

November 6, 2020

Dear Methacton Families,

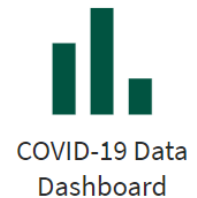
As we prepare for our transition next week to starting the hybrid instructional model for students in K-12, we must all remain cognizant of the fact that this transition will be new for everyone. Students will enter our buildings for the first time in nearly 8 months. Our teachers and support staff will be providing instruction for the first time in a hybrid model. With all this newness, I simply ask that everyone just take



a moment. Take a moment to appreciate how well our students have handled this unique time. Appreciate the sacrifices that our parents have made to be there for their children through the delivery of an all online program. Appreciate all the efforts of our staff as they embark on another new instructional model. Yet remember, that no matter what decisions we make as an organization, a community, or as an individual, we will not limit the need for everyone to remain flexible and ready to adjust to the next change whenever that is thrust upon us.

In terms of change, please know that at every level, the hybrid model may look slightly different. Because of the virus, your child may find that some of their classes at the secondary level are moved into the auditorium or may have a supervising adult present while the teacher is teaching virtually from home. In other instances, teachers may need to collaborate or a substitute will be made available to assist and support instruction. Regardless of the circumstance, it must be clear that the situation may change from day to day.

Given the rising trend in Montgomery County's positivity and incident rates, the Methacton School District has been working closely with the Montgomery County Department of Health to monitor, estimate, and determine the best instructional model given the data. The district established a [Data Dashboard](#), which will go live on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 12 Noon to help communicate the county, school district and building level data. This dashboard also outlines the process the district will use for determining a change in the instructional model to help mitigate the rising cases within the community.



According to physicians from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the rising positivity and incidence rates in Montgomery County are being attributed to activities that are occurring in the home or outside of school. In fact, CHOP doctors are attributing neighborhood gatherings, after sporting event gatherings, and carpooling as some of the major contributing factors for the rise. They insist that this rise is not due to what is happening in school and attest to the fact that schools may be one of the safest places for children due all the precautionary measures enacted.

The most important factor, according to CHOP, continues to be the need for everyone to mask, distance and conduct frequent sanitization of hands. The adherence to these 3 simple efforts will contribute to keeping the positivity and incidence rates at a level that will allow students to remain in school. As such, I ask our parents to please reinforce these 3 simple practices in your home and help us level out the rates.

As you prepare for your child's return to on premises, please make sure you pay specific attention to communications from your child's principal and familiarize yourself with the [Health and Safety Plan](#) particularly with respects to use of masks and busing. It is also important to review and complete the [Student Self-Screening Checklist](#) daily. Please know that the first few weeks of this transition will require all of us to be flexible and ready.

Your child’s transportation information can be found in the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](https://www.methacton.org/powerschool). Visit [www.methacton.org/powerschool](https://www.methacton.org/powerschool) for details on how to access your Parent Portal account. Please contact the transportation call center at 610-489-5078 for questions about your student’s transportation information, or to inquire about or confirm varied daily transportation due to childcare or other needs.

Lastly, please know that we look forward to welcoming your child to school beginning Monday, November 9, 2020. Please recognize that there is **school each day for all grades** during the transition week (Nov 9-13). However, as per the chart below, students in the grades indicated on the far right column who are also part of the group located in the column marked “on premises group” shall attend on premises for that date. Starting the week of November 16, all grades in the corresponding groups will attend on premises.

### NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

DATE	CATEGORY	ON PREMISES GROUP	ON PREMISES GRADES
11/9/2020	Hybrid Student Transition Day All Other Students Online	Group Empower Group Succeed Group Full Time	Grades K, 1, 5, 7, 9, 12
11/10/2020	Hybrid Student Transition Day All Other Students Online	Group Inspire Group Succeed Group Full Time	Grades K, 1, 5, 7, 9, 12
11/11/2020	Hybrid Student Transition Day All Other Students Online	Group Empower Group Succeed Group Full Time	Grades 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11
11/12/2020	Hybrid Student Transition Day All Other Students Online	Group Inspire Group Succeed Group Full Time	Grades 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11
11/13/2020	All Students	Virtual Day for grades K-12 Group Full Time	All Grades
11/16/2020	Hybrid and All Online Students	Group Empower Group Succeed Group Full Time	All Grades
11/17/2020	Hybrid and All Online Students	Group Inspire Group Succeed Group Full Time	All Grades
11/18/2020	Hybrid and All Online Students	Group Empower Group Succeed Group Full Time	All Grades
11/19/2020	Hybrid and All Online Students	Group Inspire Group Succeed Group Full Time	All Grades
11/20/2020	All Students	Virtual Day for grades K-12 Group Full Time	All Grades
11/23/2020	Hybrid and All Online Students	Group Empower Group Succeed Group Full Time	All Grades
11/24/2020	Hybrid and All Online Students <b>No School Grades K-8 (Teacher Conferences)</b>	Group Inspire Group Succeed Group Full Time	Grades 9-12
11/25/2020	<b>No School Grades K-8 (Teacher Conferences)</b> <b>No School Grades 9-12 (In-Service)</b>		All Grades
11/26/2020	<b>No School - Holiday</b>		All Grades
11/27/2020	<b>No School - Holiday</b>		All Grades
11/30/2020	Hybrid and All Online Students	Group Empower Group Succeed Group Full Time	All Grades

Sincerely,

Dr. David Zerbe

Superintendent of Schools