

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

A GUIDE TO REOPENING FOR THE
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR



ACCEL
DAY AND EVENING ACADEMY

www.accelacademymobile.com

▲ DEAR ACCEL FAMILIES:

As we enter our 2020-2021 school year, we are collectively faced with a momentous challenge, namely, how to ensure our school continues to provide an exceptional learning experience, while also doing all we can to protect our students from COVID-19. Our school's board of directors and academic leadership team have worked tirelessly to develop the best possible approach to keep our students, families and faculty safe. Our decisions have been guided by the following principles:

- **Safety** - We will put all possible protections in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- **Transparency** - We will maintain open communication with our students, families and staff.
- **Collaboration** - We will enlist the support of our entire school community and community partners to successfully meet the challenges of this difficult time.
- **Consistency** - We will act with a thoughtful, steady presence during these uncertain times.

We have approached this challenge with an abiding commitment to the success of our students and a willingness to think outside the box to ensure that takes place. I recognize that we are all faced with impossible choices and that these challenges mean our lives have been upended. While we cannot promise normalcy, I am confident that as we pull together, there will be nothing we cannot overcome.

On behalf of ACCEL Day and Evening Academy's board of directors, faculty and staff, I thank you for giving us the opportunity to educate your children. It is our hope that this plan provides a framework for how we intend to keep them safe and thriving during these perilous times.

Warm regards,



Dr. Jeremiah Newell
Superintendent/Head of School
MAEF Public Charter Schools, Inc.

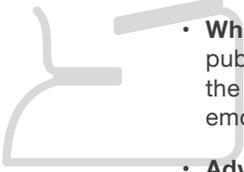
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Disclaimer: This document is not inclusive of all the actions taken by Acceleration Day and Evening Academy to ensure students and staff are protected. All information and content in this document are for informational purposes only. This plan was developed using the best information and guidance available at the time of its creation. Acceleration Day and Evening Academy officials reserve the right to make changes to its content as new information becomes available. No claims are made that this information is error-free, and all liability for actions taken based upon this information is hereby expressly disclaimed.

ACCEL'S LEARNING OPTIONS

 **TRADITIONAL SCHOOL**- Students will participate in a full on-campus school schedule and will be expected to come to school Monday through Friday. Assignments will still be posted via our blended learning platform in the case of student absenteeism.



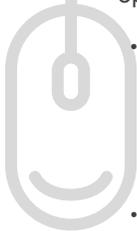
- **What makes ACCEL unique?** - ACCEL offers smaller class sizes than many traditional public schools in the area. Its blended learning approach ensures that students will receive the support and flexibility to ensure they can be successful academically despite social, emotional or physical challenges.
- **Advantages** - Students will have more face-to-face interactions with their teachers and classmates. They will be provided with the greatest variety of supports to successfully complete their course assignments.
- **Disadvantages** - While great care will be taken to prevent exposure to COVID-19, including face coverings, plexiglass barriers and sanitation after every class, coming to school in person does provide a greater risk of exposure.

 **NIGHT SCHOOL**- Students will participate in ACCEL's virtual platform for all coursework. In addition, they will be expected to come to school Monday through Thursday from 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.



- **What makes ACCEL unique?** - ACCEL's night school boasts extremely small class sizes that offer the opportunity for in-person, one-on-one support from qualified instructors. Students are able to work on assignments outside of the night school hours to ensure they get ahead academically.
- **Advantages** - Students will receive daily face-to-face interaction with teachers and a variety of in-person support in completing their course assignments. Students will also benefit from small class sizes where social distancing can be completely followed.
- **Disadvantages** - While more social distancing protocols will be enforceable during this small night school environment, the potential for exposure to COVID-19 is possible. Furthermore, students will be expected to take ownership of their learning and move at their own pace with the support of teachers as learning guides.

 **VIRTUAL SCHOOL**- In line with our commitment to innovation, ACCEL Academy has installed video conferencing cameras in every classroom. **This means that virtual students will be able to participate in a typical school schedule by using a laptop with a web camera to join the in-person class during regular class hours.** Students will be able to view classroom instruction from their teachers in real time, ask questions, participate in classroom assignments and submit assignments via their Google Classroom platform. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to work with their teachers after school hours for additional tutoring and support.



- **What makes ACCEL unique?** - ACCEL's virtual school offers the ability for students to participate in a regular school experience, but from the safety of their own home. Furthermore, students are not left to teach themselves. They have the benefit of learning during a live classroom experience and to schedule office hours with their teachers to help clarify student misconceptions.
- **Advantages** - Students will have the least exposure to COVID-19 by participating in virtual learning activities.
- **Disadvantages** - Students must show responsibility and maturity to maximize their academic potential. While teachers will be available to support, students should have strong, independent learning capabilities and must pay attention when logging in to classes.

ACCEL'S SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS FOR PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY



FACE COVERINGS

- All staff will wear face coverings/face shields when within six feet of other staff or students.
- All students will wear face coverings. Face coverings will be issued to students at the beginning of the school year. Replacement coverings will be sold in the front office.
- Guests arriving to meet with staff or students must wear a face covering.



CLEANING

- Sanitizing stations will be placed in every classroom, in the lunchroom and at the open entry to the school building.
- High-touch surfaces and restrooms will be cleaned constantly throughout the day.
- Classroom tables and chairs will be sanitized at the end of every class period.
- At the end of day, the school will be thoroughly cleaned.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Students and staff are required to stay home if they test positive for COVID-19.
- Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.
- Absences due to COVID-19 exposure or quarantine will not count against students.
- Accommodations will be made to ensure missed assignments are completed.



CHECKING TEMPERATURES

- Students will have their temperature checked upon entry to school each day.
- Guests arriving to meet with staff must also have their temperature checked by the front office before being permitted to meet with staff or students.



HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

- Under no circumstances should students who are exhibiting possible COVID-19 symptoms come to school. Parents should notify the school that the child is ill. Arrangements will be made to notify his/her teachers. A doctor's note or parent's note should be provided upon return to school.
- Amber Rohrbeck, R.N., ACCEL's school nurse, will work closely with the Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Department of Public Health and the Mobile County Health Department regarding protocols, quarantine measures, and regulations for COVID-19.
- Nurse Rohrbeck will be available daily to assess student and faculty health, and make recommendations and referrals for additional health services.
- Students who test positive will be reported by the health care agency performing the test to the Mobile County Health Department (MCHD), and MCHD will conduct contact tracing protocols. ACCEL does not handle testing or contact tracing for COVID-19.



SCHOOL LUNCH

- Students will receive a hot school meal that has been prepackaged to comply with Mobile County Health Department regulations.
- Students must wear face coverings while in line to pick up food.
- The number of school lunch waves will increase to reduce the number of students in the lunchroom.
- To the degree possible, social distancing will be maintained in the lunchroom.
- Protective plexiglass barriers will be placed on the lunchroom tables to provide an additional layer of protection for the student's personal sitting area.



CLASSROOM LAYOUT

- Classroom tables and chairs will be spaced out to their maximum social distance from one another.
- When appropriate, protective plexiglass barriers will be placed on desks to provide an additional layer of protection for the student's personal sitting area.

▲ TAKING SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR SUCCESS

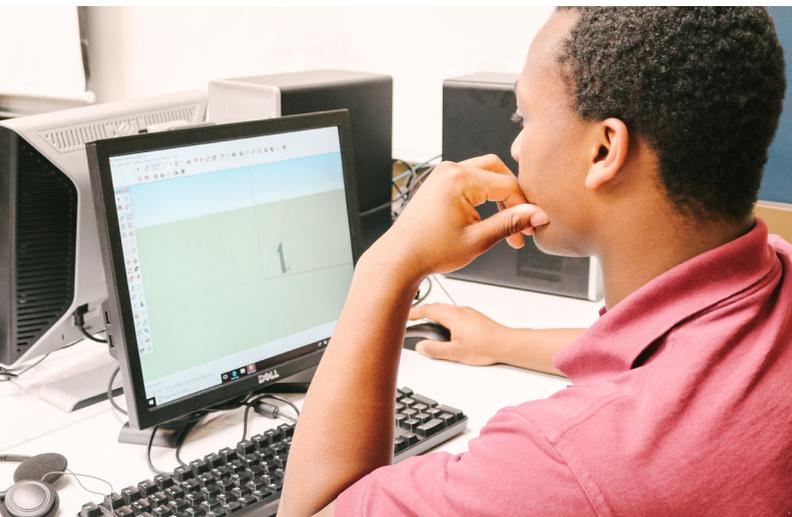


SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- To take all practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of students and faculty
- To maintain clear and consistent communication with ACCEL's families and staff
- To ensure students have access to the instructional tools, materials and staff necessary to be academically successful
- To ensure students have the needed supports to complete their assignments
- To comply with all local, state and federal regulations

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- To check the health and well-being of their children daily
- To ensure students who seem ill are kept home until their health condition is diagnosed and improves
- To ensure students maintain their academic focus and complete their required academic coursework
- To communicate with the school about the ongoing physical and academic needs of their child (notify the school about any possible COVID-19 exposure or quarantine)
- To reinforce all school expectations, rules and regulations



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- To act as a responsible scholar by maintaining positive academic progress regardless of learning option
- To request academic, social, emotional or physical support from the school's staff whenever needed
- To comply with all schoolwide expectations, rules and regulations designed to protect the health and safety of the entire school

▲ BACK-TO-SCHOOL CALENDAR

STUDENT ORIENTATION (MANDATORY)

<p>Tuesday, July 28 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>New Students (Last Name A-M):</p> <p>Location: ACCEL Day and Evening Academy</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 29 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>New Students (Last Name N-Z):</p> <p>Location: ACCEL Day and Evening Academy</p>	<p>Thursday, July 30 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>New Students (Virtual): Virtual meeting information can be found at www.accelacademymobile.com</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 4 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Returning Students (Last Name A-M):</p> <p>Location: ACCEL Day and Evening Academy</p>	<p>Tuesday, August 5 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Returning Students (Last Name N-Z):</p> <p>Location: ACCEL Day and Evening Academy</p>	<p>Thursday, August 6 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>New Students (Virtual): Virtual meeting information can be found at www.accelacademymobile.com</p>

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

<p>Tuesday, August 11 New Students (Traditional)</p>		<p>Thursday, August 13 Virtual Students</p>	
	<p>Wednesday, August 12 Returning Students (Traditional)</p>		<p>Thursday, August 13 Night Students</p>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 If I choose one school option, am I required to stick with that option permanently?

No, with the permission of the Head of School, students may change options at the end of each quarter. Please note there are limited traditional day school seats available, and traditional day school cannot be offered if the school has no additional room at the time.

2 If I have a student with special needs (IDEA or 504 Students), who should I speak with about the best option for my child?

Please contact Mrs. Rachel Davis, the student support coordinator at 251-301-0050 to discuss the best options for your child.

3 If I do not have a laptop, can I still participate in the virtual learning option?

Yes, ACCEL Academy does offer Chromebooks for students who are participating in virtual learning. However, they must have access to reliable home internet connection to utilize this option.

4 If I have concerns about wearing a face covering, who should I contact?

To ensure the maximum safety of students and staff, all individuals (students and staff) are required to wear face coverings. If there is a medical concern about wearing face coverings, please contact Nurse Amber Rohrbeck at 251-301-0050.

5 If my child is absent from school because of COVID-19, will he/she be penalized?

No, once notified about a COVID-19 positive diagnosis or required quarantine, the school will not count the absences against the student. Furthermore, arrangements will be made to make up any lost assignments.

6 How do I share with the school what form of instruction I would like my child to pursue?

A member of the student support team will contact you to discuss the three instructional options offered next school year. We will ask you to inform us of your preferred option and will begin scheduling your child accordingly. Additionally, you may contact the school at 251-301-0050 to discuss your options and notify us of your preference. Please remember that traditional day school availability is limited and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.



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