

Mississippi School of the Arts COVID-19 Plan for 2020-2021 School Year (revised 7/29/2020)

REVISED PLANS FOR FALL RE-OPENING 2020

August 21-23 for senior weekend and August 29 move in for juniors

Unless directed by authorities prior to the start of school, MSA will open on a Hybrid Model for the first four weeks of the year and has a delayed start of August 31. Any classes needed from Brookhaven High School will be done virtually for the first nine weeks (information will be provided at move in). **Hybrid would alternate juniors and seniors every two weeks on campus with virtual instruction the weeks they are off campus. Throughout the month of August, we will schedule senior/junior seminar workshops and begin our online class offerings for those who are scheduled. We will communicate through email with a schedule of activities to keep you all engaged in August until we see you!**

The following schedule for school operations will be followed:

Seniors on campus schedule (virtual instruction occurs for all classes while students are at home)

August 21-23 Senior Weekend

August 31 Classes begin virtually at home

September 7 - 18 Seniors return to campus for MSA classes and continue BHS virtual classes

September 27-October 9 Seniors return to campus to join the Juniors in traditional operations

Juniors on campus schedule (virtual instruction occurs for all classes while students are at home)

August 29-September 4 Juniors move in, orientation, MSA classes and BHS virtual classes

September 20-October 9 Juniors return to campus for MSA classes and continued BHS virtual

MSA hopes to resume traditional operations beginning September 27 provided that the circumstances warrant a safe return for all students. BHS Virtual Classes will continue until the end of the first nine weeks.

What operations are in place to ensure a safe and healthy environment?

- Employees and students who have symptoms are asked to stay home and not come back until they are free of fever (100.0° F or greater), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 48 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).
- MSA has sanitizer stations in every building, classroom, and floor of the residence hall in addition to the cafeteria and the nurse's station. Restrooms are continuously stocked with soap at the sinks and paper towels. Disinfectant spray is utilized daily for all doorknobs, light fixtures, keyboards, and desks on campus.
- MSA has handwashing posters throughout the campus at sinks.
- Students will receive training at orientation and weekly check ins about cleaning procedures in rooms/common areas; handwashing; habits regarding high touch areas.
- Daily temporal fever checks and questioning will be administered to all staff and students. Anyone who has fever will be immediately isolated for further evaluation.
- Masks will be required in all public/common areas, when indoors with less than 6 feet between people, changing classes, and classrooms where appropriate. They are not required for exercise or physical activity. Masks are only required outdoors when social distancing is not possible. Masks are not required in student assigned dormitory rooms.

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- Social distancing (6 feet) is required where possible. Many MSA classes are smaller in size allowing for distancing. When distancing is not possible, masks should be worn.
- Performing arts classes will be making modifications individually for what works best for their students. Teachers will communicate with their students regarding these protocols.
- No off campus visitors for the beginning months of school will be allowed unless with special permission and pre-approved by the administration.
- Residence hall assignments will limit roommates to two per room – one junior and one senior for hybrid operations. There are uneven numbers of juniors and seniors and some may have to share with another student. Additionally, students are assigned by their arts discipline as much as possible by floor with smaller disciplines or overflow with several disciplines on a floor as needed. Bathrooms must be cleaned with disinfectant at a minimum twice per week. Students should store their toothbrushes in separate places to avoid cross contamination.
- Dividers will be utilized at desk areas where people must pass – security, Principal’s office, residence life, and cafeteria.
- Class sizes will be kept under 20 people as much as possible.
- Rooms have 2 residents – 1 junior/1 senior; floors are by the student’s arts discipline creating a “quaranteam” pod; visitation must be on first/second floors and outdoors – not in each other’s rooms.
- No equipment, props, costumes, supplies should be shared without first wiping them down.
- The fitness center and art room in the SLC will be limited to no more than 2 people at a time. All equipment/surfaces must be wiped down by the user before departing the space.
- Meal times will be staggered over a 45-minute time frame with assigned times and spaces to the students. Students will need to social distance and eat outside when possible. All cafeteria staff will wear masks when preparing and serving food.
- No travel/field trips for the school will occur until it is recommended by the CDC.
- The school psychologist will be available for weekly small groups (either online or in person). When these efforts are inadequate, communication will be provided to the parents for further resources available to the family.

What happens if someone is diagnosed with COVID-19?

Students and staff will be isolated upon identification of symptoms until tested. The Kings Daughters Medical Center will be contacted for assessment. Upon determination of results, the patient will either be isolated at the local hospital or sent home until fever free for at least 72 hours (In other illnesses, students must be fever free for 48 hours).

Within privacy laws and confidentiality, public health notices will be issued. There may be a recommendation for testing for those in direct contact with a positive COVID-19 patient. Upon removal of ill students or staff, disinfection protocols will be increased. Prevention protocols will continue to be followed.

What would cause MSA to transition to a Virtual Model of operations?

If more than 1/3 of a specified group (class, arts discipline, floor) on campus becomes ill with COVID-19 that group may be expected to quarantine with remote learning for 14 days or more. If a significant number of students or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19, the school may transition to virtual operation for a period of time as needed for the safety of students and staff.