

The Lion's Roar

McAvinnue's Weekly Newsletter: Week Of August 17th-21st

McAvinnue's Principal Message

Hello McAvinnue Community!

Summer is beginning to wind down and EVERYONE is starting to think, plan, and have questions about the reopening of McAvinnue. Many things will be very different this school year...while many things will be very similar to what we have successfully accomplished before. It's important that we remain open-minded, flexible, and understanding that this is uncharted territory for ALL OF US.



While various important details are currently being worked on for the upcoming school year, some important guidelines have been released and we are getting a better sense of how different school might be in September for all of us. For example, students will be required to wear masks and maintain social distance as much as possible during the school day for in-person learning.

Here are a few tips to review before we launch into a brand new school year on Thursday, September 17th:

1. **Mask etiquette:** Teach your children how to wear their masks properly (be sure they remove them using the ear straps, instead of the fabric for optimal hygiene!) Encourage them to practice wearing masks for short periods at home and especially when they are out in public. Provide your children with an extra mask for school. Children need to hear from their parent that masks are one of the best ways to protect ourselves and others from getting COVID-19.
2. **Encourage proper hygiene:** Encourage hand washing often, have some fun with it by singing a song or telling some jokes while they wash. Establish consistent house rules about hand washing, including every time before family members leave home and come into the home from outside, after going to the bathroom, and before and after eating.
3. **Reading:** Keep reading to younger children and encourage older children to read books of their choice. Helpful resources are school and library reading lists. If you have not already, this is a good time to establish a quiet, designated learning area in your home for your child. Ask your child what is needed to be successful completing school assignments at home.
4. **Socialize again with other children:** During this time of stay-home, millions of children around the country have halted playdates and socializing in-person with their peers. While this was essential for health reasons and to help slow the spread of the virus, it can make it tricky when students are back in the classroom with their friends and peers. Now is the time to reorient children to socializing in a safe way. Choose a family you know and trust to have a physically distanced picnic at the school playground or a local park. Most children will bounce back to socializing, but it might be helpful for them to do so with a parent present first, before school starts.

5. **Get back on a regular sleep schedule:** Many students have been on a different sleep schedule throughout the pandemic. They are likely going to bed later and getting up later in the morning. You can start incrementally pushing up bedtime in mid-August to help ease the transition. Try to follow a consistent bedtime routine and avoid electronics.
6. **Have conversations:** Having open, age-appropriate conversations with your children will help them know they are not alone, that we do not have all the answers, that flexibility is very important in this time of COVID-19, and that scientists, health experts, parents, teachers and other leaders are doing everything possible to ensure their health and safety.
7. **Remember, we're all in it together:** Talk with your children and help them understand that anyone can get the virus, no matter where they are from in the world. This is important to reduce any potential stereotypes and ensure compassion and equity in the classroom and beyond.
8. **School may remain virtual for some:** Some families may decide not to send their children to school this season for various reasons. Explain to your children that every family is different and that household members' medical conditions and other factors influence parental decisions about returning to school.
9. **Prevent separation anxiety:** After spending many long months at home, children may feel nervous about going back to school and being apart from family members. Have conversations about going back to school and try to develop tools for your child to feel connected to home, such as notes in their lunchbox, or a family photo they can bring to school.
10. **Be available:** Your children may react to changes in the school in various ways. Be ready for some behavior changes - such as acting out in younger children and quietness for older children. Remember that pillow time before bed is a good time to listen to your child recount events and feelings from the day. This extra time provides a safe environment for children to express their feelings and you may be surprised how much you learn about them.

We hope these tips are helpful. Preparing children for back-to-school this year will be different, yet some things, such as flexibility, sleep and support, remain the same. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's mental/physical health, contact your pediatrician.

Which School Return Option Is Best For You?

Two Full-Time Models To Meet the Needs of Students

	Full Remote	Full, In-Person
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 devices - every student will receive a device • Set school schedule with clear attendance and participation requirements. Students graded on a typical scale. • Mix of live virtual lessons & independent learning across multiple subject areas • Project-based assessment and secure online testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typical schedule and curriculum with slight instructional changes to account for safety/social distancing • Students stay with same cohort/class • Standard assessment & grading • 1:1 devices - every student will receive a device
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address hotspots/WiFi access • Coordinate delivery or pickup of supplementary materials (i.e. assistive technology) • Can still participate in sports or extracurriculars if available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing/different interactions • Students and staff must wear PPE (i.e. masks) • More limited transportation than previous years
Meal Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab and go meal sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students eat meals in classroom

The Lowell Public Schools Reopening Plan is about safely maximizing options for families. LPSD will offer a remote learning option, as well as an in-person option as long as health data continue to support physically being in our buildings. Here is some key points to consider when you are making your learning platform choice.

- The default option for all students is remote learning.
- If a family would like in-person instruction on campus, they need to opt-in through an application. The application period will be August 19th - August 27th. Families wishing to participate in remote learning do not need to fill out an application. It's important that families review the options and contact the Family Resource Center or Mr. Domina if you have any questions.
- If more families opt-in than there are available seats (based on McAvinnue's new capacity numbers), a lottery will be held to determine who will be able to attend school in-person.
- A student's place in the lottery will be determined by a weighting system based upon student need. Those with the highest need (students with an IEP, 504 Accommodation Plan, ELL students, etc.) will be weighed differently when compared to those students with a less significant overall need.
- In order to maximize safety and minimize exposure to other students on the way to and from school each day, There will be very limited transportation available for students. In most cases,

bus transportation will be available for those with no other means of getting to school. A lottery will be held for the limited transportation seats available.

- Families who prefer an in-person learning seat at a school within walking distance to their home may make a transfer request to this school for consideration. The transfer would only be for this school year and depends upon available space at that school. A transfer form will be available on the district website and shared with families.
- Any changes to where a student attends school in 2020-2021 is for the 2020-2021 school year ONLY. Students will revert to their 2019-2020 placement, or in the case of an elementary student transitioning to middle school, the middle school they were going to feed into during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Your initial choice for where to start the school year (remote or in-person) is not locked in for the entire school year. Families will be given the opportunity to select a different option on a quarterly basis.
- If a family requests a different placement based on an extenuating health/safety reason or a change in family circumstances resulting in the need for a different placement, they can submit an appeal with the Chief Equity Officer.
- Families opting for in-person instruction will be notified about their placement for the 2020-2021 school year beginning on September 4th.
- Families who registered their child for kindergarten between May 26th - June 30th were entered into the kindergarten lottery. Families who secured a seat through the lottery will be eligible to attend that school in the 2021-2022 school year. This coming school year (2020-2021), all kindergarten students will be assigned to their neighborhood school - defined as the school which is in walkable distance to the student's home. This assignment will be for one school year only. There may be some exceptions (i.e. students who have older siblings in the school for which they secured a seat through the lottery will be eligible to remain in that school for the 2020-21 school year).

IN-PERSON LEARNING



LOWELL

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL APPLICATION

If a family would like to select in-person learning at McAvinnue, they need to opt-in through an application. The application period will begin on August 19th and close on August 27th. It's critical that you complete the application by August 27th. Requests after this date will not be considered.

Please remember that you do not have to make a decision on August 19th. As long as you make a decision by August 27th, you will be eligible for the lottery for in-person instruction. When you sign up during this period has no impact on your lottery status. You can find additional information about the LPSD "Reopening Plan" using the link found below in this webpage.

[**Click Here For The "In-Person" Learning Application**](#)



Maximizing Options for Families

A Safe School Reopening Plan for Students within the Context of COVID-19
Fall 2020 - Approved August 5, 2020

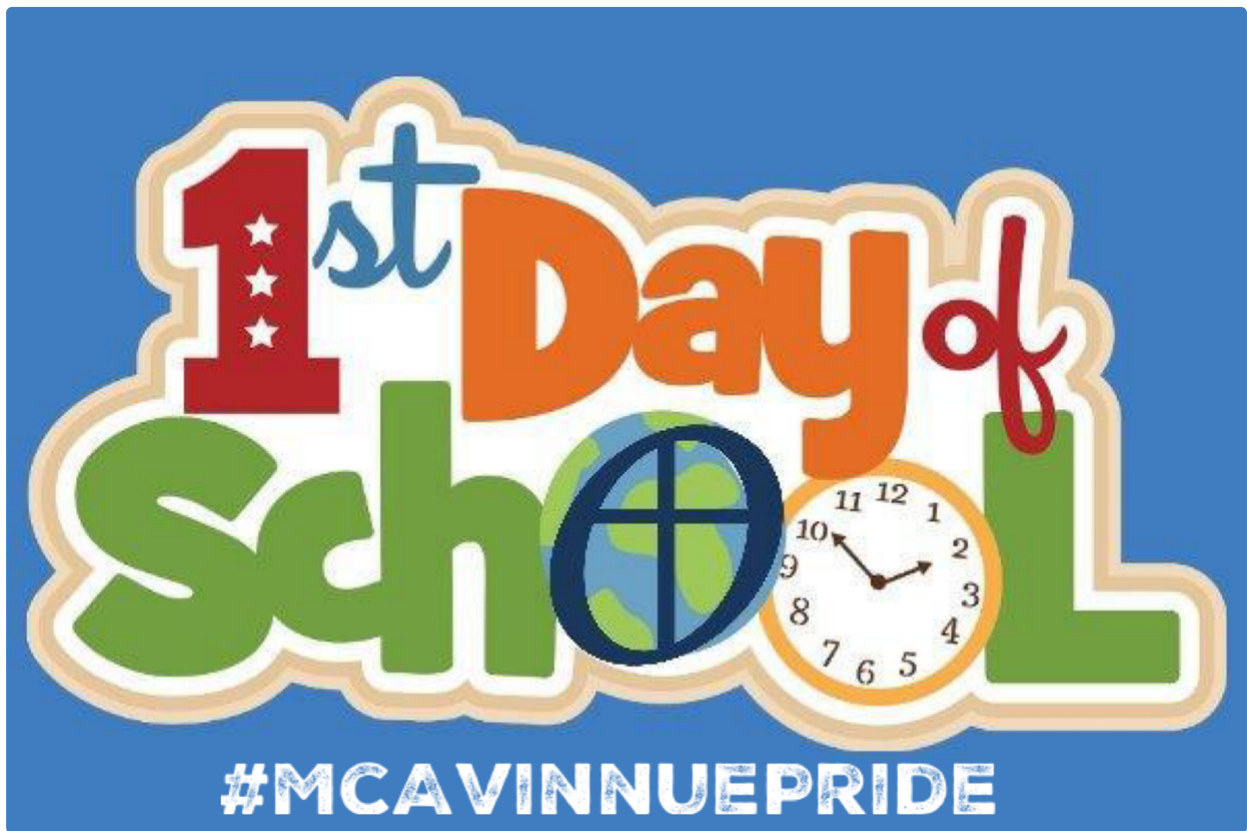


Lowell Public School District Reopening Plan: "Maximizing Options For Families"

Please see the link below that outlines the LPSD "School Reopening" Plan for this school year. We are strongly emphasizing safety for students and faculty while providing options for families to consider: full in-person or full remote learning.

You can find all of the most up to date information using the "pages" tab at near the top of the web page. We will be providing more detailed information related to this plan and how it will be implemented at McAvinnue. Stay tuned!

<https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/4269>



Thursday, September 17th @ 9:10 AM - Grades 1 - 4

Friday, September 18th @ 9:10 AM - PreK & Kindergarten

McAvinnue Elementary School Website

Please check out the website using the link below. This is an important resource and support system to use throughout the school year.

Updates are made regularly so it's important to access the site to receive the most update to date information about McAvinnue and the Lowell Public School District.

Here is the link to McAvinnue's Website:
<https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/mcavinnue>



Lowell Public School District Summer Meal Information

The Lowell Public School District is continuing to provide meals for families. The meals are free of charge daily and can be picked up at any of the locations list. Please see the information below for all of the details. If you have any questions or are experiencing difficulty getting to one of the food distribution locations, please contact Mr. Domina at mdomina@lowell.k12.ma.us

Lowell Public Schools

Summer Eats UPDATED Schedule July 6th–August 31st

STEM Academy: Monday through Friday
11:00-1:00

**Greenhalge: M-W-F
11:00-11:30

**Westminster Apartments: M-W-F
11:45-12:15

**Morey: M-W-F
12:00-12:30

Leblanc Park: Monday through Thursday
12:00-12:30

**Murkland: M-W-F
12:00-12:30

**Lincoln: M-W-F
12:45-1:15

Shedd Park: Monday through Thursday
2:00-2:30

South Common Pool: Monday through Thursday
2:45-3:15

McAuliffe: Monday through Thursday
3:30-3:45

**Monday and Wednesday students will receive
2 Breakfasts and 2 Lunches

ALL Friday locations will continue with
weekend bags

Kid President's "Back To School Pep Talk"

With the start of the new school year around the corner for everyone in the McAvinnue Community, check out this great inspirational message from the "Kid President" directed to our students and teachers.

This year will be different for everyone...we all know this. However, we need to stick together and support one another to ensure we are more amazing than usual. We need to show our "McAvinnue Pride" by "Being The Difference" for each other while we push our fantastic school to the "Next Level"!

Kid President's Pep Talk to Teachers and Students!



Our Vision

 Facebook  @McAvinnueLPS


McAvinnue Elementary School is a place...where there are high expectations, where students are academically engaged, where instruction is guided by a systematic approach to examine data, where there is a multi-tiered system of support, and where a responsive environment that fosters social emotional connections between faculty and students prevails.

#McAvinnuePride #BeTheDifference #NextLevel

 131 Mammoth Road, Lowell, M...

 mdomina@lowell.k12.ma.us

 (978) 937-2871

 lowell.k12.ma.us/Domain/21

