

Merrillville Community School Corporation Virtual Program [1st – 6th grade]

Under the direction of the Merrillville Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees, for the 2021 – 2022 school year, the Merrillville Community School Corporation will offer a Virtual Program designed to serve students in grades 1st – 6th who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Documented medical or emotional reason - and/or
- Alternative placement based on 504 or IEP- and/or
- Be in good academic standing – and/or
- Good attendance during the 2020-21 virtual or in-person experience – and/or
- Apply for open seat in Virtual Program (application available online)

The 1st – 6th grade virtual online educational platform will be facilitated by dedicated Merrillville Community School Corporation (MCSC) virtual teachers in collaboration with Edmentum. Edmentum is an online program designed to meet the needs of students who wish to conduct their education away from a traditional school building.

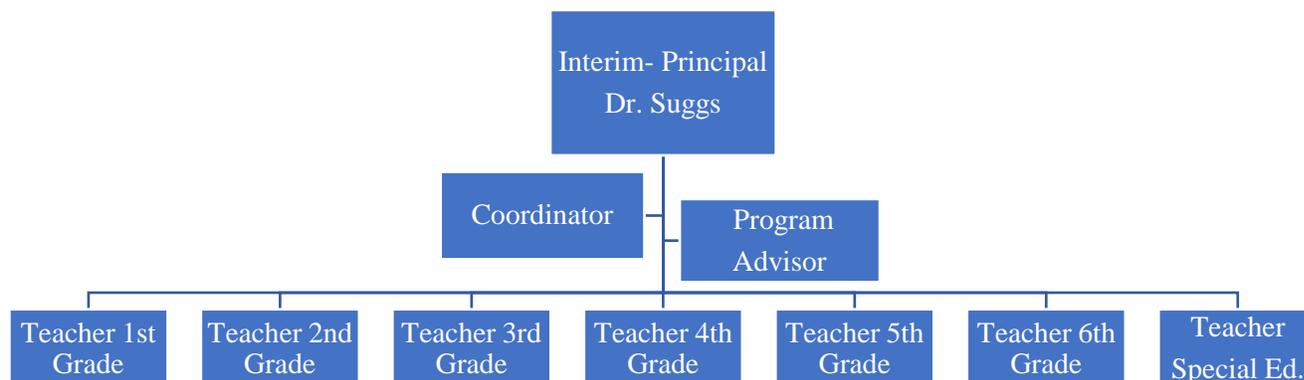
Students in the Virtual Program will be assigned to MCSC teachers; however, some instruction will be provided through Edmentum’s Learning Programs. Being a parent/guardian to a virtual student requires time, commitment, and planning to ensure the student’s online experience is successful. Parents/Guardians and students are expected to communicate to make certain any questions or concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

MCSC will work with our students and families, and collaborate with Edmentum to ensure that our students are provided with the best opportunity of a high quality, engaging, and rigorous education experience in an online setting.



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Organizational Chart



Note: The MCSC Virtual Program will be located in MHS. The maximum enrollment for the 1st – 6th grade program will be 210 students or 35 students per teacher.

Tentative Enrollment Process

Parents/Guardians of students in (1st – 6th grades) who meet the specific requirements, may enroll in MCSC Virtual Program once online registration begins **(TBD 2021)**. An application for enrollment into the Virtual Program must be completed by the parents/guardians of the student. Parents/Guardians of students will have the flexibility to choose which academic option meets the needs of their student(s), but these changes will only take place at the beginning of each trimester. (If, for some unforeseen reason, a family would like to switch into or out of the in-person traditional schooling, they must schedule an appointment with the Virtual Program Coordinator and school building administrator to discuss the reason for the request and the potential impact on a student's learning path). Parents are able to opt out of the Virtual Program in order for their child to be placed in a traditional classroom during the first week of the trimester. After the first week, students will remain enrolled in the option of their initial placement.

Curriculum

High-quality instruction includes a clear objective/teaching point, opportunities for interaction and practice, and the ability for students to respond in multiple ways (reading, writing, listening, speaking). High quality instruction is engaging, and provides multiple access points and scaffolds to move all students to the learning objective. Delivery of instruction to students will be facilitated in both synchronous and asynchronous formats through Google Meet and the use of other G-Suite applications, and Edmentum educational platform. Intentionally designed

formative assessment and checks for understanding into the instructional process to provide feedback about progress students are making toward prioritized learning outcomes in Core area classes will be ongoing throughout the trimester. The Virtual Program will offer two Encore classes to all students (Physical Education, Health, Music and Art). **Please note that students must take all mandated state and school corporation tests in-person.**

Attendance – MCSC Virtual Program

We have learned during the 2020-21 school year that detailed monitoring of attendance is one of the most important ways schools can account for student engagement and wellbeing during a pandemic across any instructional model. Research and data will show that there is a strong relationship between attendance and student achievement.

Daily attendance in the MCSC Virtual Program is required. The parent/guardian must ensure that the attendance of the student(s) is recorded daily and that absences are communicated to the teacher the day of the absence. Three or more unexcused absences will result in the student being placed on an attendance improvement plan. Students will be required to log into Google Classroom daily for attendance and attend all synchronous and asynchronous virtual classes for which he or she may be scheduled.

Teacher Office Hours

MCSC Virtual Program teachers who are committed to working with students to ensure the best possible chance for success will be available to support and respond to student inquiries and grade student work in a timely manner.

MCSC Virtual Program teachers will also provide office hours to support our virtual learners academically. It is imperative for students to utilize office hours to support academic progress, answer questions and get additional feedback/support as needed. Tutoring office hours will be provided through Google Meet or Zoom. Tutoring support will be conducted by an external educational support company yet to be named.