

November 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Four Topics

1. Change requests for second semester are due December 4th
2. Information regarding weather related school closures
3. Update regarding COVID-19 positive cases within the school district
4. Good News – One-to-One devices for our students

Change Requests for Second Semester are due December 4th

On or before December 4th, parents will need to notify their child's school administrator if they wish to move their child from the Hybrid model to the Online-Only model or Online-Only model to the Hybrid model for second semester, which starts Feb. 2nd. This early notification will allow us to plan appropriately for teacher placement and class size equalization.

We currently are working within our COVID-19 Pandemic Committees to provide additional information that will hopefully help in your decision making. We expect to have this information to you prior to the Thanksgiving Break. Much of the information developed will address how our schools will look if we move to a Four-Day Face-to-Face model. Currently, we expect to continue the Online-Only model through the remainder of the school year.

Information Regarding Weather Related School Closures

Please review the attached procedures for weather related school closures. Make sure to read the special notice regarding a change beginning this year. It's helpful to keep this document handy for those wintery mornings. [Updated Weather Related Closure Notice](#)

Update regarding COVID-19 Positive cases within the school district

I want to update you of how we, as a district, are doing during the COVID pandemic since my last email sent on October 19th. As we see the numbers of positive cases increasing in our community, we too are seeing a rise in cases. This is why we as staff, students, and parents need to increase our diligence in following the safety protocols that have been put in place.

Since we started school, we have had 12 cases where a confirmed positive case has been within our schools (An additional case was prior to school starting but occurred within an extracurricular activity only). Of those 12, 6 have been recent. We are pleased that in all but one of these cases up to this point, we have not had anyone who had been identified as being at risk due to close contact with a confirmed positive case individual at school, being later identified as a confirmed positive case themselves. I continue to believe this success is due to two actions that have been taken.

1. The students and staff wearing masks has been a game changer in defending against the spread of the virus in the school district.
2. The continued tremendous job parents are doing in monitoring their children for symptoms and keeping them home when they show symptoms or have possibly been exposed to others who have tested positive. Of course, the latter has caused our attendance to be lower than usual, but this was expected and why we wanted students to be able to continue their education at home during these absences so less work will be missed (current isolation count 72).

Case No.	School	Positive Case No.	Close Contact No. (Non-Family)	Close Contact No. that Tested Positive	Initial Investigation Complete	CDC Contact Tracing Completed
1	MHS (ExtCurr)	1	4	0	Yes	Yes
2	MHS	1	2	0	Yes	Yes
3	LWE	1	10*	0	Yes	Yes
4	MHS	1	1	0	Yes	Yes
5	MHS	1	0	0	Yes	Yes
6	MHS	1	0	0	Yes	Yes
7	McD	1	3	0	Yes	Yes
8	WPE	1	3	0	Yes	Yes
9	McD	1	1	0**	Yes	yes
10	McD	1	0	0	Yes	yes
11	MMS	1	0	0	Yes	yes
12	McD	1	0	0	Yes	No
13	MHS (ExtCurr)	1	13	0**	Yes	No
14	Dist Office	1	?	0	No	No

72 Absences (35 Ave. Staff Absent)

6 Current COVID Pos.

*** Class Section Isolation**

**** Still Within 14 Day Period**

I again must state, our efforts in taking precautionary measures to reduce the chances of spreading the virus within the schools has been very important in allowing us to keep our schools open and moving

forward toward a more “normal” school environment. However, I ask that you have patience regarding bringing the hybrid groups A and B together. According to the Regional Director of the CDC we have been the model of success in keeping numbers of test positive cases to a minimum.

With current increases in our community and region we need to maintain what we are currently doing. Bringing more students into the building now could possibly be counterproductive and possibly cause us to go into full soft closure which is even less desirable. We will continue to monitor the impact of COVID in our area, consider the health and safety of our students and staff, and the educational impact of our students. Once it appears to be appropriate to move forward toward more face-to-face instruction, we will ask for your input before moving forward with any changes.

I know this has been hard on all the students, parents, and staff members. It seems that by the hour, day, or week things change so much the ability to plan is very difficult. Please understand the one thing that will not change is that my number one priority will always be the safety of all who enter our schools. I want to take a moment to thank the following:

- Our students for trying so hard to adapt to the current changes,
- Our parents for their diligence in making sure their child gets the support they need at home, and assuring they are healthy prior to sending them to school, and
- Our staff members who are trying to provide the best education possible in a period that makes it extremely difficult.

It will take all of us working together to make this year as successful as possible.

Good News – One-to-One devices for our students

I would like to end with some good news. With a couple of recent COVID grants and some ongoing technology funds we can purchase devices for all our students to use. These devices will allow all our students to continue their use of technology within their academics beyond the school building. This was an area of need identified during our last accreditation review and we are happy to reach this goal. Unfortunately, the devices may take some time to arrive due to the recent high demands for technology caused by the COVID virus, as well as delays in shipping.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Bailey, PhD

Superintendent

Moscow School District #281