



Dear Monticello families,

The intention of today's communication is to inform you that the Monticello School District will begin the 2020-21 school year in two different learning models. We will be In-Person at the elementary level (Grades Pre-K-5) and we will begin with a Hybrid Learning Model at the secondary level (Grades 6-12). In an attempt to begin the year with continuity, we will plan to remain in these models through Friday, October 2.

Here's what this means for both the elementary and secondary levels:

Elementary In-Person (Grades Pre-K-5)

- Students will still attend school every day. Social distancing will be emphasized and face coverings will be strictly enforced (face coverings are optional for Monti Magic Preschool students); when a student cannot wear a mask they will wear a clear face shield, with minimal exceptions per medical documentation. Please call your building's health office if your child has a medical exemption and a form will be given for you to complete with your physician.
- The in-person format will allow students to see specialists and will increase educational opportunities, including intervention and enrichment.
- Working closely with Monticello School Board, administration recently received approval to utilize CARES funding to hire seven new educators at the elementary level to lower class sizes and better maintain social distancing.
- Please know that families may choose to opt-in to Distance Learning at any point during the school year. Please contact your building's office to do so. Families wishing to return from Distance Learning to In-Person Learning (or whichever state-guided format the district is in) may need to wait until the quarter break to do so.

Secondary Hybrid (Grades 6-12)

- Social distancing will be strictly enforced. Face coverings will be strictly enforced; when a student cannot wear a mask they will wear a clear face shield, with minimal exceptions per medical documentation. Please call your building's health office if your child has a medical exemption.
- To meet occupancy and social distancing requirements, students will spend two days each week in the school building and three days engaged in remote learning.
- Students will be assigned to either Group A or Group B.
- Group A students will attend school in person on Mondays and Wednesdays, with teacher-facilitated remote learning on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Group B students will attend school in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with teacher-facilitated remote learning on Mondays and Wednesdays.

- Every Friday, all students will participate in a distance learning day. On this day, the workload may be slightly lighter, but differentiation and personal attention will be key ingredients for success.
- Student attendance is expected and will be taken every day regardless of the learning model.
- On remote learning days, students can expect some or all of the following: live online instruction, independent work, online check-ins, and pre-recorded instruction and tutorials.
- Teachers may use Fridays for individual student checks ins, lesson planning, collaboration, communication home, and creation of instructional content.
- Distance learning on Fridays will allow for a thorough cleaning of buildings and student materials.
- Please know that families may choose to opt-in to full-time Distance Learning at any point during the school year. Please contact your building's office to do so. Families wishing to return from Distance Learning to the Hybrid Model (or whichever state-guided model the district is in at that time) may need to wait until the semester break to return.

The decision to start the school year with these learning models was made in conjunction with the Wright County Coronavirus Task Force and guided by Wright County case rates. Per the [State of Minnesota's Learning Parameters](#), Wright County's current case rate of 11.53 puts Monticello School District just into the hybrid model for secondary students and comfortably within the in-person range for the elementary students. We are fortunate that we have the space and are able to secure the staffing to bring our elementary students to school every day while emphasizing social distancing and proper safety protocols.

Staff, students, and families have made it clear that continuity is a priority to all stakeholders this school year. With that in mind, we are intending to keep this schedule in place through Friday, October 2 to allow staff and families to safely transition back into the buildings and into a routine. While we will continue to receive case rate updates weekly, we will plan to stay in these models through the month of September unless our county numbers spike upward and we need to make adjustments for the health and safety of our staff and students.

We will be following strict procedures and protocols to ensure the safety and well-being of our entire school community, many of which were listed in the [Monticello Safe Schools Plan](#). In addition to these protocols, the district is also purchasing cold plasma ion generator systems for our buildings to be installed this fall. These generators work with our current HVAC systems to destroy viruses, allergens, and spores in the air. It is a system that has been proven effective in hospital systems and it will provide the safest classroom environment possible for our staff and students.

As we continue to try to meet all health and safety needs while providing equitable education for all students in the Monticello School District, we will also be incorporating outdoor learning into every classroom at the elementary level. The extent of outdoor education will look different

across grade levels and classrooms as educators learn this new mindset and ease into a new learning environment. We are building outdoor capacity in a myriad of ways, including teacher training and outdoor Wi-Fi hotspots. When appropriate, we will be giving all children as many opportunities as possible to learn in the great outdoors.

Please continue to look for additional communication from the district and building level. Buildings and programs will be sending out communication next week, providing families with the latest available information, including details about special education services and Welcome Back Week. ISD 882 administration will also be holding a second Question and Answer Live Stream at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26th. The stream will start with a five minute presentation from a Wright County Health Professional with information regarding how districts make decisions using COVID-19 data. Administration will then answer questions about the school year at large, including specifics regarding each of the chosen learning models. Families can access the live stream [here](#).

We plan to stay in the learning modes described in this letter through Friday, October 2. We will communicate our next steps for the 2020-21 school year no later than September 25. Please understand that change may be necessary throughout this year but that we will do everything possible to maximize the educational opportunities for all students while prioritizing safety and limiting transitions between models as much as possible.

Thank you for your partnership and your patience. We cannot wait to begin the school year with the warm energy of our brilliant students back in our buildings, in the outdoor classrooms, and through connections built during engaged distance learning.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Eric Olson