



# Mountainside School District

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Janet Walling - Superintendent of Schools

May 12, 2021

Dear Mountainside Parents and Guardians:

I am very pleased to share that we are prepared to make our shift to a fully synchronous model of instruction for our remaining remote students **beginning on Thursday, May 20th.**

As outlined in my correspondence on April 29th, this model will allow remote students to “attend” school with their in-person peers for greater portions of their morning via Zoom/Meets. This adjustment will require remote students to closely follow the in-person schedule and timing. In addition to providing a more authentic educational setting for our remote students, this shift will help them develop a more structured routine in preparation for a return to in-person instruction in the fall. Remote students will be required to follow school policies and expectations for behavior, attendance, and dress code while participating in synchronous learning

This instructional shift will also allow for increased academic opportunities for ALL students during the afternoon portion of the day. The afternoon time will consist of **scheduled remote sessions** where teachers will meet with groups of students to extend their instructional day and meet the varied needs of all students through targeted learning opportunities. This additional time will consist of standards-based instruction geared towards supporting student growth and preparation for next year. The structure, timing, and number of weekly sessions for each student may vary based upon grade and developmental level as well as academic needs.

- The structured afternoons will begin on Monday, May 17th for homerooms where all students are currently in person.
- This transition will begin on Thursday, May 20th for homerooms where some students are still attending in a remote only fashion.

**Detailed schedules, Zoom links, and other details will be sent to parents/guardians from each grade level and teacher in the next few days so that you can plan your child’s schedule accordingly.**

Please reach out to your child’s principal or teacher if you have specific questions regarding these changes.

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On a separate note, the District has been notified of 1 individual at Deerfield School and 1 individual at Beechwood School who have tested positive for COVID-19. These individuals were not present in school during their infectious period. As a result, no staff or students were identified as close contacts.

Mountainside School District is aware of the following number of active cases of COVID-19 as of today:

- Beechwood School – 1 // Deerfield School – 2

Please continue to assist us in maintaining the safety and health of all students and staff by following the CDC and NJDOH safeguards, such as:

- Keep your child home if he/she, or any family member, is sick or displays COVID-like symptoms.
- If ANY person in your household has taken a COVID-19 test and is awaiting the result, your child should not come to school until the test result comes back and is negative.
- As long as our region remains in the Yellow activity level, exposed close contacts will be excluded from school for 10 days. (or 7 days with negative PCR test results collected at 5-7 days)

As always, thank you for your dedication to protecting the health and safety of the students and staff of Mountainside!

*Janet Walling*