

The Myers Minute: Parent & Family Newsletter

Returning to School

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

August 18th 2021

What PPE will be required?

All families received an email communication on Monday, August 9, 2021 stating that **masks will be mandated for all students, teachers, staff and visitors.** The mask mandate goes into effect on Monday, August 16, 2021.

Mask Wearing Expectations:

◆ General Masking Expectations

- All students and staff are required to wear a mask or face covering
- Mask expectation apply on the school bus and any time in the school
- Masks are not required but encouraged outdoors where students may have contact with one another for 15 - 20 minutes
- Masks are required in the gym.

◆ Masks can be removed when...

- Eating spaced apart
- During designated mask breaks, spaced apart, lasting no more than 10 min
- High-exertion outdoor activities such as sports or sporting-related activities.
- A risk is posed to students
- The student needs to make a request and it is formally documented
- Mask breaks determined by the school, not by the student
- Vulnerable students - Identified medical condition
 - Documentation is required from a health care provider
 - Any disabilities must be identified where necessary
 - Determine if alternative face covering is possible such as a face shield (must cover nose and mouth, extends below the chin and to the ears, leaves no expose gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece)

[Are there any general guidelines as to when my scholar should stay home?](#)

Yes. If your child is exhibiting any to the following symptoms, your scholar should remain at home:

- Fever greater than 100.4 F/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea in the last 24hrs.

Additionally, if your scholar has two or more of the following symptoms, your scholar should remain at home:

- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Muscle Aches or Fatigue

SCHEDULES

[When will parents be notified of classroom assignments?](#)

Parents will be notified by email on Thursday, August 19, 2021. You will also be provided links to other important information you will need for the start of school.

[What will the daily schedule look like at Myers?](#)

Our scholars will return to Myers on **Monday, August 30, 2021** and there will be an early dismissal on the first day at 1:00 pm. Regular school hours will be Monday through Friday from 9:00 am-3:40 pm, with a 45 minute lunch/recess for all students. **Note: (All students will have the option of free lunch this year)**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Lunch Time</u>	<u>Recess Time</u>	<u>Afternoon Recess</u>
<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>10:45-11:15</u>	<u>11:15-11:30</u>	<u>1:25-1:40</u>
<u>1st grade</u>	<u>11:15-11:45</u>	<u>11:45-12:00</u>	<u>1:45- 2:00</u>
<u>2nd grade</u>	<u>11:50-12:20</u>	<u>12:20-12:35</u>	<u>2:00- 2:15</u>
<u>3rd grade</u>	<u>12:20-12:50</u>	<u>12:50-1:05</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>4th grade</u>	<u>12:50-1:20</u>	<u>1:20-1:35</u>	<u>N/A</u>

[Where should my scholar go on the first day of school?](#)

Your scholar should report to their grade-level schoolyard. Supervision will be in place beginning at 8:45 daily, but not before that time. Teachers will pick-up scholars from these locations at 9:00am daily and walk them to their classrooms.

- Kindergarten students should report to the large empty mulch area nearest the corner of Mill Rd and Montgomery Avenue, outside of the kindergarten classrooms.
- 1st & 2nd grade students should report to the small blacktop area that borders the gym.

- 3rd & 4th grade students should report to the large school yard near the basketball courts.

BUSES

Will students be social-distancing on the school bus?

Students will be separated when possible, however be aware that there is a bus driver shortage so certain bus routes may have additional children. Bus drivers will make sure that students wear masks when they enter the bus or give them a mask if they do not have one. Each student will be given an assigned seat within the first few days of school. For example, those students entering the bus first will fill in the rear, to avoid the passing and contact with others as they load the bus at various stops.

CLASSROOMS & SPECIALS INSTRUCTION

Will social distancing happen in the classrooms?

To the maximum extent possible, given the differences in room design, Myers Elementary will adhere to the current CDC suggested guideline of 3 feet distance between students, whenever feasible. However, social distancing is not always possible in school settings, therefore, students and staff will be provided with reusable masks and expected to wear them while on the school campus.

Will students be sharing supplies?

Each teacher will be providing a list of suggested supplies for students under their charge. Students will be encouraged to use their own supplies. However, there may be instances when academic resources may be utilized by more than one student. In the event that a child needs to share, we will use safety measures in place for cleaning and sanitizing items.

Student Supports

Student support, special education, ELL and gifted services will all resume as in-person models. As in the classroom spaces, students will be socially distanced 3ft when feasible.

What will Specialists classes look like this year?

Specialists such as Art, Music, and Library will resume instruction in their designated classrooms. However, rather than each class experiencing a different Specialist Class each day, the schedule will provide the same specialist for each classroom for one week unit of study. Each classroom will be given the same amount of specialist time; however, they will stay with the same specialists for a designated period of time, then shift to the next specialist. The Specialist Teacher shifts will begin the second week of school.

LUNCH

Will students eat lunch in the cafeteria?

Yes. All scholars have a 45 minute lunch/recess period built into their daily schedule. All students will eat lunch in the cafeteria, whether they are taking a school issued meal or bringing lunch from home. Menus will be posted [on-line](#).

Can students choose to eat the school lunch on some days and bring a lunch on other days or must they commit to one or the other?

Yes. Students have the option of bringing lunch or obtaining a school issued lunch on a daily basis.

Are students social distancing in the cafeteria?

Students will be seated in a socially distanced manner that is aligned to the CDC 3ft recommendations when at all possible. Students will be reminded to put their mask on once they complete their meal.

Can my child come home for lunch and return to the building to finish classes?

Leaving school for lunch is not an option.

Is there any option to go outside after lunch?

Yes. Once students have finished their meal, they will be permitted to go outside for a supervised recess period, weather permitting. Masks are optional while students are outside playing or socializing with their friends.

SANITIZATION & CLEANING

Will the tables be wiped down and disinfected between periods?

Building aides will wipe down all the eating surfaces between lunch periods. Please remind your scholar of their individual responsibility by putting trash in the trash can and cleaning up after themselves.

What sort of air purifying system will be in the building?

The HVAC system is efficient as it pertains to air flow and exchange. Additionally, the HVAC system has been confirmed to be in line with air filtration safety regulations.

Are there hand sanitizing stations?

Yes. The facilities and maintenance team has installed hand sanitizing stations throughout the building and in the cafeteria.

Will the building be cleaned every evening and during the day?

Building cleaning will occur during the school day. The custodial staff will disinfect high-contact building areas, such as doors, handles, railings and tables at least once a day. High touch surfaces will be cleaned at least once a day. When needed, classrooms, hallways, offices and common areas will be disinfected with a backpack sprayer with applicable disinfectant and/or electrostatic fogger. It is not necessary to routinely apply disinfectants to surfaces that are not high-touch or high-risk. The air hand dryers in the bathrooms have been turned off to reduce the spread of airborne particles. Paper towel dispensers, paper towels and trash cans have been placed in bathrooms.

BEFORE & AFTERCARE

How do I obtain information on the before/after care program?

The nationally recognized before and after school student enrichment provider [Right at School](#) is coming to Cheltenham! Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, Right At School will run the district's before and after school programming.

The Right at School program runs from 7 - 9 a.m. and 3:40 - 6:30 p.m. at CSD's four elementary schools. Parents/guardians can work with Right at School to create flexible monthly schedules to support families' busy lives. Families can choose morning and/or afternoon options for one, two, three, four or five days a week. Drop-in care is also an option, allowing parents/guardians to pay only for the days care is needed. Right at School also offers a 10 percent sibling discount.

Every day, students will have a healthy snack, engage in dynamic fitness activities, student-driven projects, team building, leadership development, and have the opportunity to complete homework. Right at School also features an enriched curriculum in the form of two-week units. Examples of units include "Getting Down to Business," where students are introduced to money and commerce; "Icky Experiments," where students experiment with sticky substances to learn chemistry; and "Variety Show," where students rehearse and perform individual talent acts. CSD is excited to join other local school districts in partnering with Right at School to provide these exciting programs to our families.

Visit rightatschool.com/districts/cheltenham-pa/ for more information.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS/ VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Will I be able to volunteer at school?

We will continue to encourage opportunities for families to connect with the school and your child(ren) classroom. Teacher's may provide opportunities to connect virtually to the classroom for celebrations and/or special occasions. However, we will temporarily continue to limit the number of volunteers and visitors to the school. For specific questions regarding volunteer opportunities, please contact the school principal or designee for more information.

ASSEMBLIES/ FIELD TRIPS

Are all students being gathered for assemblies?

In order to reduce mass gatherings and provide ample space between students, we will limit school assembly sizes primarily to grade level only. However, in instances where multiple grades gather in one space we will make every effort to ensure 3ft social distancing, and hold activities outdoors whenever possible.

Will students be allowed to attend field trips?

Field trips provide important learning opportunities for our scholars. At this point, field trips will be looked at on a case by case basis to ensure that safety precautions are being fully implemented at the trip site and to ensure that we can get our scholars to the site safely.

Outside Food / Birthday Celebrations

Is it ok for me to bring in treats for my child on their birthday or other classroom celebrations?

In an effort to abide by the district wellness policy we will continue to restrict outside food to be brought into the classroom. We will work with families to help honor and celebrate birthdays and other celebrations in other alternative ways. Teachers will share more information at our Back-to-School Night on Sept. 15th.