

19 November 2020

Dear Mendon Schools Families:

We are reaching out to you, our wonderful families, with a plea regarding the virus. We need you to please keep us posted and updated on any positive cases that occur with our students as well as any students who have been exposed to the virus. In order to make the most informed decisions regarding the safety of our students and staff, we need to have the most current, updated information in a timely manner. You can call your child's building Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8am and 2pm. Fridays, the offices will be open from approximately 8am until noon.

In addition, we appreciate all of your efforts to have your child(ren) in attendance at their remote learning classes. It has been incredibly gratifying to see them interact with their teachers and classmates, and we want to be sure all of our students are being educated to the fullest extent during these unprecedented times. If you are having trouble connecting to Google Classroom or with any other part of the remote learning, PLEASE let us know. Our teachers need to (and want to) connect with their students, so they will be reaching out by any method of communication possible to make sure no one falls behind.

On November 10th, we made the difficult decision to move our entire district to remote learning due to contact tracing, quarantines and positive cases. This was scheduled to go through the Thanksgiving break with our return set for Monday, November 30th. As you know, on Sunday, November 15th, MDHHS issued a mandate suspending all 9-12 face-to-face instruction through December 8th. After careful consideration involving discussions surrounding the following: 1) the fact that we have many families with students in both buildings; 2) the spread that we experienced was not just from one building; and 3) the fact that the numbers in our county regarding positive cases puts us in the "Highest Risk" category according to our local Health Department, we have determined that the best course of action is for our entire district to remain on remote learning through December 8th. In other words, GSRP as well as K-12 WILL NOT meet face-to-face through December 8th. Our return to face-to-face learning will begin for everyone on Wednesday, December 9th.

Again, we know that this puts a strain on our families, students and staff, but we truly believe that if we all do our part over these next few weeks to pause and help slow the spread - we may just have a shot at continuing our school year with our desperately needed face-to-face learning.



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With this decision comes the necessity for the elementary to have another delivery of remote learning materials. We will deliver these materials on Tuesday, November 24th and will send a Honeywell out when deliveries begin. These materials will be for learning that takes place Monday November 30th through Tuesday, December 8th.

Please feel free to call your building's office if you have any questions and continue to stay as safe as you possibly can during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

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