

Monmouth County Vocational School District

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Dear Monmouth County Vocational School Community,

Since the school year was turned upside down in March we have worked to ensure all issues surrounding COVID-19 were addressed, and we remained diligent to ensure our staff and students remained safe. We continually made changes to our policies and procedures based on guidelines from the CDC and the Governor. This pandemic has forced all of us to change the way we do things on a regular basis.

Over the last few months, we met with many stakeholders and developed a reopening plan that included a hybrid learning model. This plan was developed using the ever changing guidance from the Governor and the Department of Education and fell within the guidelines of the edict that “all schools will open with in-person instruction in some capacity.” On July 30th I met with the MCVSD Board of Education and presented MCVSD’s reopening plan. We then sent the plan out to our parents to communicate our intentions to move forward. Unlike a normal comprehensive district, MCVSD has 15 distinct buildings that all have different requirements to meet COVID-19 safety protocols; therefore, I asked all principals to create their own individual reopening plan.

Then, on Wednesday the Governor announced schools can begin the school year remotely; but in order to access the online option, districts will have to prove to the state they cannot reopen safely for in-person learning. At this point, MCVSD intends to continue pushing forward with our hybrid learning plan that we believe meets all of the requirements stated by the State and Department of Education. We submitted our plan back on Aug. 1 to the County Office and are confident it will meet all requirements.

Your child’s principal has also been working on a school level reopening plan that will be available on the school’s website, Monday, August 17. And as directed by the Governor, we will still offer any student who wishes to begin the school year remotely that opportunity.

Finally, we have sent correspondence that all students requesting to learn solely online must notify their building principal by August 14th. We understand that this timeline is very tight, so we will be flexible and allow parents to submit their request by August 21st. Unfortunately, I have to enforce stringent deadlines because I have to be able to make decisions quickly, and I need all of the data points to make these decisions.

We will not waiver on our mission to provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff members, and we will ensure that we have all PPE in place. The district will provide more information next week, and we will continue to be transparent. If you have questions about your child’s school reopening plan, please reach out to your child’s principal.

Thank you for your cooperation and support during this very difficult time.