



Spud Academy Information Session

Goals

Return to Learn | Moorhead Area Public Schools



1

Safety

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Our plans are based on guidance from the CDC, State Health and Education Departments.

2

Flexibility

Our primary goal is to do what we do best--teaching and learning face to face. However, plans are fluid to allow for movement between models based on necessity.

3

Equity

Excellence results from opportunity. We seek to provide students with the resources they need to thrive in every learning model. We are committed to ensure that every student receives the quality education they need and deserve.

4

Community

We all have different situations and opinions as it relates to the challenges of the pandemic. We commit to valuing our Spud community and treating each other with grace and respect. We remain stronger, smarter and safer together.

Our Partnership

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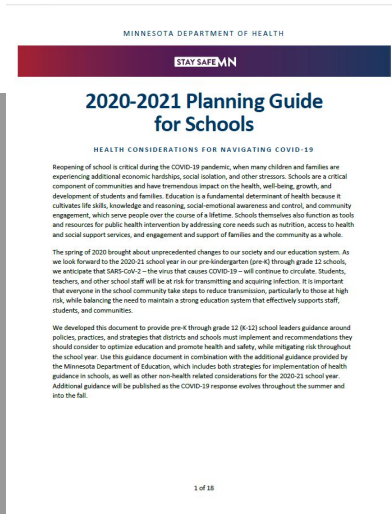


ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.

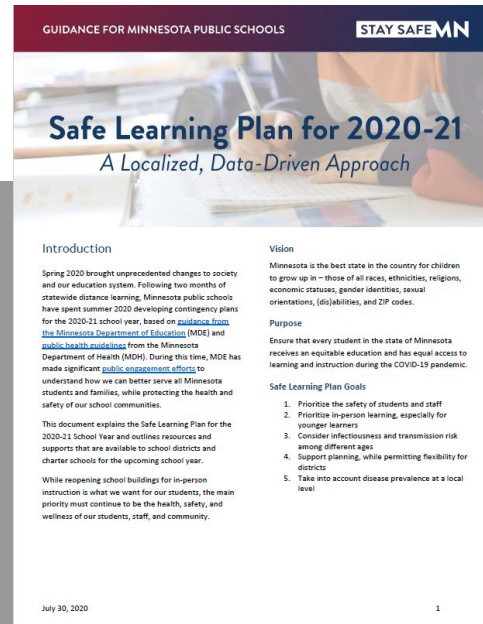
HELEN KELLER

Our Partnership

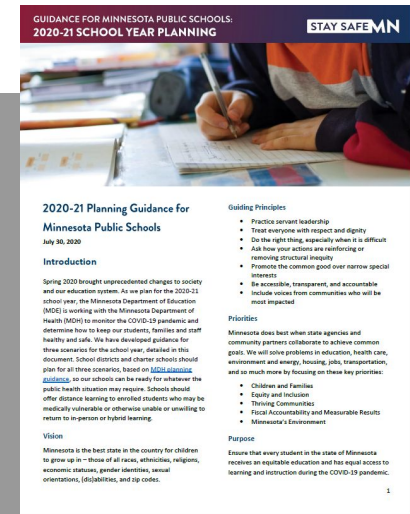
MN Dept. of Education & Health



Planning Guide



Safe Learning Plan



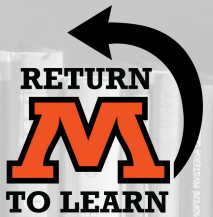
Planning Guidance



Learning Models

Learning Models

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**In-Person
Learning**

**Hybrid
Learning**

**Distance
Learning**

In-Person

0-9 cases: Everyone;
10-19 cases: Elementary

- Students attend school every day with normal classroom settings, following additional safety precautions including face coverings.
- Schools will create as much space between students as feasible, but will not be held strictly to 6 feet of social distancing.

Hybrid

10-19 cases: Secondary;
20-29 cases: Everyone
30 - 49 cases: Elementary

- Students attend school with a modified schedule.
- School work is completed through an in-person and distance learning platform.
- Students schedules limit the amount of students moving throughout the building during the day.
- Reduced class and bus sizes.

Distance

30-49 cases: Secondary;
50+ cases: Everyone

- All academic work is completed at home.
- Instruction includes daily reciprocal interaction with teacher.
- Structured daily class schedule.
- Daily attendance would be required.
- Engaged in synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (flexible) learning activities.

Spud Academy

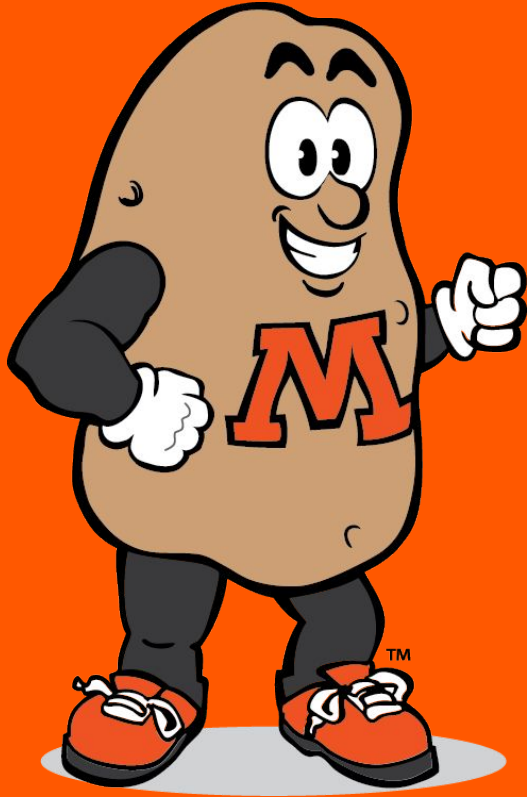
- Distance learning, per semester, option for families to enroll in. Separate program from state-delegated plans. Determined by parent choice.



Spud Academy Basics

Spud Academy

Option to choose exclusively Distance Learning on a semester basis.



- Students are provided a a school issued Chromebook.
- Will require a semester long commitment. Student will remain enrolled in Spud Academy regardless of what Learning Model everyone else is in.
- Dedicated teachers and consistent learning groups.
- Daily, online interaction with teacher and peers.
- Structured daily class schedule.
- Daily attendance and participation required.
- Academic rigor equal to in-person learning.
- Meet all grade level standards and MN graduation standards.
- Depending on student(s) age, will require parent attention.

Technology

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DEVICE AVAILABILITY

- Devices will be assigned to all K-12 students enrolled in SPUD Academy

BROADBAND AVAILABILITY

- Low cost lifeline broadband internet access is available for qualifying households from Midco, Sparklight or 702 Communications at a cost of \$6 to \$10 per month.
- NOTE: This district will work with families to ensure students have internet access offsite.

HELP DESK AND SERVICE

- Technical Support is available at 218-284-3340 from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday

Mental & Social-Emotional Health

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Relationships

Outreach

Collaboration



Q & A

General

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Why would I choose the Spud Academy as my student's option?

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Choosing to enroll in the Spud Academy guarantees you will not be required to transition from one scenario to another. A student in the Spud Academy will remain in the Spud Academy for the fall semester of the 2020-21 school year until January 22. Changes may only take place at semester breaks.

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What is the start date for the Spud Academy?

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The Spud Academy start date will be the same as the district start date, September 8, 2020.

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How will my student have access to the Spud Academy?

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Spud Academy is a one-to-one device environment. Each student will be provided a Chromebook and AC power charger. Families needing a WiFi hotspot can request one after the enrollment period is completed. When at all possible, families are encouraged to utilize their home Internet and WiFi.



After I register my child in Spud Academy, what are the next steps?



As information is finalized in preparation for the start of virtual instruction on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, families will receive updated guidance from Spud Academy personnel.

Information on device pick-up and registration into virtual classrooms will be communicated to families.

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Can I change my child's enrollment into the Spud Academy to in-person at the home campus before the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020?

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For staffing purposes, we ask once a family registers for the Spud Academy their commitment remains unless there are unusual circumstances. The change can be accommodated if your decision to elect in-person instruction at the home campus is made by midnight on Friday, August 14, 2020. Your request to revoke your child's Spud Academy enrollment and request in-person instruction at the home campus may be emailed to spudacademy@moorheadschoools.org.

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If my Spud Academy enrolled child elects to return to in-person instruction at the end of first semester, will my child have the same teachers when he/she returns?

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Staffing of the Spud Academy teachers is not campus specific. There is no guarantee that if your child returns to in-person instruction at their home campus that they will have the same teacher(s). Students who elect to leave in-person instruction at the end of first semester and enroll in the Spud Academy may not have the same teachers as provided during in-person instruction.

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Will there be a Spud Academy back to school session?

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MAPS teachers will make contact with their Spud Academy students and families prior to the first day of school. We anticipate the Spud Academy teachers using technology to meet students and parents/guardians. Options **may** be able to meet in a social-distanced setting for those who are able and seek to meet in an in-person option.

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Can Spud Academy students attend classes in person at their home campus during the instructional school day?

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No, students must select the current district plan or the Spud Academy.



Will grading guidelines be different for Spud Academy instruction vs. district designated instruction?



No, the grading guidelines for Spud Academy will match the district's policies for in-person or hybrid instruction.

Spud Academy follows the grading principles and practices put forward by Moorhead Area Public Schools.



Q & A

Instruction & Curriculum



What does the Spud Academy instruction and learning format include?



Spud Academy virtual instruction will be available for students in Kindergarten through grade 12. There will be a blend of both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Synchronous Instruction is two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. Asynchronous Instruction does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. Teachers will teach virtually using best practices in online learning. Students will receive direct instruction from their teacher and will have the opportunity to access their teachers daily.

Spud Academy will not be able to serve Pre-K or Spanish Immersion students at this time.

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Will the Spud Academy virtual instructional day include live, teacher-led instruction for the full length of the school day?

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The Spud Academy instructional day will include a blend of both synchronous, real-time, live instruction between teachers and students online, as well as asynchronous learning, which is instruction that does not require the teacher and student to be engaged at the same time. Learning opportunities will be on a daily schedule. Instruction will be based on the grade/course state standards.

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Will the Spud Academy address the state standards?

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Yes, courses in the Spud Academy will address the same state standards as the district directed in-person, hybrid or distance learning learning models.

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Will students be able to take the same courses as students in the hybrid school?

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While core courses and elective options will be available, some school-based elective courses will not be available as they require additional equipment or materials. Day to day instruction may vary, but all work is based in the Minnesota State Education Standards.

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What specific courses will be available?

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K-5 students will have access to the same courses as the traditional elementaries. Middle school and High school course offerings are being determined at this time and will be shared as soon as possible.

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Will my student be on track for graduation?

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Yes, the necessary coursework will be available for students to stay on track for graduation following the Minnesota state graduation standards.

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Will advanced placement courses (AP) be offered for students enrolled in Spud Academy?

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We are looking at options that will allow us to offer AP courses for registered high school students in a virtual format.



Q & A

Support

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Will parents be provided resources to support their child's virtual learning in Spud Academy?

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Students will have access to digital and physical resources. Students should follow the instructions for logging into the Spud Academy digital resources. Also, your child's Spud Academy teacher will be able to assist.

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Will Spud Academy enrolled students have access to instructional materials such as textbooks, library books, school provided supplies, etc.?

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Yes. Spud Academy enrolled students will be provided all course related instructional materials for each class.

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Will Spud Academy enrolled students receive special education services? And, how will IEP meetings be held?

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Yes, Spud Academy students will receive special education services as outlined in their schedule of services by their IEP. Instructional supports such as in-class support, resource classes, accommodations and modifications will be provided in Spud Academy by special education professionals. IEPs for Spud Academy students will be held virtually through video conferencing.



What about Spud Academy students and receiving their specific related services?



Spud Academy students will receive all services determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504. Most related services such as psychological services and other therapies will be provided virtually; however, certain services may require students to access a Spud campus or facility. Spud Academy cannot provide every accommodation/modification that may be needed. If parents choose the Spud Academy and the student is not being provided Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), the IEP team must meet to discuss educational placement.

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Will school support services, such as EL and intervention related services be available to students?

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Yes, school support services will be available to students, including EL and Special Education services as well as counseling services and other interventions as needed.

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How will my student make connections to other students and adults?

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The social emotional needs of students are an important component of any district schooling model. Activities, virtual student connections and individual teacher check-ins will be part of the instructional program.



Q & A

Attendance



What will the attendance policy be for the Spud Academy and how will attendance be taken?



Students attending Spud Academy will have the same daily and period attendance requirements as those choosing district directed instruction; although, students and teachers will engage virtually.

Teachers will take and post attendance in PowerSchool. Students' attendance is the combination of being logged into synchronous sessions and completing assigned tasks associated with a course.



Q & A

Activities



Can Spud Academy students enrolled in secondary asynchronous courses attend scheduled practices and events before the start and at the end of the school day?



Spud Academy students may report to their home campus for before school and after school practices, competitions and performances as allowed. Spud Academy students will remain enrolled with their campus co-curricular/extracurricular activities. Transportation will not be provided for co-curricular/extra curricular practices or local events/activities. Spud Academy students are eligible for transportation when attending an away event with their co-curricular/extracurricular program participants.

Next Steps

Register by August 14.

Registration Link

<https://moorhead.powerschool.com>

Questions?

SpudAcademy@moorheadschoools.org

