Week of January 4, 2021

Welcome back Thunder Families!!

I hope that everyone was able to enjoy some time off and that you were able to have quality time with your loved ones.

We are preparing for in-person learning to resume in a hybrid model starting on Monday, January 19th. In-person instruction will be provided for those families who chose that option before Winter Break. We are planning to transition different groups of students back to school over the next 2 weeks. Starting Monday, January 11, all of our Center Program students are returning, per the district’s guidelines. The other grades will be back for orientation and in-person instruction on the following days on January 19th.

We will be sending specifics regarding your student within the next week. We will do our best to have siblings together in the same cohort and on the same days. Students who have opted for in-person learning will come on Tuesday-Wednesday, or Thursday-Friday. Mondays will be remote except for the Center Program.

The bell times will change slightly to account for in-person lunch, and 2:30-4 PM is for clubs and asynchronous time for students. Please remember that there will not be any DPS busses provided for general education students in the secondary schools. Students must leave campus by 2:15 PM as there will not be any supervision. Teachers and Administration have commitments until 4 PM each day.

In preparation for hybrid learning, we will have an asynchronous learning day on January 15th, so our staff can prepare for students at school. Students will still be expected to complete a full day of work that can be found on Schoology.

DPS’ cohorting guidance for schools has changed to allow for a much better in-person experience for secondary students; however, the more liberal cohorting rules also increase the likelihood that a cohort may need to quarantine at some point during the second semester. The new district cohorting rules implemented at MM are as follows:

- Classes will operate with 17 or fewer students in-person and live stream remote/virtual students (operate at 50% capacity) and students can attend in-person classes twice a week. This is the hybrid model when students are on rotating days in-person and remotely.
- Students will either attend Tuesday and Wednesday or Thursday and Friday in person. Mondays will be a synchronous/remote day for all students, except those in the Center Program. Students in the Center Programs are allowed to attend 5 days a week, per the District guidance.
- Whether in person or remotely, students will be receiving the same instruction, synchronously.
Teachers can have a maximum exposure of 136 in-person students (up to eight groups of in-person students containing up to 17 in-person students in each group). Our teachers will have much smaller numbers in the returning cohorts.

Individual classes must not exceed 35 students, including those in-person and live streaming. Our class sizes are much lower at MM.

Hallways must support one-way direction flow when possible, or two way direction flow with adequate distance among groups to avoid student crossover and congregating.

Students will only transition to their elective classes throughout the school. As we stated earlier, teachers will move from room to room in an effort to lessen student contact with others outside of their cohort.

All classes must maintain accurate seating charts and require daily adherence to the seating chart to support contact identification in the case of a COVID exposure.

Students in grades 6-12 should be socially distanced a minimum of three feet; greater distance is encouraged if possible. Masks are to be worn at all times while in the building.

MM’s cohorts and the overall schedule will not change beyond 5 additional minutes being added to each class and a shorter lunch period. New schedules will be sent out to students, prior to them returning in person.

These plans will remain in place until the end of the 2nd trimester, March 5, 2021. At that time, we will reassess health conditions and what logical next steps for in-person instruction.

We have kept the safety and health of your student(s) in the forefront of our thinking as we have made these thoughtful plans. We know that there will be changes depending on the Covid numbers in the city and in the District, but we think our plans provide consistency and stability in these uncertain times.

Thanks as always for your belief in us and your support of our school.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Morris-Sherer
Principal