MAREK

For many families, back to school planning will look different this year. Your schools will have new policies in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Several districts may also be starting the school year with virtual learning components. Whatever the situation, these checklists are intended to help parents, guardians, and caregivers, plan and prepare for the upcoming school year.

For an **overall back to school planning checklist** and guide please visit the link below:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html

Helpful Definitions
There are new key terms that will be used throughout this school year and you may want to familiarize yourself.

Digital Literacy- The ability to use technologies (such as the internet, computers, social media, and mobile devices like smart phones and tablets) to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information.

To check your level of digital literacy in different areas, please utilize the link below.
https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/

Synchronous Learning- Refers to a learning event in which a group of students are engaging in learning at the same time.
- For ex: Students will login at the assigned time and all participate together in a live session with the teacher.

Asynchronous Learning- Refers to learning that does not occur in the same place or at the same time.
- For ex: Students are given an assignment to complete on their own time and upload to the LMS when complete.

Learning Management System or "LMS"- An online technology providing teachers, students, and parents with a one-stop location for accessing assignments, participating in classroom discussions, and communicating between parents and teachers.

Some changes in schools' classroom attendance or structure may include:
- **In-Person:** Dividing students and teachers into distinct groups that stay together throughout an entire school day during in-person classroom instruction. Schools may allow minimal or no interaction between cohorts (also sometimes referred to as pods).
- **Virtual/at-home only:** Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.
- **Hybrid:** A mix of virtual learning and in-class learning. Hybrid options can apply a cohort approach to the in-class education provided.

Planning for In-Person Classes

CDC has created a checklist to help with back to school planning and the link can be found below.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Back-to-School-Planning-for-In-Person-Classes.pdf

Planning for Virtual or At-home Learning

CDC has created a checklist to help with back to school planning in a virtual setting and the link can be found below.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Back-to-School-Planning-for-Virtual-or-At-Home-Learning.pdf

Learning Devices & Internet Connection

Several school districts are allowing students the option to check out learning devices and/or personal hot spots. **Please check with your local school district for updates.**

Mental Health

Whichever option you select, our shared concern is for the overall health of our child/children. This school year is going to be different from any other. Before the school year starts, you may want to talk with your child and explain the changes they may experience and why they are important: classrooms may look a bit different, they may have to eat lunch in the same room and have to maintain physical distance, they may need to go to school virtually sometimes and in-person at other times. These steps are being taken is to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Please visit the CDC link below for **how to deal with stress and coping during the pandemic**:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/stress-coping/young-adults.html