

Dear Monticello School Community,

There is a lot of important information to get to this week, but I want to start with the most important.

Beginning next week, we will be switching to a Hybrid Instructional Model at the elementary level. It's important to note that contrary to information we had received a couple of weeks ago, we will be able to continue to educate all elementary students in person Monday through Friday (with increased distancing and smaller pods).

To make this transition, we need to add staff planning days as granted by the Minnesota Department of Education. During the course of November, each building's schedule will look a little bit different as we do our best to give all staff and students exactly what they need to be successful. The November schedule for each level can be found below. Please note that distance learners and nature based students will follow the same schedule as their in-person classmates. So, if first grade at Pinewood doesn't have school, first grade distance learners and nature based learners will also not have school.

[Eastview Education Center November Schedule](#)

[Pinewood and Little Mountain November Schedule](#)

[Middle School and High School November Schedule](#)

Emergency Childcare Services

Childcare services will be available on November 10 (PWE & LME Students only), November 23, November 24 & November 30.

If you need childcare services on these days, you will need to register for the Emergency Childcare program. [Here is the link to register](#) for the emergency childcare days.

There are two registration types set up for families; Tier 1 worker and Non-Tier 1 worker. Here is the [Tier 1 Eligibility](#) information provided by the State of MN.

If you qualify under Tier 1 worker eligibility, care is provided at no cost during the school day hours (8:45 AM - 3 PM). If you need childcare prior to 8:45 AM and/or after 3 PM, there will be fees associated with this. Before School Fee: \$9.65 & After School Fee: \$8.65/day

If you do not qualify under Tier 1 worker eligibility, care will be provided (as space is available) for a \$36 fee.

Location for childcare will be announced next week.

How We Got Here

As many of you have likely seen, Wright County numbers have continued to rise. The latest 14-day case rate is 42.19. However, as we continue to stress, we've [learned in recent weeks](#) that

number is not nearly as important as the numbers in our [school buildings](#). While we saw a jump in cases this week, we still have not seen any community spread within our buildings.

As we talked with local and state health experts this week, including in a personalized consult for Monticello School District, the consensus was that we did not need to change instructional models. The Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health agree that schools can continue in their models when there is no community spread present within district buildings.

However, we are fortunate that our elementary hybrid model allows us to continue educating students in person every day. While this switch will stretch our buildings and staff, it allows us to guarantee six feet of distance and smaller pods. This is a significant switch in that it helps to prevent community spread and it lowers the chances that we would have to shut down a classroom or multiple classrooms in the case of a positive COVID result in the classroom.

As we continue to stress, the longer we can keep COVID from spreading within our buildings, the longer we will be able to educate students in person.

Saliva Testing Kits

I wanted to share a great opportunity with our families. Wright County is one of 23 counties piloting a saliva testing program right now. Families can visit [this website](#) to learn more and request a saliva testing kit.

We've heard from some families that they are hesitant to get tested because they don't want numbers to rise and force the district to have to close schools. It is extremely important that anyone and everyone that displays symptoms or has a close contact with a COVID-positive person gets a test. The only way for the county and state to keep this virus under control is to limit community spread. The bottom line is that testing mitigates spread and allows us to stay in school longer.

We Got This

As we move forward with this schedule, it's incredibly important to understand that these are best laid plans and they are subject to change at any moment. We all must continue to do everything we can to keep COVID out of our school buildings. That's why we are changing to the hybrid model. It's why we need families to continue to do a great job of keeping students home when sick. And it's why we need all community members to continue to make smart decisions that help to mitigate the overall spread of this virus within the community.

Thank you for your partnership and understanding,

Superintendent Eric Olson