

Responsible Return to School

The School at McGuire Memorial

July 29 2020

Beliefs for Building a Strong Foundation

Parents are collaborators in education and the primary protectors of their child's health.

Our most valuable resource is our staff. They must be protected, equipped, respected and supported.

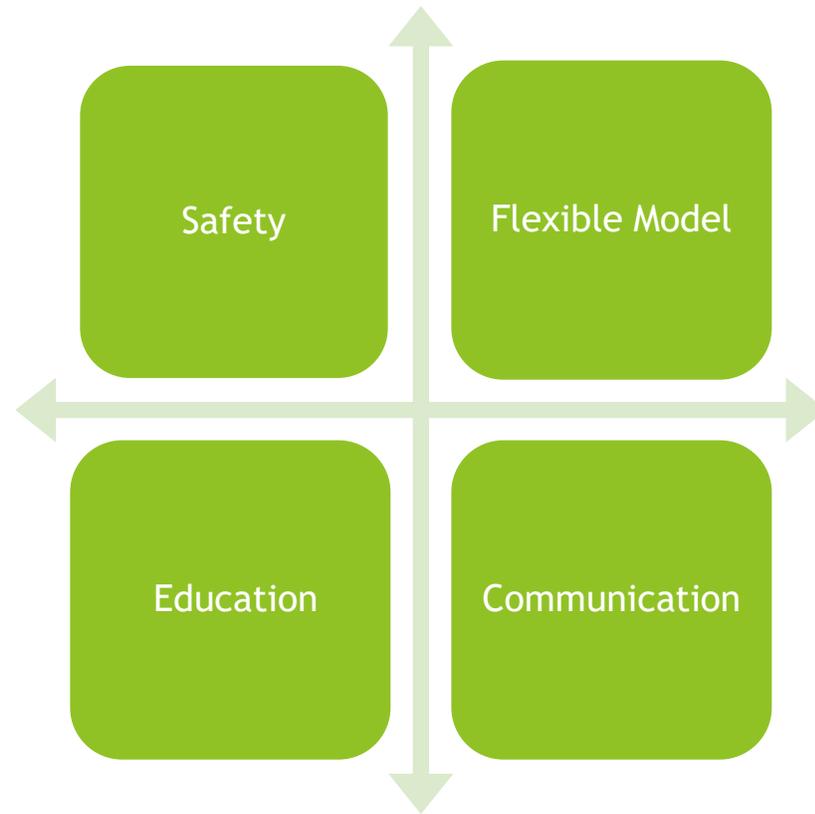
Communication between all stakeholders is vital. It must occur frequently and be transparent.

Our students are complex and vulnerable. They require hands on support with instruction delivered in close proximity. Masks and social distancing cannot be assumed and must be taught.

COVID is unpredictable and likely to be around for sometime.

Our business is education. It must be individualized, cannot be compromised and must be of the highest quality regardless of the platform.

Pillars of Successful Return to School



Our students are unique and require specialized education based on incremental steps guided by data. Therefore, our plan is also unique implementing a specialized approach based on incremental steps guided by data

- ▶ Baseline date (July 21-27) indicates that positivity rates in Western Pennsylvania are among the highest in the state. Among the counties we serve, Armstrong County is #2 with 11.4%, Lawrence County is #3 with 10.8%, Beaver County is #4 at 10%, Mercer County is #5 with 8.7% and Allegheny County is #6 at 8.1%. Beaver County also had the high number of new cases in that same time period.
- ▶ Data indicates a need to use caution in re-opening to protect the health and safety of students and staff by using an incremental steps approach.
- ▶ Step 1. Continue with virtual learning until Oct. 1
- ▶ Step 2. Implement hybrid model with in-school and virtual learning days through Nov. 3 (end of the first 9 weeks)
- ▶ Step 3. Based on data (return to school, hybrid or virtual)

Flexible
Model

Sharing is caring

- ▶ Communication must be open and transparent
- ▶ Live Q&A sessions will be held weekly with parents and with staff
- ▶ Information sharing with other stakeholders (board, districts, first responders, agencies, etc.) will also be scheduled
- ▶ Information will be posted through a new school portal
- ▶ Mass communication push will occur for any changes
- ▶ Trauma conversations and listening sessions will be encouraged and supportive referrals made as needed



Communication

Implementation of IEP goals using evidence-based strategies is non-negotiable. Adjustments to teaching must match the platform

- ▶ Virtual offerings will be increased by the expanding platforms and increasing synchronous instruction time for both individual and group lessons
- ▶ In-building learning will be revamped to accommodate small educational groupings with no more than 4-5 students in a room. Movement throughout the building will be limited. Supportive staff and therapists will be scheduled to push into small educational groups to minimize the spread of germs
- ▶ IEP meetings will occur virtually throughout the 20-21 school year

Education

Health and Safety must be maintained for all members of The School.

Safety

- ▶ The safety of students and staff will guide all decisions regarding return to in-building learning
- ▶ When in-school learning resumes, a full schedule of cleaning/disinfecting will occur both during and after school hours
- ▶ PPE will be available for all staff
- ▶ Mask wearing will be taught to students who are unable to tolerate a mask
- ▶ Environmental modifications will occur for social distancing
- ▶ No visitors will be permitted in the building for the foreseeable future
- ▶ Professional development training will occur for all staff in August