

EAST MILLINOCKET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

RETURN TO SCHOOL 20-21 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: *When will the school day start and end?*

A: Opal Myrick will attend school M-F from 9:30 A.M. to 1:55 P.M.
Schenck High School will attend M-F from 7:50 A.M. to 11:55 A.M.

Q: *What day will school start?*

A: Schools in East Millinocket will start remotely for students attending Opal Myrick on September 14th. They will tentatively return to in-person instruction on September 28th. Schenck High School students and students involved with Region III programs will start remotely beginning the 14th. Schenck High School students will have a mandatory, one day orientation session that will be conducted by grade beginning the week of September 28th and will be fully returning for in-person instruction on October 5th.

Q: *Will masks be provided or do I need to buy one?*

A: Students are encouraged to bring their own face coverings to school, especially on the first day. However, the school department will be equipping every child with multiple masks.

Q: *Can my child wear a face shield instead of a mask?*

A: Face shields may be an alternative for those students with medical concerns contingent upon documentation. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears. Face shields will be provided to those students who meet these requirements.

Q: *Are students required to wear masks at all times?*

A: All students are required to wear a face covering/mask that covers their nose and mouth when on the bus, when entering or exiting buildings, while traveling in hallways, while in the classroom and when moving about the school.

Q: *Will students be allowed a mask break?*

A: Students can have mask breaks:

- While eating
- While sitting at their desk in the classroom for a mask break when 6 feet apart from their teachers and peers.
- While outside if social distancing allows
- While participating in classes such as music and physical education as long as the de-masking coincides with CDC and DOE recommendations

Q: *What is social distancing?*

A: Social distancing is a term applied to certain actions that are taken by public health officials to stop or slow down the spread of a pandemic. Social distancing measures include limiting large groups of people coming together, remaining six feet apart, canceling events, etc.

Q: ***Will students be allowed to bring backpacks to school?***

A: Yes, students may bring backpacks to school and are encouraged to do so since lockers will not be in use.

Q: ***Will school supplies be shared?***

A: No, we will make sure kids have their own supplies this year as sharing is not permitted.

Q: ***What type of school supplies can my child bring to school?***

A: School supplies brought in would be for personal use only, not to share, but we will make sure kids have what they need. Teachers will provide a list of supplies to families prior to the start of school and will go over storage and use procedures with their students upon arrival.

Q: ***Will students be allowed to use drinking fountains?***

A: No. Drinking fountains will not be operational or in use.

Q: ***Will students be allowed to have water bottles?***

A: The use of water bottles is encouraged as touchless bottle filling stations will be installed throughout the entire building.

Q: ***What will transportation look like?***

A: Parent/Guardians are encouraged to transport their child to and from school, if able. Students are required to wear a face covering at ALL TIMES while on the bus, including upon entry/exit. Students will need to adhere to all bus rules as far as loading, seating, and unloading.

Q: ***What are the health screening questions that parents have to answer each day prior to coming to school?***

A: Prior to boarding the bus or drop-off, Parents/Guardians will need to complete a self-screening assessment daily for their child to check for symptoms of COVID-19:

- Have I been out of the state in the last 14 days?
- Do I or have I been living with anyone who is sick or quarantined?
- Do I or have I been around anyone exhibiting these symptoms within the last 14 days:
 - Do I or have I had a loss of taste or smell?
 - Do I or have I had shortness of breath?
 - Do I have a fever or feel feverish?
 - Do I have a cough or sore throat?
 - Do I feel unwell today?

Q: ***Can I choose a remote learning option for my child?***

A: Any East Millinocket School Department student K-4, 9-12, will have the option of participating in remote instruction. Remote instruction is available for any student with health and safety concerns, elevated health risks, a family member with elevated health risks, or for other personal reasons.

Q: ***If my child goes remote to start, can we change our mind?***

A: Students who elect to participate in this remote instruction program to begin the 2020-2021 school year will be asked to remain in the program for at least eight weeks.

Q: ***Will you do remote learning for those children who have to stay home during the time they are isolating?***

A: We will be looking at individual situations, but will be responsive during a time a child is quarantining for 14 days.

Q: ***What will lunch look like?***

A: Lunches will be available during remote learning and for remote learners at their normal cost including those families eligible for free and reduced lunch. More information on pick-up time will be given at a later date. Opal Myrick students will be eating in their classrooms or outside and they must be 6-feet apart according to the Maine CDC guidelines to remove masks. Schenck High School students will have the option of taking a bag lunch home.

Q: ***Are kids using lockers or cubbies?***

A: Students will not be accessing lockers this year. Some classrooms may have assigned cubbies. Students will wear masks and be socially distanced from one another when accessing a cubbie.

Q: ***How am I going to get to know my child's teacher if parents aren't allowed in the buildings?***

A: Our teachers and staff will work hard to foster relationships with parents in other ways.

Q: ***My child recently traveled out-of-state. Can she attend school?***

A: Students who have traveled out of state to those states not listed in the most up-to-date Governor's orders must isolate at home and monitor for symptoms for 14 days before being able to return to school.