



August 2, 2021

Posoh Menominee Tribal School Parents and Families!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. I can't wait to hear from the students about their summer adventures! For returning families, I look forward to seeing you all and continuing to serve you, your children, and the entire Menominee community. For families new to MTS, I am excited to meet you and your child. We are all here to support your child in transitioning to our amazing school. Our staff and school community are all committed to providing the best educational experience possible for your child here at MTS. Let us know how we can help!

MTS office staff is back to work and ready to assist you with back to school needs/questions.

We are eagerly preparing for the return of our students on:

- **First day of school: August 31, 2021.**

To get this year off to a good start, our Back to School Open House will be:

- **Thursday August 26, 2021 10:00AM to 6:00PM**
- **This is mandatory for all of our families.**
- **This will be an in-person event, masks required at all times in the building.**

All school information will be sent out via email, on our school website and MTS school facebook page.

BASED ON WHAT WE KNOW TODAY

What will our school year look like this year?

We know we are not completely done with COVID. MTS will be in full compliance with all Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Emergency Orders.

- Mask wearing is mandatory for school.
- We will be providing in-person learning, five days a week! Unless deemed unsafe by MITW Incident Command. If deemed not safe we will be providing remote learning.
- MTS will be following mandatory school attendance policies for students listed in the Parent-Student Handbook 2021-22.

- Students will not be able to use drinking fountains. Water bottles will be allowed. Students need to bring a personal water bottle. Filling stations will be available.
- Students will not be sharing items and will have personal space to keep their own belongings.
- Physical distancing will be practiced as much as possible.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the building. Students will be encouraged to use them throughout the day. Handwashing procedures will be taught to students to try and provide the safest environment possible.
- Parents, continue with your morning screening at home.
- Meals will be in the classroom. Children should not be coming to school before 7:40 AM. We do not have staff available to screen/supervise them until that time.
- No visitors will be allowed in the classrooms.
- Upon arrival at school we will continue to do a quick health screening for temperature. If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, they must stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication to reduce the fever. This helps with the spread of the flu.
- If your child is experiencing any symptoms ie. cough, headache, stomach, fever etc., please keep your child home until they are symptom free for 24 hours. Please notify the school office anytime your child will be out ill.

Back To School Checklist for Families

I know that you're thinking, "Back to School already?" Although summer is still in full swing, now is the best time to start your back to school planning. Don't let the school year sneak up on you! Start getting ready now with this back to school checklist for families. Start knocking off the tasks on this checklist now and when everyone else is frantically rushing around in the days before school starts, you'll be relaxing and enjoying those last few days of summer.

- **BOOK DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS**

Doctor's appointments book up quickly in the week leading up to the new school year. Book any appointments at least 6 weeks out so you ensure you have all physical forms and shot records in time. Get it done now and that's one major thing off your TO-Do list! Don't forget to make a few copies and keep them handy! MTC will not require the same appointments for Sports Physicals. Parents/guardians may call and schedule for the day which best suits their schedule. Both Medical and Community health departments can do Sports Physicals. MTC encourages calling in advance to avoid the last minute rush.

- Medical Department: 715-799-5400
- Community Health Department: 715-799-5430

- **BUY SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Buy school supplies early while stores still have everything you need in stock and a good selection of items. Label everything that needs to be labeled and store it away until the night before school starts.

- **INVENTORY OFFICE (HOMEWORK) SUPPLIES**

Go through your office supplies and make sure you have everything that your kids will need to do their homework. Stock up on whatever you need now which the prices and selections are good.

- **GET READY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHES SHOPPING**

Go through all your kid's clothes, including anything you might have stored away. Make a list of all the items you'll need to buy for school and for the fall. Don't forget to write down what size you need to buy. Once clothes go on sale you'll know exactly what you need to buy and in what size. Writing all this down might take you a little extra time but it's extremely helpful when you have multiple kids. It gets hard to remember who needs what and what size you need to buy it in. This saves you from having to make an extra trip back to the store to return things.

2 WEEKS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- **PLAN FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

If you're planning on making one of those cute first day of school signs for your kids then go ahead and get them done now. Once you have the sign done take a few minutes to figure out where you want to take your pictures and do a quick test run. This will give you a chance to see if you like how the sign looks and make any needed adjustments.

- **PLAN FOR DROP OFF AND PICK UP**

If this is your first year or if you have kids attending different schools this year, take a few minutes and plan out your school drop off/pick up plan. Make sure to factor in extra time in case drop off/pick up lines are slower than expected or your kids need some extra help.

- **STARTING A NEW SCHOOL**

Are your kids starting a new school this year? Take them there and walk around with them. The MTS Back to School Open House on August 26, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM is a great time to take care of this.

- **START THINKING ABOUT SCHOOL LUNCH AND SNACK IDEAS**

Kids' tastes and nutritional needs change as they grow, especially when they're younger. There's a good chance that whatever their favorite lunch was last year, it won't be their favorite this year. Start coming up with school lunch ideas and try them now while you have plenty of time to experiment. This is especially important if you have a picky eater. Getting them used to eating new foods now will reduce the chance that they will have issues eating their lunch once school comes. Incorporate fruits and veggies into snack time now.

- **PREPARE FOR A ROUTINE CHANGE**

Going from a relaxed summer schedule with a late bedtime to a school schedule with an early bedtime and early wake up can be difficult for kids to adjust to. Figure out what times you want your kids going to bed and waking up during the school year, slowly start transitioning them to that schedule. Slowly transitioning your routine will make it easier on everyone and cause less stress and tears than a sudden routine change.

1 WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

- **CLEAN YOUR CAR**

Once school starts you're going to be spending a lot of time in your car. Take the time while the weather is still nice to clean out any dirt, sand, garbage, or other things that have accumulated over the summer. If you have children who are still using car seats or booster seats don't forget to give those a good cleaning as well.

- **GET HAIRCUTS**

If you wait to take your kids for a haircut the day before school starts then expect to wait in line. Beat the rush and take them to get their haircut a week prior.

- **START TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT AFTER SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS**

One of the first things kids ask when they get home from school is if they can watch tv or play video games. Let your kids know what the new after school rules are and what you expect from them. Do they have to finish all their homework and chores before they can use electronics? Are they expected to wait until after dinner? Set your rules and expectations now and enforce them as soon as school starts so there's no confusion and less push back.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) encourages anyone attending school in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year to get their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. This includes children ages 12 and up as well as anyone planning to attend in-person classes at college or university. Getting vaccinated now means we can help make sure your students are back in the classroom and won't have to miss out on in-person classes or extracurricular activities, the COVID-19 vaccines are the best protection we have against the virus and make it possible for our kids to get back to learning safely and without disruption. According to CDC and DHS guidance, adults and adolescents who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. That means that parents and guardians do not need to worry about their fully vaccinated children having to miss out on in-person school, after school activities such as sports, and other extracurricular activities after being exposed to COVID-19.

We hope that you find our information and checklist helpful and informative. All information will be on the MTS school Facebook page, school website <https://mts.menominee-nsn.gov/>. I am honored to serve as your principal of Menominee Tribal School. It is truly a privilege to be a part of a community where parents, teachers and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Please feel free to contact me at 715-756-2354 ext. 2162 or lcorn@mitw.org

Welcome Back! Let's make it another great year at MTS together!

Sincerely,

Lori L. Corn
MTS Principal

