



Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

Montachusett Reg. Vocational Technical School
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Dear Monty Tech Community,

As everyone should be aware, beginning on May 3, 2021, Monty Tech will switch from its original hybrid-learning model to a full in-person model where nearly all students will return to the building. The only students who experience remote learning during the final six weeks of the school-year will be from those families that formally requested that their student participate in the Remote Learning Only (RLO) program.

As described in Dr. Harrity's letter sent home on April 1st, in preparation for this transition, much of the policies and practices that the school has had in place since the start of the year regarding mitigation strategies like cleaning protocols, proper mask wearing and social distancing will remain unchanged. We must continue these efforts through the final days of the school year, as we certainly have not experienced the end of impact of the coronavirus. However, there are some practices that will be changing and we do want to keep students and families up to date on those changes. We begin those updates with the changes that will occur with our food service plan.

Monty Tech Lunch Plan During Full In-Person Learning –

In making the adjustment to full in-person learning, one of the central challenges for Monty Tech is how to provide access to meal service while remaining in compliance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) policy of students remaining seated 6' apart while eating since masks are understandably removed.

This issue is not new to the school as the distancing policy has been in place since the start of the academic year. However, for the first eight months of the year, our hybrid plan limited total daily capacity to 50% of our student body. Therefore, beginning May 3rd, meal service will occur with the following adjustments –

Breakfast Service –

In general, breakfast service will remain unchanged. We will still be arriving to school as we have all year. Student riders will wait on their buses until 7:30am and be dismissed one bus at a time. Meanwhile drop-offs will still occur at the auditorium for underclassmen and the gym for upperclassmen. These students and student drivers, if they choose to, will be allowed to go to breakfast at 7:35am in the actual cafeteria.

The only change to breakfast will be that the "diners only" policy will be strictly enforced. This means that, in order to maximize capacity specifically for those who want breakfast, only students who plan to actually order breakfast will be allowed into the café at this time. All other students will be directed to go straight to first period.

Lunch Schedule –

In order to accommodate full in-person learning, a fifth lunch block will be added to the daily bell schedule. The full schedule will be as follows –

- Lunch 1 – Vocational Lunch – 10:05am-10:31am

- Lunch 2 – Academic Lunch – 10:37am – 11:03am
- Lunch 3 – Academic Lunch – 11:21am-11:47am
- Lunch 4 – Vocational Lunch – 11:54am – 12:20pm
- Lunch 5 – Vocational Lunch – 12:25pm-12:51pm

As we have done throughout the year, the academic lunches will allow for Period 5 & 6 to occur uninterrupted and classes will be grouped based on areas of the building. While the location for some of the academic lunches may change now that we are adding the Main Gym as a temporary café, the times for the academic lunches – Lunch #2 & #3 – have not changed. Meanwhile, the vocational lunches will change slightly as they will not be divided into different grade levels. Instead, all grade-levels that are in shop during a particular week will go to their designated lunch together as a group.

In terms of the actual lunch assignments for shops, they will be as follows –

<u>A week</u>		<u>B week</u>	
<u>Lunch 1 - 10:08-10:34am</u>		<u>Lunch 1 - 10:08-10:34am</u>	
<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Rear Gym</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Rear Gym</u>
Culinary	Masonry	Culinary	Masonry
CAD	HVAC	CAD	HVAC
Info Tech	Graphics	Info Tech	Graphics
Business Tech		Dental Assisting	Business Tech
<u>Lunch 4 - 11:54-12:20pm</u>		<u>Lunch 4 - 11:54-12:20pm</u>	
<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Rear Gym</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Rear Gym</u>
Cosmetology	Vet Science	Cosmetology	Vet Science
Dental	Electrical	Machine Tech	Early Childhood
Early Childhood	Welding	Electrical	Welding
Machine Tech			
<u>Lunch 5 - 12:25-12:51pm</u>		<u>Lunch 5 - 12:25-12:51pm</u>	
<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Rear Gym</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Rear Gym</u>
Health Occ.	Plumbing	Cabinetmaking	Plumbing
Cabinetmaking	Engineering	House Carpentry	Auto Body
House Carpentry	Auto Body	Engineering	Auto Tech
	Auto Tech	Health Jrs. <u>ONLY</u>	Health Fresh. <u>Only</u>

Finally, with this lunch adjustment and in support of our contact tracing efforts, we will re-scan all new student seating charts during the weeks of May 3rd and May 10th.

Lunch Service –

The process of standing in line and receiving lunch will not change in the actual cafeteria. There will still be two service lines for students to access.

In addition, the overall practice of maintaining social distancing while in line must continue.

Meanwhile, by adding the Main Gym for lunch service during Lunch #2 and #3, the process of picking up lunch will change. First, any student who is not purchasing lunch, even if they are assigned to the Rear Gym, should enter the Main Gym by the door to left across from Ms. Foss' Room. If they are assigned to the Main Gym, then they can take their seat. If they are assigned to the Rear Gym, they should pass through the Main Gym and enter the Rear Gym by the Rear Gym lobby door.

For students who are picking up lunch in either gym area, they should proceed down the boys' locker room hallway as we have been doing, and the main service line will be located in the area where we used to have the vending machines. Students going to the Rear Gym will simply proceed straight ahead and enter the Rear Gym by the back door.

For students who have lunch in the Main Gym, they can pick up their lunch at the main service area or they can proceed to a secondary service area that will be in gym bathroom hallway, near the fitness room. Once these students have their lunch, they should proceed down that hallway and enter the Main Gym by the backdoor near the lobby and girls' locker room.

Meal Offerings –

First, all students and families should be aware that both, breakfast and lunch, at Monty Tech will continue to be provided free of charge through the end of the school year.

However, in order to streamline the serving process, the menu of primary meal offerings will be somewhat pared down from earlier in the year. For example, meals that previously allowed for a choice of sauces or toppings may be limited to a single choice in order to keep the lunch service moving in a timely manner. Still, as usual, the monthly lunch schedule will continue to be posted on the main page of our school website – www.montytech.net – under the “Menus” tab so students and families can plan ahead.

In addition, for the remainder of this year, we will no longer offer the purchase of “a la carte” add-ons like chips, as these items would require additional service time to accept payment. However, we will make water available as a free add-on along with the regular lunch service.

Meal Bags –

Beginning on May 3rd, with the return to full in-person, Monty Tech will be ending the weekly meal bag service to most students. The only students who will be eligible to continue the meal bag service will be those students who remain on the Remote Learning Only learning plan and have registered for the plan already. Ms. Whitaker will reach out to or RLO families to confirm their participation in the meal bag pick-up plan soon.

To conclude, again, it is clear that we will face a number of challenges during the full in-person learning period due to the social distancing requirements needed to address COVID-19. Nevertheless, we feel that the plans described above will allow us to support the return of our students in a safe and proper manner.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at browne-thomas@montytech.net.