



July 27, 2020

Dear Early Childhood Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming our returning and new families back to our early childhood program!

Last week, the Mehlville School District released possible paths for returning to school. These plans can be found on the Mehlville School District website at <http://mehlville.ss11.sharpschool.com/>. An annotated version of this plan for Early Childhood can be found below in this letter. An Early Childhood parent meeting was held last week to discuss these paths and how they pertain to Early Childhood locations. Please visit the Mehlville School District website, navigate to the John Cary Early Childhood Center page, and click on the tab "Q & A for School Reopening" to listen to the audio recording, or follow this link: https://jcecc.mehlilleschooldistrict.com/q_a_for_school_reopening. The district will determine which plan will be in place for the fall by August 7th. The deadline to let the Early Childhood office know if you plan to participate in the On-Campus School option (Plans A, B, or C, also described below) will be August 10th.

Our Meet the Teacher Day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25 (times and additional dates to be communicated soon, as we are still determining how Meet the Teacher will look), and the first day of school for Early Childhood is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26th. Please be assured we are committed to providing the same nurturing environment and high-quality learning experiences while implementing additional measures to minimize risk to students, families, and staff. Our first term together will be spent deeply rooted in reestablishing trust and connection with your children. We will embrace each student where they are emotionally and support them as we navigate our new learning environments together.

The information below contains the universal safety precautions for Early Childhood and the three possible school plans for On-Campus School (Plans A, B, and C) depending on the spread of illness in our community. Additional information specific to the Early Childhood program for this school year is also provided below.

Universal Safety Procedures for COVID-19
Mehlville Early Childhood
(Early childhood locations are at the following schools: Beasley, Bierbaum, Forder, Hagemann, John Cary, Point and Trautwein)

Arrival and Dismissal

- Each school will have designated entrances for students arriving by bus and car.
- At the John Cary location, school doors will open 10 minutes prior to the start and end of the official class session, such as 8:05 for an 8:15 start time, 12:05 for a 12:15 start time, and 11:05 for an 11:15 dismissal time, and 3:05 for a 3:15 dismissal time.
- Parents must stay in their vehicles for arrival and dismissal. An early childhood staff member will accompany the child from the vehicle to the classroom. Hang tags for vehicles may be issued at some locations, such as John Cary.
- If a student is late, a school employee will meet the child and parent at the front door for check-in.

Social Distancing Measures and Sanitization

- Classroom seating will be spaced as much as possible for social distancing.
- Students will have assigned seats at the table and at circle time.
- Areas such as therapy rooms will be sanitized between groups of students.
- Staff will make frequent use of outdoor classroom spaces, such as picnic tables, benches, etc.
- Students will have their own assigned materials in some cases, such as playdoh. Community supplies and toys will be rotated out per class and sanitized.

Taking Materials Home

- Students will be provided with a bag of materials to keep at home in the event that on-campus learning pivots to connected learning at home.

Traffic Flow Inside Buildings

- Passing times will be staggered when possible (such as restroom breaks at the elementary schools).
- Hallways and stairwells will be marked to promote social distancing and safe traffic flow.

Hand-Washing Schedules

- Students and staff will wash and/or sanitize hands frequently throughout the day to promote cleanliness.
- Students will clean their hands before and after snack, center time and playground time.

Playgrounds and Gymnasiums

- Playgrounds and gyms will be open to students and cleaned daily.
- Students will clean their hands after using playgrounds/gyms.

Visitors

- Visitors will be limited in the building to scheduled meetings and appointments approved by the building administrator.
- Visitors will complete the COVID-19 self-screening checklist prior to entering the building (see below).
- All visitors must wear facial coverings inside the building, and follow social-distancing procedures.
- Meetings involving outside visitors will be conducted virtually when possible.



COVID-19 Screening

For the safety of our school community, if you answer YES to any of these questions, you may not enter this building.

Do you have or have you recently had any of the following?

1. A fever 100.4 or higher, chills or repeated shaking with chills
2. A cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing that cannot be attributed to another health condition
4. A loss of the sense of smell or taste
5. Muscle aches or pains (myalgias) or general fatigue that cannot be attributed to another health condition or that may have been caused by a specific activity, such as physical exercise
6. A sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition
7. Congestion or runny nose that cannot be attributed to another health condition
8. A headache that cannot be attributed to another health condition
9. Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
10. Close contact in the past two weeks with a person who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19

You may not enter the building if you are experiencing any of these symptoms. If you are a Mehville School District staff member, please call your supervisor to discuss options.

These screening questions are based on a review of screening protocols from multiple health agencies. Updated July 2, 2020.

Return to School Plan for Early Childhood:



Mehlvilleville School District
Connecting and Caring during COVID-19

Return to School Early Childhood Update



On-Campus School **Mehlvilleville@Home**

At this time, the district is not offering the Mehlvilleville@Home virtual academy for students in Early Childhood; if your child receives special education services and you do not feel comfortable sending your child to On-Campus School, please notify the main office at 314-467-5301 or email Dr. Ann Westbrook at awestbrook@msdr9.org. We will be in contact with you to discuss other options to access special education services.

The options for On-Campus School may look different throughout the year, depending on the community spread of COVID-19:



Mehlville On-Campus

- In-person instruction on campus at all 19 schools
- Procedures in place to reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19, including social distancing where possible
- Depending on community spread of COVID-19, instruction may pivot to virtual instruction or a staggered schedule to allow greater social distancing.



A: At School

- In-person instruction will occur on campus at all 19 schools.
- Procedures are in place to reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19, including social distancing where possible.

B: Blended

- On any given day, half of the student body will attend school on campus and half will learn at home.
- New curriculum will be taught.
- Family groups would attend school on the same days.

C: Connected

- Students will connect online with their teachers on a defined schedule.
- New curriculum will be taught.
- Students will be assessed as if they are in-person.

For the At School (Plan A) or Blended (Plan B), students in Early Childhood will continue to attend on their regularly scheduled days and times, Monday through Thursday. (We understand our families have many unique situations. At this time, we cannot honor any changes to a child's current days of attendance nor add any additional attendance days. For example, if your family enrolled to attend on Mondays and Wednesdays, we cannot honor a request to switch enrollment days to Tuesday and Thursday, or to add a Tuesday or Thursday to the schedule. We thank you in advance for your understanding in light of the current circumstances.)

In the event that the district must implement Connected Learning (Plan C), tuition-based students would not have to pay their monthly rate for the number of days of attendance, but only be charged a flat rate of \$55 a month to access Connected Learning. If you would like to withdraw for the fall semester and "hold" your spot for the spring semester, you will not have access to Connected Learning during the fall. If you want to re-enroll for the spring semester, the deadline is December 14th to notify the Early Childhood office.

In the near future, you will be receiving additional information, enrollment paperwork, and answers to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). We are here to support and guide our families and staff as you navigate these challenging times. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work diligently to address your concerns and consider your feedback. We miss you all dearly and look forward to seeing you soon!

Dr. Ann Westbrook
Director of Mehlville Early Childhood