



# **Returning for the 2020-21 School Year**

Original Version - July 21, 2020

**Revised - September 10, 2020**

## Introduction

In looking forward to the 2020-21 school year, D60 presents the following plan that prioritizes the learning and social emotional needs of our students, while also protecting the health and safety of our students and staff.

The D60 plan is based on the most current public health guidance. However, it is important to note that the plan will most likely be adjusted when we receive updated guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the DuPage County Health Department. It is very possible that schools will fluctuate between in-person and remote learning this school year as health conditions evolve.

Our administrative team and teacher leaders have been meeting regularly since the pandemic began in March and in-person learning was suspended. This culture of collaboration is deeply rooted in our district, and continues to serve us well in making decisions that support our mission and vision. Our goal has remained constant over the past four months: to support the well-being of our students and families, and to continue engaging our students academically in the best possible manner. As a district, we are preparing for a variety of scenarios and as always, we are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way. The three models that our team studied are shown below.

<b>Full In-Person Learning</b>	<b>Hybrid Learning</b>	<b>Full Remote Learning</b>
All students are physically present in the school, with modifications. New health and safety protocols outlined by the state and county health departments would be required.  While all students are back in school, the student experience will be different than it was pre-pandemic.	All students will attend school in-person, but not at the same time. This is done to reduce the number of people present in the school at one time.  Students will be divided into two groups with assigned times to attend school in-person, and assigned times to work with teachers remotely.	All learning will occur virtually if it is deemed unsafe for students or staff to be in the school.  This version of remote learning will be different than it was in the spring.

At this time, Maercker School District 60 is offering the following two options for the 2020-21 school year. Parents will log in to Skyward family Access to make their choice for the year (link will be sent at a later date).

**Option 1: Hybrid In-Person Instruction:** Governor Pritzker announced on June 23 that Illinois schools could return to in-person learning with enhanced safety protocols. D60 is implementing these protocols so that all students in grades K-8 receive some instruction in-person and some instruction remotely.

**Option 2: Full Online Academy:** In-person instruction may not be an option for students with elevated health risks, or students who have family members with elevated health risks. Also, some families may feel uncomfortable having their children attend school in-person. D60 will provide online instruction for any students in these situations.

We continue to appreciate your patience and trust as we navigate these challenging times. Please review the rest of this document for more detailed information about our plans for the 2020-21 school year.

## Option 1: Hybrid Schedule

Maercker School District 60 will transition to a hybrid learning environment on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, if staffing and local health conditions still allow for such a transition to occur.

The in-person learning experience will look very different than the one our students had pre-pandemic. Strict social distancing measures mean there will be fewer students in the classroom. Desks will be spread six feet apart and faced the same direction, and many of the flexible seating options we recently introduced will be removed.

This summer D60 administrators and teacher leaders discussed the best hybrid scheduling options since all students could not safely return at the same time. The team decided on a hybrid AM/PM model with students attending school in-person for half of the day and receiving remote instruction for the other half of the day.

The hybrid AM/PM schedule allows small groups of students to resume in-person learning and peer interactions in an environment aligned to current health and safety guidelines. This schedule provides core instruction (English Language Arts, math, social studies and science) to students in person, every day. During the second half of the day students will participate in physical education, specials/electives, intervention, and enrichment remotely. We anticipate class sizes for in-person classrooms to range from 8-12 depending on the grade level.

It is important to note that the remote instruction students receive this year will be different from what they experienced in the spring. To start, there will be a set schedule where students will be expected to log on, and daily attendance will be taken. Second, there will be much more live virtual teaching, with additional “on demand” access to content. Finally, students will be held accountable for their work and grades will be issued.

<b>Group A Hybrid Schedule (Grades K-8)</b> <i>Students with last names A-K</i>	<b>Group B Hybrid Schedule (Grades K-8)</b> <i>Students with last names L-Z</i>
<b>Westview Hills Middle School</b> 7:40 AM - 10:20 AM <u>In-Person</u> Learning 12:20 PM - 3:00 PM <u>Remote</u> Learning	<b>Westview Hills Middle School</b> 7:40 AM - 10:20 AM <u>Remote</u> Learning 12:20 PM - 3:00 PM <u>In-Person</u> Learning
<b>Holmes Primary School</b> 8:10 AM - 10:50 AM <u>In-Person</u> Learning 12:50 PM - 3:30 PM <u>Remote</u> Learning	<b>Holmes Primary School</b> 8:10 AM - 10:50 AM <u>Remote</u> Learning 12:50 PM - 3:30 PM <u>In-Person</u> Learning
<b>Maercker Intermediate School</b> 8:40 AM - 11:20 AM <u>In-Person</u> Learning 1:20 PM - 4:00 PM <u>Remote</u> Learning	<b>Maercker Intermediate School</b> 8:40 AM - 11:20 AM <u>Remote</u> Learning 1:20 PM - 4:00 PM <u>In-Person</u> Learning

\* There may be some deviation from the assignment by last name based on special circumstances and accelerated class placement.

Preschool students will have a different schedule. Holmes School staff will reach out to all families directly to discuss.

## Option 2: Online Academy

We also understand that some students may have documented medical issues that make it difficult to return to in-person instruction, and that some families may be uncomfortable sending their children back to school at this time. D60 will provide a fully Online Academy for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade, D60 staff will provide an Online Academy through a combination of synchronous (live teaching via Zoom) and asynchronous (independent learning activities with teacher feedback) learning.

Students in sixth through eighth grades will receive their core (ELA, math, science and social studies) and elective classes through an online learning program, monitored by D60 staff.

Families that choose the Online Academy will be asked to commit for at least one trimester to allow for proper staffing and management.

## Health and Safety Procedures

The Illinois Department of Public Health and DuPage County Health Department have outlined the following procedures for schools to follow when resuming in-person learning. These requirements may change based on the health conditions in the community.

**Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness must stay home.**

All students, staff, and essential visitors must follow these protocols while in a D60 school.

- Anyone entering a school or a school bus on a school attendance day must either self-certify or participate in a symptom check.
- All spaces will be designed so that social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained as much as possible.
- Everyone at school, on a bus, or at a school-related event must wear a face mask (cloth or medical) at all times.
- All spaces will be capped at 50 people. In very large spaces, we may accommodate additional groups, provided the groups are separated by 30 feet or more.
- Every space will be prepared for use by cleaning all surfaces according to IDPH protocols and cleaning every day with appropriate products as well.
- Any area used by an individual who displays symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 will be cleaned according to IDPH protocols.
- Proper and frequent hand hygiene will be emphasized through signage and ample supplies for sanitizing will be available.
- Building air filters will be changed twice as often.
- Water bottle filler stations will remain active, but the spout will be disconnected. Water systems will be flushed and tested for Legionella before school starts.

**Students, staff, or visitors who do not follow these guidelines and protocols will not be allowed in any D60 facility.**

## Additional COVID-19 Procedures

- Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness must stay home.
- Any staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19 must immediately notify the school office.
- Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 should not return to school for 10 days after symptoms first appeared. Individuals must also be fever free for 72 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Individuals who have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Close contact is defined as being closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes.
- Our plan to resume in-person learning minimizes the chance for people to be in close contact with others. We will document circumstances when people have more than 15 minutes of sustained close contact (closer than 6 feet), and notify those involved if someone tests positive.
- A positive case of COVID-19 within a school does not automatically mean that the school will close down or that everyone in a particular classroom must quarantine. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and DuPage County Health Department guidelines will be followed for quarantine, deep cleaning, and closure.
- Each school will maintain an area to triage sick students and staff and then quarantine separately if needed. Any individual with symptoms will be required to leave any D60 facility and cannot return until approved by school staff.

## Additional Information

- **Activities** - All activities will be held remotely. Activity sponsors will share more information after the school year has begun.
- **Athletics** - All fall sports are canceled. Our athletic conference will continue to evaluate this on a season by season basis.
- **Attendance** - Student attendance will be taken for every class period. Families will be notified when students are absent without cause. Families will not have to check in everyday as was required in the spring. Instead, families will only notify the school office of an absence.
- **Arrival, Dismissal and Transition** - Students must report directly to their classroom when arriving at school. Any person in the hallway must be moving towards a location; no one is allowed to congregate anywhere in the school.
- **Food Service** - All students will be provided “grab and go” meals that they can eat at home.
- **Grading** - D60 will return to pre-pandemic established grading practices. Teachers will continue providing feedback to enhance student performance against the learning target.
- **Internet Service** - Reliable internet service is vital for students to learn remotely. Families should contact the school office if they do not have reliable internet service.
- **Student Services** - D60 support staff is still available to meet with students. If social distancing cannot be maintained, services may be provided virtually.
- **Transportation** - Bus transportation will still be provided. Bus capacity is limited to 50 people by state mandate. Bus routes will be designed with the goal of having one student per seat, but that may not always be possible. Every person on the bus must wear a face covering at all times.
- **Technology Assistance** - D60 staff will be available for technology assistance. Schools will communicate additional information once the school year begins.

## Special Services

Health Care Plans, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), 504 Plans and any other relevant documentation will be reviewed. The school team will meet with parents/guardians to determine the appropriate service delivery model.

Due to social distancing guidelines, IEP and 504 meetings will continue to be held virtually.

## Full Return to Remote Learning

It is very possible that all D60 students will have to transition to remote learning at some point during the 2020-21 school year. This could be mandated by the state, or a local decision that is made in response to conditions in our community.

Remote learning during the 2020-21 school year will look different than it did in the spring. There will be a set schedule where students will be expected to log on at set times, and daily attendance will be taken. There will be much more live virtual teaching, with additional “on demand” access to content. Finally, students will be held accountable for their work and grades will be issued.

If the entire district is forced to return to remote learning, the student day at all D60 schools will be **9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**. Schools will send more detailed information about the specific schedule if this change occurs.