

August 11, 2020

Dear MCS Families,

Tonight the MCS BOE approved our “[Flexible Approach to Teaching and Learning](#)”. This plan was developed in an effort to balance the learning needs of our youngest learners while also acknowledging we must be creative in achieving social distancing in classrooms and on school buses given the current rates of COVID-19 community transmission. Our approach will give our students and their families the flexibility to choose whether they want in-person or virtual learning. Though extensive details are provided in the attached document, I wanted to briefly highlight several important points:

- Phase I is projected to start Tuesday, September 8 for all students in grades PreK-2 and students in low-incidence special education classes in grades 3-5.
- Students (grades PreK-2 and low-incidence classes in grades 3-5) who prefer in-person learning may attend two days of in-person learning per week during Phase I – Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. In order to maintain appropriate social distancing, in-person class size will be between five and nine students.
- Students (grades PreK-2 and low-incidence classes in grades 3-5) who prefer to continue in virtual learning (with no in-person learning) will follow their current virtual learning schedule.
- During Phase I, all other MCS students (general education grades 3-5 and all students grades 6-12) will continue in virtual learning.

The timeline between each phase is flexible, likely between two and four weeks, thereby allowing MCS leadership and public health officials to collaborate and make the necessary adjustments. As we [transition through each phase](#), we will be guided by specific factors that consider both community COVID-19 transmission and school-based staffing and mitigation strategies. We remain sensitive to the fact that for many of our families both our current all-virtual format and our planned transition phases may present scheduling challenges. If your family would like information about some of the childcare organizations that we are partnering with, please visit our [Virtual Learning Childcare Support](#) page.

All MCS families of PreK-2 students and low-incidence students in grades 3-5 (Phase I) will be contacted by their child’s teacher between August 12-19 to confirm their preference for in-person or virtual learning. Additionally, MCS will host three town halls for families of students considering in-person learning for Phase I – these sessions will include a brief overview followed by a question/answer session. To submit a question for a town hall, please use [this form](#). Questions may be submitted until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. Each town hall can include up to 3,000 attendees and will be recorded and available on our website within two hours after it concludes.

Town Hall Options for Families of PreK-2 Students:

- Monday, August 17 (4:00-5:00 p.m.)

- Tuesday, August 18 (8:00-9:00 p.m.)
- Use the following Zoom link to access both town halls for PreK-2 families: <https://zoom.us/j/95261597603?pwd=TTdLMFBLRjRyRVExenNOaFJ0VHhjQT09>
 - Meeting ID: 952 6159 7603
 - Passcode: 345168
 - One tap mobile: +19292056099,,95261597603# US (New York)

Town Hall Options for Families of K-5 Students With Disabilities Served in Low-incidence Programs:

- Friday, August 14 (4:00-5:00 p.m.)
- Use the following Zoom link to access: <https://zoom.us/j/94324820376?pwd=cGhkbVFMSHhON1VTS2VQRXFLVlg5QT09>
 - Meeting ID: 943 2482 0376
 - Passcode: 757029
 - One tap mobile: +13017158592, +19292056099
- Wednesday, August 19 (4:00-5:00 p.m.)
- Use the following Zoom link to access: <https://zoom.us/j/94218404252?pwd=N0VVTXIYUndlSWdvVG84Z2dPbnhXdz09>
 - Meeting ID: 942 1840 4252
 - Passcode: 768175
 - One tap mobile: +13126266799, +19292056099

As we transition to future phases, we will provide family guides that detail each phase of implementation and offer additional town halls.

Thank you for your continued grace and flexibility as we seek new and innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and most importantly – keeping our MCS family safe.

In this together,
Grant