

# Manlius Pebble Hill School

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
Updated 9.11.20

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## **Education Program Options**

*What options are available to my student when the MPH campus is open?*

When the campus is open, students may access their education either in person or via simulcast access.

- In-Person Access: Students access the educational programming while physically present on campus. To maintain physical-distancing protocols when students are on campus, teachers will use technology to engage students with the academic content as well as to foster relationships in the classroom.
- Simulcast Access: Students who are at home will access the educational program along with their peers by viewing direct teaching in real-time. As the simulcast system evolves, we will implement additional practices to better facilitate interaction between the physical and digital classrooms.

*What will happen if the MPH campus is closed?*

If the MPH campus is closed, families will be notified and given instructions about how to pivot to a distance-learning format in which all teachers and students interact using communication technology from home.

## **Student Arrivals, Departure, and Supervision**

*When does the school day begin and end?*

When held on campus, MPH classes will begin at 8:10 a.m. and conclude at 3:05 p.m. With health and safety protocols in mind, students will be able to enter the school building no sooner than 7:50 a.m., and all students will depart campus no later than 3:30 p.m.

*Will parents be allowed to enter MPH school facilities?*

Yes, but only for specific and essential purposes. With health and safety protocols in mind, we want to minimize unnecessary human interaction. Parents who need to enter the school will be asked to coordinate with an MPH employee who will host the parent visitor while on site, including during the

sign-in process and until the parent visitor departs campus. As is required for all students and employees, parent visitors will be required to complete and submit the MPH Daily Health Assessment prior to entering any school facility.

*Will there be any before-school or after-school supervision available?*

MPH will provide before-school care for Pre-K students only from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., maintaining all physical-distancing and face-covering requirements.

MPH will provide after-care programs between 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. for any Lower School and Middle School students who have no other family coverage options. Physical-distancing and face-covering requirements will be in place in this setting as well.

*If moving to a distance-learning format is required, will MPH be considered an essential day care option for Pre-K students?*

MPH fully anticipates that its Pre-K program will continue to operate in the event New York State's schools are closed to in-person learning due to COVID-19. MPH's Pre-K program is exempt from New York State daycare licensure requirements, and daycare programs have been permitted to continue to operate during the pandemic as "essential" services. While no one can predict the future, it is our expectation that our Pre-K program will be permitted to operate in-person, even if K-12 schools are required to shift to distance learning.

### **Academic Support**

*Will students have access to their teachers outside of class time for additional academic support?*

Yes. Teachers will be available to provide academic support to their students outside of the class period. Students will meet with their advisors five days a week and will have opportunities to connect virtually with their teachers during tutorial.

### **Face Coverings**

*Will everyone be required to wear face coverings when on campus?*

Every individual (with the exception of Pre-K students, who will wear hat shields) will wear face coverings that meet state guidelines on campus and inside buildings unless otherwise instructed (e.g., while eating or during designated face-covering breaks). Adults in close proximity to students (fewer than six feet) will wear an additional face shield. Parents will be required to provide face coverings for their child(ren). MPH will provide extra face coverings for students at school, should the need arise. MPH will also provide face coverings to all employees, as well as face shields to all employees who need them. There will be time in the daily schedule for students and staff to take outdoor face-covering breaks.

## **Nutrition**

*How will lunch and snacks be served?*

All food will be prepared and served by our dining services team and packaged for individual consumption. Our dining services team is aware of food allergies in our community and will prepare meals with their protection in mind. Students and employees will not eat snacks or meals in the cafeteria; they will eat in designated classrooms, learning spaces, or outdoors with appropriate physical distancing in effect. Everyone will practice safe hand hygiene before eating.

Surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected after eating. Sharing of food and / or beverages will be prohibited. Students will not be allowed to bring food from home.

**How are the new lunch procedures going, and where can I find the week's menu?** *(added 9.11.20)*

A. Our nutrition program is a key component to our MPH educational program, and with healthy snack and lunch options and hydration stations all around school, we are making sure that every child is nourished and hydrated. Lunches are individually packaged and delivered to students in their classrooms to reduce density and to keep students safely distanced. As everyone learns the ropes of this new system, we are starting with a sandwich and salad option each day. **Note:** We have asked families to submit dietary restrictions (e.g., allergies, gluten free, dairy free, vegan, vegetarian), and the daily lunch options are modified to suit individual students' needs. These customized meals are labeled with the students' names and confirmation of the dietary accommodation in order to ensure that each student's needs are met. For more information on how the daily menu options are modified, please refer to the week's menu on [My MPH](#).

If you have any concerns about the documentation of your student's allergies, please email our school nurse: [ccivello@mphschool.org](mailto:ccivello@mphschool.org)

If you have any concerns about the documentation of your student's dietary preferences or restrictions, please email Chef Christine: [mphschool@brockco.com](mailto:mphschool@brockco.com)

**Daily Health Assessment** *(this section added 9.10.20)*

*How is everyone doing on submitting the Daily Health Assessment (DHA)?*

We are doing remarkably well adopting this new requirement! An overwhelming majority of parents/guardians and employees have successfully completed the DHA before 7:15 a.m. every day this week, including our students learning via simulcast access. The few individuals who arrive on campus without a completed DHA are not allowed to begin their school day. Instead, they are held in a waiting area where MPH personnel contact parents, take each student's temperature, and troubleshoot to ensure that each family's app is working correctly.

**Note:** Students whose DHAs are completed after 7:15 a.m. are not included in the All-Clear list that is generated and distributed to the many members of the Arrivals Welcome Team each morning. Please be advised that if your child(ren)'s DHA is/are submitted after 7:15 a.m., it is likely that they will not arrive on time for their first class. This is because our staff must first process DHAs for close to 400 people, and the vast majority of the community whose names are on the All-Clear list will be processed first. Once we have completed the first part of this process, we will then go back and work with students and families on a case-by-case basis. *Our expectation is that the DHA is completed by parents and guardians only and that the student's temperature is checked daily. Students are not permitted to complete their own DHA.*

How does MPH use the information in the Daily Health Assessments?

Every morning, MPH's Pandemic Response Team (comprising six school leaders) meets daily to monitor information pertinent to the health and well-being of our community. They review the DHAs in order to record who will be on campus each day and who will not – and to review reasons that individuals might not be on campus. Nurse Christine Civello tracks absences due to illness and follows up whenever necessary to ensure that we have a good sense of the overall health of our community on any given day. The Pandemic Response Team also monitors the daily COVID-19 positivity rate for Onondaga County, as well as for the surrounding counties in which our students and employees live. The team monitors data and guidance from local, state, and national health and government officials to ensure that our Health Protocols reflect current best practices. The team monitors the new procedures – everything from arrivals to lunch delivery to cleaning protocols to departures – and makes adjustments as necessary to promote and sustain the healthiest learning environment possible.