



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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March 4, 2021

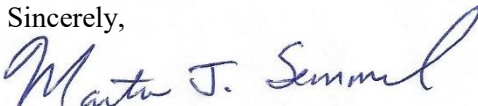
Dear Parents and Staff,

I wanted to share with all families and staff that we will be reopening for in-person learning on Wednesdays starting on **Wednesday, March 24**. We have selected this date because Monday, March 22 starts the first full week of our third trimester at the elementary and middle schools. I anticipate that these Wednesdays will remain half days (through April 28) as I will bring a new calendar to the BOE at their March 9 meeting for discussion and potential approval. Our teaching staff continues to spend significant hours planning for students in class and for the students who remain at home. The half days that we are providing teachers make this job doable. At the March 9 BOE meeting, I will have staff share with the BOE members ways in which they maximize this Wednesday time which is necessary in order to fully serve students across settings.

Returning half-day on Wednesdays will be differentiated according to the capacity of our buildings and size of the student body. At the elementary schools, all students will attend for the 5-day in-person learning unless they remain a total remote learner. At the middle schools and high school, half-day Wednesdays will offer in-person learning by cohort on a rotating schedule from A days to B days. They will use the same cohort groups created by the leadership team at these buildings that have been used throughout the year. The building principals will send the schedule for in-person learning by cohort after it is completed and post it on their websites for further accessibility. Please note, we will also provide for some additional A days given the loss of A days due to holidays and snow days.

Finally, we know that the Governor has identified school building staff as priorities to receive a vaccine shot(s). While many of our staff will receive their Johnson and Johnson (one shot) vaccine this Friday, others have already received a first shot of the Moderna vaccine. We know that full protection from the vaccine likely occurs two weeks after the final shot and therefore we are still weeks away from our staff being fully protected. With that said, our reopening teams are discussing end of year activities and **increased** in-person learning. I want to assure you that our aim is to make the end of the year as positive as possible for students, staff, parents, and the community with the goal to fully reopen in a safe and responsible way that works for our schools.

Sincerely,

  
Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.