be provided printed materials to supplement their learning. In collaboration with community partners, the district will make every effort to provide internet connectivity to every student in need.

## Transportation

**Q: What are the safety measures in place for school buses and transportation?**

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, parents are encouraged to consider alternative methods of transportation to and from school because passengers on school buses will not always be afforded a minimum six-foot distance from other students.

All bus drivers, bus aides, and bus monitors will be screened and have their temperatures checked before each shift. Bus aides, bus monitors, and students will be required to wear a mask the entire time they are on the school bus. For safety reasons, the bus driver will not wear a mask while the vehicle is in motion. Each CMCSS school bus will have a hand sanitizing station at the passenger door.

In addition, all buses will be disinfected by the Vehicle Maintenance Department after the morning runs and again after the afternoon runs. CMCSS mechanics will use the disinfectant "HDQ" and follow a pressurized spray, wait, and wipe method. The driver will lower windows (weather permitting) and open both roof hatches to increase the fresh airflow throughout the ride. Finally, the district will work to reduce the time students sit on the bus waiting for the school to open in the morning and while loading in the afternoon.

**Q: Will the location of the current bus stops change, or will additional stops be added to promote social distancing?**

A: Additional bus stops will be added in subdivisions. Bus stops will not be supervised by CMCSS staff. Families are strongly encouraged to reinforce proper social interactions with their children.

**Q: Will transportation change for 504 and special population students if the radius for bus transportation changes?**

A: CMCSS will provide special education transportation services according to the requirements of the student's IEP.

## Safety and Health

**Q: How will CMCSS focus on mental health?**

- Social and emotional resources will be provided on the CMCSS website for parent(s)/guardian(s) to access to support the mental health needs of their students in the home environment.
- Students will have a website with social & emotional resources available to them within Classlink.
- When school begins, the school counselor referral system will be available for students to request access to their school counselor during school hours, whether in the traditional setting or remote.
- CMCSS employees will have access to a social and emotional resources hub to aid in students transitioning back to school and/or remote learning.
- School social workers, school psychologists and behavior consultants will continue to provide services to students.
- Students who are eligible will continue to have access to Centerstone and MFLC school-based services. If you have questions about eligibility for those services, please contact your student's school for more information.
- CMCSS/Montgomery County employees will also have access to a mental health counselor through the Onsite Clinic beginning in July.

CMCSS understands that 2020 has caused unprecedented stress and anxiety on families. If you or a family member are in crisis, there are resources available to assist you. Contact 1-800-273-8255 or text TN to 74141 to connect with a Crisis Counselor. Social and emotional health has been and will continue to be an important focus as CMCSS and the community at large navigate these unprecedented times.

**Q: How will the absentee/sick day policy be updated to reflect the need for children to stay home if they, or someone in their home, tests positive for COVID-19?**

A. While education is important and every minute makes a difference when it comes to regular attendance, ultimately, nothing is more important than the health of students and employees. Therefore, modifications will be made to the attendance policy for the 2020-21 school year. If students or employees are sick or someone in their home is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they should not come to school. Additionally, Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3002(a), and other applicable Executive Orders addressing COVID-19 relief are in place so that students who

may not be able to access the brick and mortar facility will not be counted absent with instructional needs being addressed through the remote educational options.

For more information regarding the district's policy for employees and their rights under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, please review Administrative Policy [HUM-A092](#).