

Antietam School District

Recommendation for the Virtual Opening and Instruction Plan

Common Use Terms:

In the interest of everyone “speaking the same language” we want to just review some of the terms you may hear throughout this presentation.

- **Asynchronous Learning:** materials such as videos and assignments are posted for student to access for learning. Students have freedom as to when they conduct their learning and how quickly they move through it.
- **Synchronous Learning:** instruction is offered in real-time through virtual conferencing. The teacher is providing instruction to students just virtually.
- **Home School:** The parent conducts all instruction for the students at home.
- **Cyber Charter School:** Students are no longer Antietam School District students. Instruction is delivered primarily asynchronously and the parent is expected to serve as the learning moderator for the student. The district incurs a cost ranging from \$13,000 - \$30,000 for each student which negatively impacts district property taxes.

Commonly Used Terms

In the interest of everyone “speaking the same language” we want to just review some of the terms you may hear throughout this presentation.

- **Antietam Virtual Academy:** A fully asynchronous learning environment offered by the Antietam School District. This is accomplished through a 3rd party provider (EdGenuity) and incurs a cost to the district for each student (approximately \$3,500). The program was intended to offer students seeking a cyber option under “normal” conditions the chance to do so and still be an Antietam student.
- **Full Virtual Instruction:** Intended to be synchronous virtual instruction provided by your Antietam students’ teachers that they will see when the district is able to return to any face-to-face instruction. The synchronous and Antietam staff aspects are what separates this from AVA in the current environment.
- **Hybrid Instruction:** A mix of face-to-face instruction and virtual instruction that involves students splitting time between the two modalities on a regular basis.

We are proposing opening the 2020-2021 School Year using a virtual format for several reasons:

1. The PCCD grant was created to fund protective equipment, cleaning supplies and other health and safety items. The money was supposed to be disbursed to the districts by July 15th - this did NOT take place. Permission to order the items on our grant was not provided until July 28
2. We will not be able to ensure the health and safety of students and staff without all of these items in place prior to opening.

In addition, many of our families are concerned about sending their students to the buildings right now.

This is evidenced by our large increase in AVA applications over the past few weeks.

We currently have 120 students enrolled in our AVA program, of which 100 are new enrollees.

As of now, if we open virtually, at least 62 students will return from AVA and this number of returning students will probably increase.

Additional Concerns:

Staffing- in the event staff members are ill, or need to be quarantined, we will have difficulty filling in with substitutes due to an already existing shortage. Virtual instruction allows students to continue moving forward with lessons and assignments.

Classroom Environment- we would not be able to implement small group instruction and an environment of open discussions, collaboration and other best practices due to all of the health and safety precautions.

Antietam Virtual Reopening vs. AVA:

Our **virtual reopening** this school year automatically includes all students registered in the Antietam School District. Classes will be taught by your student's Antietam teachers, just as if they were face to face in the building.

AVA is our virtual cyber academy which runs throughout every school year and has been in operation for the past 3 years.

Students who do not want to, or are unable to, attend classes in the building register for courses through AVA by setting up an appointment with Mr. Williams. We use a platform called Edgenuity and teachers assigned to monitor the program are employees of Edgenuity.

Mode of Instruction:

MSHS- Instruction will be provided virtually in a synchronous (live) manner. Recordings of instruction will be available for students who miss the class session (asynchronous)

MPEC- Instruction will be provided virtually with Math, English Language Arts, Specials being provided in a synchronous (live) manner. Recordings of instruction will be available for students who miss the class session (asynchronous). Social Studies & Science will be synchronous or asynchronous.

MPPC- Instruction will be provided virtually with Math and English Language Arts being provided in a synchronous (live) manner. Asynchronous (recorded) options will be available for all whole group lessons.

The School Week (Monday-Friday following the School Calendar)
Building office hours will be posted.

MSHS- The school day will be from 8:00AM-1:45PM. Teacher virtual office hours will be from 2:00PM-3:00PM every afternoon.

MPEC- The school day will be from 8:30-1:35PM. Small groups and teacher virtual office hours will be from 1:45-3:15PM.

MPPC- The school day will be from 8:30- 2:00PM. Extra Support and teacher virtual office hours will be from 2:05 - 3:15PM.

Some students who receive specialized services may be in the building from 9-12:00 every day depending on individual needs.

Attendance: Attendance practices will follow the established state and district guidelines

MSHS- Attendance in daily class sessions is mandatory; it will be taken each period.

MPEC- Attendance will be taken each day.

MPPC- Attendance will be taken each day.

Students who miss a school day will need to provide an excuse note to their building office- we will follow the state guidelines with respect to reporting absences. Parents need to contact their building principal for specific cases.

Structure of the School Day:

MSHS- The day will have 8 periods, each will be 35 minutes long. There will be a 5 minute break between periods and a scheduled 30 minute lunch. Student schedules are available on Skyward through Family Access portal. We will share information about BCTC as soon as it becomes available.

Structure of the School Day:

MPEC- The day will have 8 periods, each will be 30 minutes long. There will be a 5 minute break between periods and a scheduled 30 minute lunch.

Structure of the School Day:

MPPC- The day will have a Consistent Structured Schedule that allows for Live and Taped Lessons with a support Block at the end of the day. There will be a 15 minute break at 9:45AM and a scheduled 30 minute lunch at 11:20AM.

Assessments and Grading:

MSHS- Per individual teacher's course work- similar to face to face structure. Expectations will be shared with students and parents during first week of school.

MPEC- Marking guidelines will be created and shared by the team.

MPPC- Scoring guidelines will be provided for Math, Foundations, Writing and Reading

Technology:

All students will have district-provided devices available to use for the school year. We will develop and post a device pick-up schedule within the next week.

Device support and repair will be available through our Technology Department throughout the school year.

Special Education:

- Our **In-person Instruction** includes students with low-incidence disabilities and students who do not participate in the General Education curriculum
 - Low-incidence disabilities refer to a visual impairment or hearing loss, deaf-blindness, and significant cognitive impairment, autism. For children, the definition extends to any impairment that requires individualized intervention services provided by professionals with highly specialized skills and knowledge in order for the child to benefit from his or her education.
- Our **Virtual Instruction** includes students with disabilities who participate in the General Education curriculum with/without interventions.

Special Education:

In-person Instruction for students with low incidence disabilities:

Mode of Instruction:

- In-person instruction for Reading, Writing and Math, Life Skills instruction, Social Skills instruction, Behavioral interventions
- Specials - Virtual Synchronous/Asynchronous (see building plan)
- Related Services - TBD

Special Education:

In-person Instruction:

- **Platform for Delivery of Instruction** - Face to Face Instruction
- **The School Day** - Monday through Thursday from 9am-12pm at AMSHS
- **Attendance** - Taken in person
- **Structure of the Day** - Based on individual needs of students
- **Assessment & Grading** - Marking guidelines will be created and shared by the team

Special Education:

Virtual Instruction:

Mode of Instruction:

- Core classes - Virtual Synchronous (see building's plan)
- Specials - Virtual Synchronous/Asynchronous (see building's plan)
- Interventions - Virtual Synchronous (see building's plan)
- Related Services - TBD

Special Education:

Virtual Instruction:

- **Platform for Delivery of Instruction** - Based on specific building's plan
- **The School Day** - Based on specific building's plan
- **Attendance** - Based on specific building's plan
- **Structure of the Day** - Based on specific building's plan and individual needs of students
- **Assessment & Grading** - Based on specific building's plan and individual needs of students

Special Education:

Students in Out of District placements:

- Students in out of district placements will follow the plan for their specific school
 - If the school is offering in-person instruction, transportation will be provided to/from school

Gifted Education:

Virtual Instruction:

- **Platform for Delivery of Instruction** - Based on specific building's plan
- **The School Day** - Based on specific building's plan
- **Attendance** - Based on specific building's plan
- **Structure of the Day** - Based on specific building's plan and individual needs of students. Support will be provided through co-teaching model during live instruction (asynchronous), independent work assigned (synchronous), check-ins and during end of the day support period
- **Assessment & Grading** - Based on specific building's plan and individual needs of students

Support for Students:

Additional support for all students will be provided by teachers during flexible daily office hours. Students who receive special education services will also have support from instructional aides and their assigned caseload teacher as needed and per their IEP, Gifted IEP or 504 plan.

We will continue to support all students and will hold virtual meetings with parents and team members.

Students who receive ELL services will continue to work with Mrs. Giatras and Mrs. Bertolet.

Social/Emotional Wellness: This is a focus of our Professional Development plan for this year

- Agreement with Thom Stecher and Associates to make SEL a year-long professional development focus
 - Full Day August 25, 2020
 - Full Day February 12, 2021
 - 6 early dismissal day sessions for Core Team review, Curriculum fine tuning, and teacher coaching
- SEL Curriculum for K-8 draft is complete and will be presented to the Curriculum Committee in the new school year

Social/Emotional Wellness cont.

- The school counselors are available to continue meeting with students
- Grades K-6 have SEL support and lessons regularly occurring within schedules.
- The MSHS is discussing where and how to deliver the content developed with the team
 - Determining where to fit into the student day
 - Determining who will deliver the lessons
 - Part of the conversations and support with Thom Stecher

Additional Student Services:

School counselors will communicate with parents and students individually and have individual virtual sessions as needed. Our **SAP** liaison from Caron will run groups for students in conjunction with our counselors. Students will continue to be able to access **CONCERN** counseling as needed.

MHS- Laurel Life staff will continue to work with and provide flexible support to any student we identify as benefiting from their services.

Parent Resources:

1. Flexible student support schedules (Reading Interns, paraprofessionals, teachers, Laurel Life)
2. BCIU Child Care- we are working with BCIU to create child care opportunities and will share information as it becomes available on our district website and through email notifications
3. Resources are still available on A+ sharp platform
4. School counselors and school nurses will be available to assist parents and meet with them virtually
5. Student Lunch Program information will be shared as soon as we receive information from USDA

Question and Answer Opportunities:

Each building administrator will set up and announce virtual meetings over the next few weeks.

The purpose of these Zoom sessions will be to provide parents and students the opportunity to ask questions specifically related to their building and grade level.

Moving Forward:

The Pandemic Team and administration will be meeting throughout the upcoming weeks and will continue to evaluate all of the components of our Health and Safety Plan, and the PA Department of Health and PDE updates. The team will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors at their October workshop meeting: remain in virtual learning, or move to a hybrid or full face to face model.

The safety and well-being of our staff and students will guide our recommendation. Thank you.