

Dear McCants Parents/Guardians,

COVID-19 has forever affected our lives and has significantly impacted our approach to “traditional” school operations. Coming off an unprecedented year last year, it is no surprise that the upcoming 2020-2021 school year will also be like no other. We are currently in the process of planning for a return to face-to-face instruction with students on Tuesday, September 8; however, please understand that plans, policies, and protocols are subject to change. The middle school principals of Anderson Five have worked collaboratively this summer to compile the following list of responses to frequently asked questions and other helpful information about anticipated changes to school operations. While each school will have unique challenges, we will all be working earnestly to create a safe and positive school environment for our students.

What safeguards will be put in place in schools?

- **Distancing:** Social distancing will be implemented to the extent possible in a school setting.
- **Masks:** Anderson Five will provide each student in grades 6-12 with 2 masks. Should a student choose to wear a mask from home, it must be school appropriate and fall under the parameters of the student dress code. Students will be required to replace their mask if it is misplaced. Details about when/where students and staff will be required to wear masks are being finalized by the district and will be shared prior to school beginning.
- **Cleaning and Sanitizing:** Classrooms and common areas will be equipped with hand sanitizer. Campus Enhancement Services has updated school cleaning methods and has prioritized the sanitation of all high-contact items and areas.
- **Protocol for Exposure and/or Known/Suspected Cases:** Students or staff members will not be allowed to stay on campus if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. In the case of students, a parent will be contacted and asked to pick up their child from school within an hour of being contacted. Nursing Services will communicate the protocols for students and staff returning to school.

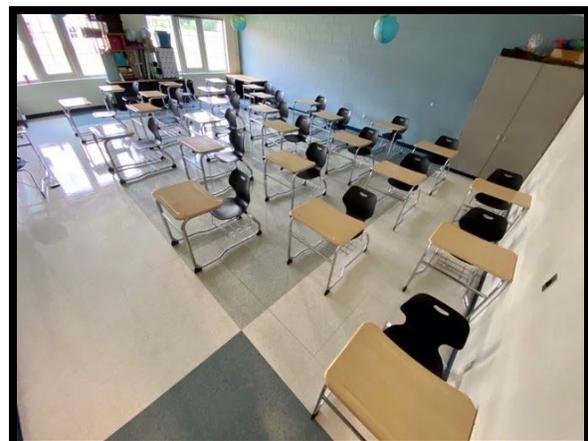
What changes can we expect for the upcoming school year?

- **Holding Areas:** Students will be reasonably distanced during AM/PM holding. Specific arrival and dismissal procedures will be shared in our virtual orientation and student handbook. Please look for these specifics about two weeks prior to the beginning of school.
- **Lunch:** Food Service will implement procedures to reduce/eliminate student self-selection of items and keep distance through the lunch service lines. Students will be

distanced as much as possible throughout the cafeteria. Note: Breakfast will be served in classrooms each morning.

- **Water Fountains:** All water fountains will be turned off, so students will need to bring their own water bottles (must be clear containers) to school.
- **Transitions:** A 4x4, 90-minute schedule reduces the number of high-traffic transitions throughout the school day. McCants adopted this schedule for this year for all classes and will continue this schedule for the upcoming year. ELA and Math classes will be 90 minutes every day. Social Studies and Science classes will alternate on an A/B schedule for 90 minutes throughout the school year. Related Arts will have a 90 minutes A/B schedule for each semester with students changing Related Arts classes at the semester break unless enrolled in a year-long Related Arts course.
- **Common Supplies:** The use of common supplies will be limited (pencils, calculators, lab equipment, machinery, P.E. equipment, etc.).
- **Visitors:** Visitors will not be allowed access into hallways and classrooms this year. Anyone entering the front office area should wear a mask or other form of PPE. We are asking that all visitors call the front office before exiting their car to come on campus. We may be able to help you from a distance.
- **Outside Food/Deliveries:** No outside food or deliveries will be allowed during the school day. This is not a practice we have used for several years.
- **Assemblies, Open House, Orientations, etc.:** There will be no assemblies during the school day or large gatherings after school hours. We will publish a virtual parent/student orientation prior to the start of the school year.
- **Field Trips:** All field trips are on hold until further notice.

What will classrooms and common areas look like with reasonable distancing in place? These are just examples...





- Desks in classrooms will be strategically placed in order to maximize distance between students while also accommodating varying class sizes.
- Classrooms that use tables instead of desks will limit the number of students per table. This should only be the case in maybe an art room.
- Cafeteria procedures will be changing and distancing will be implemented. Distancing limits the number of seats available in the cafeteria; therefore, classrooms could also be utilized during lunch.

If I do not feel comfortable sending my child to school, what are my options?

If you do not feel comfortable sending your child back to school this fall, there will be a 100% virtual option offered through Anderson School District Five. It is important to distinguish between online school and the emergency virtual learning that families experienced last spring. The program used for Anderson Five Virtual Academy will not feel similar to the flexible schedules and limited scope associated with the emergency lessons our teachers were asked to provide students last spring during state-mandated school closures. Our 100% virtual option will reflect rigor, time commitment, and a format of traditional online courses. Students will experience a greater level of daily engagement than with eLearning, coupled with in-depth material and instruction that is more reflective of a traditional in-person model. It is important to note that choosing the virtual option over the face-to-face, in-the-building option means that you commit your student to the virtual option for at least the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. **The deadline to apply for the Anderson Five Virtual Academy is Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00 p.m.** Visit the Anderson Five RE-START website for more information and to access the application for the Virtual Academy.

How will my child learn some of the important standards that may have been difficult to learn through eLearning last spring?

Teachers will be collaborating to determine which essential standards and/or skills from the previous grade level (especially those from the eLearning period) that need to be addressed at the beginning of the year. Teachers will develop plans to help students learn or recover those key concepts during the first few weeks of school and beyond.

As always, thank you for your continued thoughts, prayers, and support during these challenging times. We asked that you help in this endeavor by checking your student's health daily and letting us know if issues come up. This will help us keep our entire school community safe!

I will continue to communicate with you as more details and plans for the upcoming school year become finalized. Stay informed with up-to-date information about Anderson School District Five's RE-START Plans, Procedures, and Instructional Models by visiting the RE-START website: <https://sites.google.com/anderson5.net/a5-re-start/home>.

Your Partner in Education,

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