

August 25, 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I am so pleased to begin my second year as principal of the Anderson School. Helping students find their path is our passion, and we look forward to collaborating with families for student success! In this letter, I will outline the accommodations we have made that are not part of our normal operations, **so please read carefully**. During this pandemic, we are fortunate to be offering two paths for students and have programmed for you accordingly. The two paths are:

- **Hybrid Model:** students attend in person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and work online from home on Wednesday. Wednesdays will be utilized to deep clean the building. Please remember that **students must wear a mask properly all day** in school to keep us all safe. Understand that this is compliance with a school rule, and school discipline will be utilized if students refuse. **Please bring personal wired headphones to avoid sharing.**
- **Online Model:** students attend classes using zoom. Teachers will be livestreaming their classes from here at Anderson with the students in person. Students follow the class schedule and go from class to class to interact with their teacher. Classes will also be recorded and posted in Google Classroom for each class so students can re-watch.

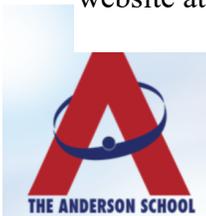
Whether online or hybrid, we are back to business with classes happening daily, **so our expectations will return** for submission of assignments, assessments and attendance. For all classes, attendance will be taken, counted and reported to the district.

If you indicated in the survey that your child needs a device at home, they will be issued a Chromebook to take home. **If you have a MCIU device at home from spring, you must bring it to the school to trade with a newly updated one.** You will that you and the student are responsible for the device. Students working **online only** should have signed up to pick up instructional materials such as novels and textbooks on Thursday, August 27th.

Students will have a new email for school and our google classroom links will be updated to be in the MCIU domain. Students will no longer be using the andersoneducation.org domain, but instead the mciu.org domain. Links to google classrooms will be posted by Friday, August 28th on our school website. Teachers will review this with students, but their logins are as follows:

- Username/email: **first initial, last name, full birth year @mciustudents.org**
- Password: **MCIUstudent123!** (they will be prompted to change their password immediately)

Important Homework for parents and students prior to school starting: later this week, we are sending a link to the forms on PowerSchool that must be completed for you and students to be ready for the year and able to see grades and attendance. Included in this is the new student handbook for 2020-2021. Our handbook is attached to this communication and available on our website at www.andersoneducation.org **You must sign that you reviewed it together.**



Students at the MCIU receive free breakfast and lunch. If you would like to collect these 10 meals per week at our MCIU building in Norristown, or need help getting meals from your home district, please email Cecilia Quenzer at cquenzer@mcIU.org and she will help you.

We have taken many steps to ensure our staff and students are kept safe and healthy. While the list keeps growing, some of our measures include: mandated face coverings, hand sanitizer, classes no larger than 7 students to ensure 6-foot distance, plexiglass shields, installation of additional sinks, hallway traffic reduction, daytime custodian to wipe surfaces continually, cafeteria seating at least 6 feet apart, increased ventilation, and having everyone's temperature taken upon entry. Students coming in person should expect to have the new procedures taught to them by teachers in the first week. Their attendance survey will include questions related to COVID-19 exposure. We are asking that students not bring personal bags to school, except for items for personal hygiene. We will be providing a laptop backpack and Chromebook for them to take from class to class and use when needed.

I have included in this communication the **COVID-19 School Exclusion recommendations** from the Montgomery County Department of Health. Please keep a copy of it out for your reference. We will be following these recommendations when determining if a student should be excluded from school due to COVID-19. If your child is excluded from school due to symptoms or exposure, he or she can continue their education online, and be counted as present in school if they are well enough. That is the advantage of having both models available. This will keep our students and staff as safe as possible during this unprecedented pandemic. Our school nurse, Cecilia Quenzer, will again be available to answer any health-related questions you have.

Whether we are in a pandemic or back to normal, I firmly believe that the best way to ensure student success is when parents, staff, and students work together. Your child's IEP case manager will be reaching out to you all very soon. Once again, I look forward to serving you and your child throughout the 2020-2021 school year! If you feel you might need to use a different path than the one you chose earlier this month, or just have questions or concerns, please contact me as soon as possible at craber@mcIU.org or 610-635-2400.

You Matter!



Sincerely,
Christine B. Raber
Principal

Attachments
Student Individual Schedule;
Anderson School Handbook; School Calendar
COVID-19 School Exclusion Guide; MCIU Notice for Virtual Learning

