

Middleton School District #134

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July 30, 2020

Dear MSD Parent/Guardian,

It is difficult to believe that it is the last week of July and school is scheduled to begin in just a few short weeks. We hope that you and your family have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to student learning in some capacity this fall. Although the start of school is sure to look different this year, the MSD staff is excited to welcome students back in any form we are able. Although this letter is very long, please take the time to read it in its entirety and review the links, as they provide information of what to expect in the coming weeks. While we recognize we likely don't have an answer for every question, we are hopeful that this correspondence will answer many of the outstanding questions you have.

School is scheduled to begin on August 18th. At this time, MSD is **projecting** to start school in category 2 (yellow) of our reopening plan which was previously sent out and can be viewed at this link: bit.ly/30ac9ZA. We are hopeful that this projection is not too ambitious and that our prediction is correct. However, please recognize that due to constantly changing conditions and guidance, our projection and resulting reality may change, and those changes may happen with only a few days notice before school begins. **Similarly, teacher assignments, student assignments, and scheduling may change right up until school starts.** We plan to release assignments for family cohort days of attendance next week for any families that decided not to enroll in our online option. At that time, you will know if your children are assigned to attend school in classrooms Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday each week. Please be aware that while we tried to accommodate most requests, our first priority was to make sure we had balanced numbers to allow for appropriate distancing.

The last several weeks have included a tremendous amount of planning in an effort to be as prepared as possible for the variety of scenarios we may encounter next year. Please find detailed plans and expectations for the hybrid, remote, and online learning categories listed in our reopening plan by clicking on this link: <https://bit.ly/3jNDQPE>. It is the district's intent to streamline student learning in a way that engages students when they are not present in classrooms and makes the most sense for all parties involved - staff, students, and parents. As a result, we have elected to use a portion of one time money (stimulus funds) to purchase webcams for instructional spaces, and devices to finish our 1:1 technology initiative for all students K-12. The webcams will allow students to stream teacher instruction from home in the event that we are in category 2 (yellow) and students are only permitted to attend school two days per week, or category 3 (red) and entirely remote. As you can imagine, this has been a significant undertaking, and many other districts have also elected to ramp up their technology which has resulted in inadequate inventory and delayed shipments that may require us to be

more creative than we had planned in our opening weeks. Because of this, our plans may change slightly, and we would appreciate you answering this survey to help us understand the availability of technology in your home for students K-3 that may be used and/or shared by your students until the rest of our devices arrive (as late as mid-September.) **The survey may be found here:** <https://bit.ly/31hKVjd>

Please be aware that although MSD plans to stream some live instruction and make other instruction available through video archives, the content created, streamed, posted, or otherwise shared by staff is the sole property of Middleton School District. No materials should be copied, reproduced, or shared in any fashion, including social media, by students or parents without the prior written consent from Middleton School District administration.

MSD administration recognizes that webcams in classrooms may create some anxiety among our staff, parents, and students. Classroom webcams will be mounted in conjunction with the projector system in each classroom and will be focused on the front of the classroom (teacher and whiteboard). It is not our intent to have students in the classroom included in the video feed.

Understandably, many are anxious about the start of the school year. We appreciate everyone who took the time to answer the survey we sent out about the return to school this fall. We are now diligently working through the information provided to make staffing decisions for face to face school as well as our online school. The district continues to receive questions regarding mask mandates and our planned response in regards to a positive COVID-19 test. Currently, MSD does not have a mask mandate, this will change if a mask ordinance is put in place by the city or the county. Until then masks are encouraged, but optional for both students and staff. In the event we have a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19, please be aware that our response will differ based on varying circumstances. As we did this spring, and again this summer, MSD will work closely with Southwest District Health (SWDH) each time we have a positive case in the district. Once notified, SWDH provides the district with guidance on our response for each case. This is simply not a “one solution fits all” scenario.

In preparation for students and staff to come back to school in some capacity this fall, MSD has created the following protocols for cleaning and sanitizing. In addition to our regular daily/nightly cleaning, MSD has elected to purchase a new product, PreventX 24/7, that will be applied to all surfaces every 30 days. Per the manufacturing guidelines, new applications only need to be made every 90 days, but out of an abundance of caution, and because schools are high traffic areas, we are choosing to apply the product more frequently. Although it is not suggested by the manufacturer, MSD staff will apply PreventX 24/7 on Fridays so several days pass before occupants are in treated areas. This product kills germs and viruses on contact, and daily cleaning will not impact the effectiveness of this product. PreventX 24/7 will also be applied to playground equipment every 30 days, it will withstand both playground use and adverse weather conditions.

Below, please find some additional dates and items we would like you to be aware of:

Due to recent budget constraints MSD, in conjunction with Caldwell Transportation, has made some changes to bus routes. The bus routes have not been reviewed for several years, and we have many areas that are walk zones and no longer available for transportation. Additionally, some stops have been combined. These changes are effective when school starts and can be viewed by clicking on the following link: bit.ly/311Zw1T. Any questions regarding bus routes should be directed to Caldwell Transportation at (208) 459-0195.

Also due to budget constraints, secondary sports (7-12) at MSD will require a fee for participation. The Board of Trustees adopted a pay to participate plan at the regular July board meeting. Participation in high school athletics will be a flat charge of \$200 per student per sport, middle school athletics will be a flat charge of \$100 per student per sport. Athletes who play 3 sports in one year will not be charged for the third sport. Payment plans will be available for parents wishing to take advantage of that option. Also, please be aware that the district will no longer be providing transportation to sporting events. Arrangements for athletic transportation will be left up to individual schools and athletic programs to determine.

Registration: Registration for ***new students*** is scheduled to take place, in person, on Tuesday, August 4th from 8:00 AM-8:00 PM. Registration for returning students will take place online and will open on Monday, August 3rd. **As we are trying to finalize registration numbers for both online and face to face instruction, we ask that you make this decision for your students no later than Tuesday, August 4th so that we may begin to finalize staffing plans.**

Open House: As a result of COVID-19, no open houses will be held this fall with the **exception of kindergarten**. Although we believe this is an important event for all students, we feel it is most important to keep this intact for our kindergarteners to help alleviate some anxiety for both students and parents. Please watch for additional correspondence from your child's school regarding plans for kindergarten open house.

6th Grade and 9th Grade Orientation: 6th grade and 9th grade orientation will continue to take place this year, however, the format in which it is done will likely look different to comply with the goals and limitations in category 2 (reduced numbers). Orientation is scheduled for August 17th. Please watch for additional correspondence from your child's school regarding plans for orientation.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!- August 18th!!!

We look forward to having students back to school, and hope that you will afford our teachers and administrators grace while we do our best to adjust to a new standard of schooling with students. Although you may feel inconvenienced by some measures put into practice, please understand that these minor inconveniences were designed to keep staff and students

safe and to continue, for as long as possible, some form of face to face instruction with our students.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support and patience as we plan for the great unknown, and for choosing to remain with MSD for the adventure ahead!

Sincerely,
Middleton School District