



MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
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Dear School Community,

I want to begin by thanking everyone for your dedication to the education of our students. I understand that remote learning is not ideal but I do want to thank the teachers and staff members for their work in providing effective learning experiences for all children and to thank the parents for their assistance in this task. It is through this partnership that we are making the best of this situation.

Since I last communicated with you, school administration and staff have been working to revise our plans for in-person hybrid opening of school on November 16. In response to the New Jersey Department of Health's guidance document "The Road Back – Restart and Recovery Plan for Education" (released on June 26, 2020), the district developed a Restart and Reopening Plan, which can be found on our district website, that includes plans for health and safety, continuity of learning, technology deployment, and budgeting/funding and policy revisions. The plan required districts to provide for a return to in-person education in some capacity for the fall 2020. Several challenges were identified as we worked to accommodate our plan for reopening, including staffing challenges and reductions in cleaning supply availability and HVAC filters. On August 12, Governor Murphy announced that school districts were now able to begin the school year "all remote" if they can document that they are not ready to open per the NJDOE health and safety criteria. Immediately, the District Restart Committee met to review the reopening checklist. On August 20, a request was sent to the County Superintendent to open the school year fully remote through the first marking period, November 13. This required our schools to revise class schedules and class placements, which were then shared with all parents prior to the opening of schools. The district has been conducting all classes fully virtual through November 13.

As you read through the Monroe Township School District Restart and Reopening Plan, it is important to understand that the document serves to provide a high-level overview of our district's reopening strategies. The Restart and Reopening Plan is a living document that will be modified as health circumstances, guidance, and conditions shift within our communities, the state and nation.

We are optimistic that we can return to in-person classes on November 16. Throughout our planning, every effort has been made to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of our students and staff.

Some important information of our plan includes:

- Return to in-person learning for all students on November 16. Students will be assigned a Gold or Purple cohort by last name. Gold Cohort will attend in-person on Mondays, Tuesdays, and alternating Wednesdays. Purple Cohort will attend in-person on Thursdays, Fridays, and alternating Wednesdays.
- Parents will still have the option of fully remote instruction for their children.
- Schools will be open for in-person instruction following each school's 4-hour session schedule, with remote learning in the afternoons. No lunch will be served in schools.
- If choosing the hybrid model, parents may still opt out of school transportation for the hybrid period.

- All in-person students and staff must have a health screening questionnaire completed prior to coming to school. Temperature checks will occur before students and staff enter schools.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings.
- Classes will be instructed through synchronous teaching for all students who are in-person, at home on hybrid, and fully remote. This will allow us to keep most student placements the same as we move to the hybrid model. It will also allow for easier transition between fully remote teaching and hybrid teaching in the event that we have to close schools for health reasons or if students or staff members must quarantine. There may be a need for some class changes, although minimal, for optimal class size and teaching environments. These changes will be communicated from the schools.
- To disinfect all desks between classes, we will ask that students in grades 6-12 wipe down their desks with a disinfectant, disposable wipe before leaving their classrooms. The district will provide a training video and information on cleaning products prior to the start of in-person classes.

Attached to this letter is a PPT containing updates on health and safety items, district calendar of Gold and Purple days, schedules for each grade band level, and information about reopening. We will be sending all parents a questionnaire through your Genesis Parent Access account to update your decision about sending your child to school for the hybrid model or keeping them on the fully virtual model. **Please make every effort to complete this questionnaire by October 13.** Every aspect of the plan is flexible and dependent on health conditions. The district will continue to monitor all updates and make adjustments as needed.

We will continue to communicate any revisions to this plan as needed. Please watch for the Restart Questionnaire on Genesis Parent Access and complete by October 13. We will verify student placements by November 4 and bus assignments, if applicable, by November 9. If you have any questions, please refer to our district website or reach out to the school principal or central office administration.

Thank you and stay well,

Dr. Alvich