

McDowell Students and Families,

Never have I written a welcome letter quite like this one. Nothing has been quite normal since March and it doesn't appear to be getting back to that any time soon. Enclosed in this mailing you will find a copy of the District's Reopening Plan. It has been online prior to now, but I wanted everyone to have a copy. I am not going to rewrite everything that is on that, but I do want to discuss some things pertaining to McDowell.

We have taken the locker bays out of McDowell. This allows for more space for Art and Technology classes to social distance. Every student will need to carry a book bag with them at all times while at school. They will keep their chrome books (all students will be assigned a personal chrome book for the year), supplies, coats, etc. in them. Students will be allowed to carry water bottles with them. Drinking fountains will be blocked from use, however the bottle fillers will be usable.

We have been able to set up every classroom at McDowell to social distance students 6' apart. Students will be required to wear a mask when they enter the building. Those masks will be required when in the hallways, bathrooms, etc. When all students are seated in the classroom, they will be able to remove them during class. If they need to get up and move through the room, the mask will need to go back on. *\*Note\* This is for when the county is declared Yellow or Orange. If we are in Red, masks will be required at all times. \*\*Refusal to wear a mask will be treated as insubordination with disciplinary actions.\*\** Everyone is entitled to their own opinion about masks. However, current health department requirements state that masks are required when students cannot be 6' apart and at all times when the county is "Red".

We have planned for a couple of "mask breaks" in the daily schedule. This is a time for teachers to be able to walk the students outside, social distance and remove their masks for a few minutes.

We will be unable to hold a back to school night this year. The first few days of school will be geared around making sure students know where to go and being aware of all procedures and protocols. We will also be going over expectations of learning for not only in the classroom but also for virtual learning when they are not in school. Virtual learning will not look the same as it did last spring. Learning must continue whether we are in the physical school building or at home. Expectations will be clearly stated in the beginning of the year. An additional parent letter will go home at the beginning of school with guidance on virtual learning along with the expectations for learning. We will also work to try and help parents as much as we can to be able to help your students at home.

We are going to have a more traditional style supply list for this year due to not being able to share supplies. Below is what each student will need to supply:

1 12-pack of colored pencils

Spiral bound notebooks (amounts may vary depending on how much we are here)

Glue sticks (amounts may vary depending on how much we are here)

Scientific Calculator (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)

Folders, 1 per class.

There may be other supplies that are specific to classes that students may be asked to supply. All supplies will be kept with the student at all times and will not be shared.

*(This is being sent to everyone. If your student has opted for online, this letter would not pertain.)*

Thank you,

Bret King

Principal, McDowell Middle School