



Otwell Miller Academy
9958 East County Road 150 North
Otwell, Indiana 47564

2021-2022 School Opening Plan

Calendar

The OMA 2021-2022 School year will begin on August 11, 2021. This will be the first student day for all grades and Lil' Hoosier's. OMA will continue to monitor guidance from the Indiana Governor's office, Local and State health department and Indiana Department of Education and adjust the calendar if needed.

Instruction

OMA will offer families in person instruction only this year:

1. In-person instruction of students in the building five days per week. (per School Calendar)
2. Students who are under Quarantine protocols will be provided virtual instruction for the days required per the Health Department only.

Additional Health and Safety Accommodations

Masks: OMA recommends the use of masks, however masks WILL NOT be required for students or staff. This will be an individual choice left to parents and staff members. There will be no tolerance for any kind of shaming/bullying for your individual choice of wearing or not wearing a mask. Parents will ensure the student's mask is clean and sanitized each day. Any mask worn must meet school dress code requirements. OMA will be taking extra steps to ensure the safety of students, staff and community.

Situations for mask use might include:

- Bus time (optional)
- When working in close proximity to others, such as during group work, partner work or working one on one the students or staff. (optional)

To help encourage masks or face coverings at times, OMA will provide each student and staff with a face covering. The State is providing a traditional mask and one cloth mask for each student. Maintaining the mask is the responsibility of the student and parent. Additional face coverings may need to be purchased by the parents/students.

Staff and students with medical conditions that make the wearing of face coverings dangerous to their health are encouraged to provide physician documentation to the school to properly document their health concerns.

Social Distancing: OMA will encourage social distancing whenever possible. Modifications will be made on an as-needed basis to the learning environment of each classroom. Students will

have assigned seats. This will allow for some of the contact tracing requirements if there would be a positive case.

Transportation

BUS: Mask will be optional on the bus route. Families will be seated together and all riders will have assigned seats. Buses will be sanitized after each route. Bus windows will be open as weather allows, to facilitate the movement of fresh air. Parents may transport students to and from school if they do not want their child to ride the bus. Buses will still be used to transport students to special classes held in the Otwell community center gym and to the library.

IMMUNIZATIONS: All students are required to have their immunizations or waiver completed by the start of the school year.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES: Additional hand washing and sanitizing will be implemented. Students will foam in and out of classrooms with sanitizer. Staff will be sanitizing the building multiple times throughout the day. Water fountains will not be used, students are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them each day.

VISITORS: Visitors will be limited to essential visits only. Visitors will be limited to the lobby area unless their presence is needed for a meeting with staff or other arranged meetings at the discretion of the Building Administrator. All Visitors will be screened and temperature checked before entering the main building area.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS: If your child is presenting symptoms of COVID-19 or OTHER ILLNESS, PLEASE **do not** send them to school.

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE

- A fever of 100.4 or greater*
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- Persistent cough*
- Muscle pain*
- Repeated shaking with chills*
- Headache*
- Sore throat*
- New loss of taste or smell*

Each teacher will have the ability to check students' temperature in the classroom. If a child has a temp of 100.4 or greater they will be isolated and the parents call to pick the child up. Please understand that we need you to pick your child up within 60 minutes of being called.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

If your child has been exposed to someone or diagnosed with COVID-19, your child may not return to school until they satisfy the recommendations of the Indiana State Board of Health, Local Health department and the CDC. You will be notified of the current recommendations at the time of the incident. It is imperative that you notify the local health department immediately if there is a risk of exposure to COVID-19 and **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.**

WHAT WILL MY CHILD'S DAY LOOK LIKE

OMA believes the focus should be on the child. Within the parameters laid out here, we want your child to experience as normal a school day as possible and to make your child's attendance at OMA as typical and reliable as it has always been. WE are ready to work with your family on any concerns you may have.

We feel "specials" remain an integral part of the student's experience. Art, Music, P.E. and especially recess will remain in your child's schedule, but with extra attention to hand washing, social distancing and other protocols.

Please keep in mind that this is a very fluid situation and changes are going to continue to happen because of changing information from agencies and adjusted protocols from State leaders. Large gatherings like open houses and parent teacher conferences will look different in the coming year. OMA will continue to explore ways to expose our students to outside events and trips if they can be done safely.

STATE CLOSURE DUE TO COVID-19

Please understand that if the State of Indiana opts to take the emergency step of closing public schools, we will be required to follow that mandate. Our staff has worked hard to develop options for e-learning that will meet the needs of the students and families while satisfying the State and Federal regulations. OMA will always search for better ways to ensure your child receives the grade level education they need to grow and make appropriate progress that enables them to have a successful school experience regardless of age or grade level.