

16 March 2021

Dear Mendon Families:

Each month our Mendon Community Schools Board of Education reviews and reconfirms our Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan to be sure that we keep up to date on all things related to learning in each building. Decisions regarding the plan are made based on information shared from the BHSJ Health Department, student attendance, positive and quarantine cases, and feedback from parents/guardians, students and staff. Each school in our county has established their own plan based on their district's unique needs.

In Mendon, our plan has been to offer a hybrid type of learning throughout the district. In addition, we wanted to offer an entire virtual learning option for those families who were not comfortable sending their students to school for face-to-face instruction. We know that the safety of our students is always first and foremost in our minds as we develop, review and implement any changes to our schedule.

As we move forward, there are many factors we take into consideration when discussing transitioning to a five-day face-to-face week throughout our district. Here are a few of the factors:

- Mitigation of the virus - social distancing to avoid large numbers of people to contact trace for quarantine. Currently, this is the rationale behind the MS/HS hybrid schedule which means fewer students in the building and classrooms each day.
- Lunch - Students eat in the classrooms. At the elementary, this means students are with the same classmates all day which helps to mitigate as well. At the Middle/High School, students are not gathering in groups at the cafeteria tables.
- Bussing - We are able to seat students with members of their own family or household by following our hybrid schedule. If we came back fully, this would not be possible.
- Recess - Students at the elementary are kept in their cohorts out on recess and the playground is divided so there is no intermingling of classrooms. This helps reduce contact tracing.
- Weekly Covid-19 risk assessments from the local health department have indicated that our county has been mainly considered "Highest Risk" (E) based on current data which includes daily cases per million and the percentage of positive cases. Our weekly trend of positive tests for the past two weeks has steadily increased.
- 10 weeks of school left - Do we want to risk a two or three week quarantine of a large number of students by making changes now that would not allow us to mitigate?

On Monday, the board voted that for the safety of our students, we will continue following our current hybrid schedule for the remainder of the school year. Minor changes have been made to assist our struggling students at the Middle/High School as well as our CTE students who need more time to complete their certifications. We truly believe that by staying the course to help mitigate the spread, we can keep everyone safer.



Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Leasa Griffith

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MS/HS Principal

Robert Kretschman

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At the Middle/High School, we will need to adjust our testing schedules and exam schedules for April, May and June. As soon as those are completed, we will get them to you, but our final day of school will not change. That last day is Thursday, June 3rd.

While MDE and the State of Michigan have not yet given us guidance for next year, we are already beginning to discuss our plan. This includes moving back to a full five day schedule for all students in our district. We know this is best practice, and we are hoping with all of the vaccinations taking place, it will be a safer 2021-2022 school year!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (269) 496.8491 or at lgriffith@mendonschools.org. I would be happy to share any concerns you might have with the committees and the school board.

Sincerely,

Leasa S. Griffith
Superintendent/Elementary Principal



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