



Moses Brown School

LOWER SCHOOL FAQs

Lower School Families,
Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. We are thrilled to have your family join us. Below is a list of FAQs to help with the new protocols for the new school year.

Is the Lower School fully returning to on-campus learning for Nursery through 5th grade?

YES. Thanks to our expansive campus and small teacher to student ratios, we are able to have ALL Lower School students return to five-day on-campus learning. See below for extensive health and safety measures in place to help safeguard your children.

What are the class sizes?

To ensure proper physical distancing, Nursery through 5th Grade will be divided into smaller cohorts of approximately 15 students. While your child will still be part of a larger classroom and grade-level community, students will remain in these stable pods (we'll call them A and B until we come up with better names!) during the school day. Each pod will have one teacher as its primary teacher, who will be the primary point of contact for parents.

Which pod is my child in and who is their primary teacher?

Your child's pod and primary teacher can be found [here](#).

Has the daily schedule changed? Will my child's schedule be different if they are in school vs. learning at home, or if the school is required to move to distance learning?

In the Lower School we will have a consistent schedule that will be able to work for students in school or learning from home. If public health conditions require us to move to total distance learning at any point during the fall, we will modify our daily schedule slightly in order to have a later start time, shorter individual class times, and more small group instruction. The goal will be to focus on creating the right balance between synchronous and asynchronous learning for students.

Will students still have special subjects like music, physical education, science, Spanish, technology, and Woodshop? Will students travel to those classes?

Students will travel to woodshop, art and physical education which will take place outside weather permitting. All other specialists will push into classroom pods based on your child's schedule. For the safety of students and teachers we will ask specialist teachers to adhere to a designated teacher zone in the classroom.

Will students be sharing computing devices?

For the first time, our school has invested in a device program for all lower students. Each child will be supplied with an iPad to maximize the educational experience, ensure consistent access and eliminate sharing, thereby also enhancing student safety. Teachers will be working with the programs and devices starting day one to ease the transition to distance learning. iPads will be distributed the first two weeks of school.

Will Lower School still have Meeting for Worship?

Yes, but according to pod. However, the Meeting House will not be utilized for Meeting for Worship.

How will recess work? Will pods be maintained during recess?

We have created recess zones so that multiple pods can be outside at recess concurrently. The number, size, and location of zones might be adjusted once we see how the system and schedule is working in early September. Each zone will have its own designated play equipment, and we will rotate weekly to allow equitable access. Teachers will provide students with instructions, guidance, monitoring, and reminders on to how to play safely at MB.

What are the daily safety measures?

To de-densify the Lower School and ensure small, stable pods, some classes will be re-located on campus. Each pod will use a single building entry/exit and bathroom. Extended Day will be available (but fluctuating, day-to-day enrollment is no longer permissible). Standard safety features will include assigned seats, masks, physical distancing, desk washing, and careful hygiene. Parent visitors will not be allowed in the Lower School building unless necessary and a new drop-off/pick-up protocol will be adopted.

Where are the Lower School classrooms now located?

Nursery will move to the Lower School Library; 5th Grade will move to two large classrooms in Ross House. Specialists will push into regular classrooms. Making these changes allows grades PP-5 to occupy two separate spaces for learning—one for each pod. Pre Primary, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade will be located downstairs; 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade upstairs. To make room for the Nursery, the Lower School Library will be relocated to the Science room, with Science taking place in individual classrooms.

Will MB still offer Extended Day and MB After 3?

The Lower School WILL be offering Extended Day programming until 5:30 pm every school day. But we have had to make a few changes in order to enhance student and adult safety. First, because of the need to maximize the stability of groups, **enrollment will shift to a seasonal (fall, winter, spring) basis. This means that we will no longer be able to accommodate fluctuating, day-to-day enrollment.** Please [click here](#) to register and for pricing; deadline for fall registration is Wednesday, September 2nd. Secondly, stable groups will be made up of students from two consecutive grades only (e.g., K + 1st, 2nd + 3rd). Led by the same teacher every day, each group will remain the same throughout the enrollment season and engage in activities separately from the other groups. As is the case during the school day, students will be asked to wear masks unless they are eating or drinking. We will have definitive pick-up times in order to make transitions as safe and efficient as possible, most likely 4:30pm and 5:30pm. MB After 3 Enrichment programming will be temporarily suspended for Fall 2020.

Are masks required?

Yes. Students and teachers nursery through 5th Grade will be required to wear masks while on campus. We will have periodic, teacher-directed mask breaks, but it will still be a long day of mask wearing, nonetheless. Students must have at least one back-up mask in their classroom cubby. We will also have a supply of child-sized masks for the inevitable lost or forgotten mask. The CDC does not recommend the use of neck gaiters/buff or bandanas. Masks should be two or more layers to stop the spread of Covid-19 and worn over the nose and mouth; secured under the chin. For additional information, please see links below:

- [How to Select a Face Mask?](#)
- [How to Wash Face Masks?](#)
- [Use of Face Cloth Coverings Guidance in School](#)
- [How to wear masks?](#)



Are supplies provided? What does my child need to bring to school each day?

All necessary classroom materials and consumable materials will be provided for students. We ask students to bring their own headphones and towel—something for sitting outdoors for lessons or lunch. We also suggest a full water bottle and sunscreen. Communal water fountains will not be used in the Lower School until further notice.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedure

Safety protocols require us to severely limit parent presence on campus and in our building. While this is completely antithetical to our philosophy, our commitment to your children's safety require us to take these steps. Arrival/drop-off for K-4 will take place beginning at 7:30am (we strongly encourage all families to be on campus by 7:50 am), via a car drop-off loop.

Cars will enter through the Lloyd Street entrance, staying to left side of access road and turning left to exit out the front grate. Children will be dropped off and met by faculty and staff along the roadway between the access road and the front gate. They will be immediately organized and distanced by pod groups (under a large tent in the Grove) and escorted to the lower school. Walkers will be able to drop off their children at the Lower School drop-off zone in the grove. Nursery and Pre-Primary families will have parking access in the Lower School lot and will walk their children to a designated Lower School entrance. Fifth graders will be dropped off at the new car drop-off loop in the Ross House lot off Hope St. Dismissal will follow a similar pattern.

What are the new health standards?

Our responsibility for the health and safety of our community demands that we implement new safeguards to mitigate risk from the virus. We all need to come together in showing the diligence, care, commitment, patience, and resilience that will ensure we can open the school and keep it open. MB will strictly enforce adherence to all safety guidelines.

- Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 must stay or return home immediately. Parents must arrange for a sick child to be picked up from school within one hour of notification. Return to school will be allowed only with a doctor's note.
- Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who has had close contact with someone who has tested positive, must inform the school and follow instructions from [RIDOH](#). Return to school will be allowed only after completing requirements as directed by RIDOH, including isolation or quarantine.
- All members of the MB community must perform a daily self-screen at home prior to coming to school and attest to being asymptomatic via a convenient app called SchoolPass.
- Additionally, the temperature of all students arriving on campus will be checked manually with no-touch thermometers before they enter any building. Visitors to campus will be limited, but those who do come must complete self-screening at check-in.
- Increased housekeeping staff and enhanced cleaning and hygiene practices are in place.

To see a list of ALL new health and safety measures being taken, please [click here](#) and read the Appendix to the School's Reopening plan.

What happens if a student becomes ill at school?

Those who develop symptoms at school should report to the nurse and then go home immediately. Symptomatic students must remain in isolation at the nurse's office, and parents must pick them up within one hour of notification by the school.

Anyone with symptoms should seek medical advice within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed. Per state guidelines, a return to school will not be permitted until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer



contagious.

Quarantine and Exposure

Anyone—students, parents, faculty, or staff—who tests positive for COVID-19, or who has had close contact with a COVID-19 patient, must inform the school nurse and RIDOH and then follow the instructions of RIDOH, including isolation or quarantining.

How do we properly quarantine after exposure?

Quarantining involves separating and restricting the movements of those exposed to a contagious disease, who may not be symptomatic, to see if they become sick. A return to school will be allowed after completing isolation or quarantine, receiving a negative test result, or other requirements as directed by RIDOH. A second-degree contact—the contact of a contact, twice removed from the person who is ill—may continue to come to campus without restriction. The recommended duration of isolation and quarantining is evolving in response to growing data and evidence.

The CDC recommends the following:

- For those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, quarantine at home for 14 days since the last contact;
- For those who have COVID-19, isolation can be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. For those with severe illness, isolation may need to extend for up to 20 days;
- For persons who never develop symptoms, isolation can be discontinued 10 days after the date of a positive test. Consistent with current state guidelines, anyone coming to Rhode Island from any state with 5% or greater positivity rate must quarantine for 14 days or show proof of a negative test within the past 72 hours.

A list of states that fall into that category, updated weekly, can be found [here](#).

How will the school communicate in the event of illness?

If a member of the MB community—student, parent, faculty, or staff—tests positive for COVID-19, the school will share that information with RIDOH immediately as requested by state officials. As soon as possible thereafter, an email message will be sent to the school community, attesting to the positive case but excluding the individual's identity, and explaining steps the school is taking to mitigate the risk of further spread (e.g., deep cleaning, isolation and/or quarantine, temporary closure of portions of the campus etc.).

For a list of scenarios, please click [here](#).

Lunch

For all students, faculty, and staff enrolled in the meal plan, SAGE has devised a new program that is customized to the current circumstances. Each week, participants in the plan will be prompted to make menu selections for the following week by means of SAGE's convenient app, choosing from among four major lunch options each day: salad plus protein; deli sandwich; hot entrée; or specialty meal (e.g., vegetarian). Each meal includes a side order such as fresh fruit or chips as well as a drink. Meals will be prepared, packaged, labelled with individual participants' names, and then delivered to Lower School classrooms. The app includes a clear and effective tool for identifying and screening for a wide range of allergens.



Lower School Important Contacts

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