



Mayfield City Schools

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

April 30, 2021

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

I hope this communication finds you well and healthy as we approach the end of the school year and look forward to a return to some normalcy this summer.

Please read the entirety of this letter, as it contains important information including the Phase-In Plan to start the 2021- 22 School Year.

First, I would like to address the question regarding the extension of this (2020-21) school year. As you know, there will be many school districts around the country who will be extending the school year because of achievement gaps. The gaps in achievement mostly impact those school districts who have not offered an in-person learning option until just recently. **That is not the case at Mayfield. We will not be extending the 2020-21 school year. We will, however, be offering academic support this summer to students we have identified as having lost some learning due to the pandemic. Details will be shared with those families.**

Vaccinations and Health and Safety Protocols

Approximately 80 percent of our staff has received the vaccine. Our infection and quarantine rates have significantly lessened. Working with the County Board of Health in partnership with Giant Eagle we offered vaccines to all students 16 years of age or older. This is good news and should help to make those who have been learning remotely, more comfortable coming back to in-person learning.

We are anticipating that the health and safety protocols will continue to be practiced during the 2021-22 school year. This, of course, depends on orders from the Governor and the Board of Health. These guidelines are changing, but you can anticipate that we will require wearing masks and social distancing when in hallways, classrooms, common spaces and cafeterias. We will also follow the required safety and health protocols for sports, clubs and activities. Our cleaning, handwashing and disinfecting practices will continue.

2021-22 School Year In-Person and Remote Learning Options

We recently surveyed our families who have opted for remote learning during the second semester of this school year. Our rate of return on the surveys is about 50%. We are planning for approximately 15% of our students to remain remote for the 2021-22 school year.

If a declared public health emergency continues due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue to offer a remote learning option. If there is no declared public emergency due to the pandemic, then there will be no remote option.

The remote option will **NOT** include instruction that requires teachers to teach in-person learners and remote learners at the same time. We are working to adjust the teaching model and more details will follow from your principals. **You can expect the following if you choose the remote learning option for the 2021-22 school year.**

- The flexibility to go back and forth from remote to in-person learning more than once will not be feasible. You will be required to make a solid commitment for at least one semester. If the public emergency and restrictions are lifted during the school year we will expect students to return to in-person learning.
- Teachers that will be working with remote learning students will not be teaching in-person learners at the same time. This means that we will assign qualified teachers to particular groups of remote learners throughout the district. **It is likely that remote learners at a particular elementary school may have a teacher from another elementary school.**
- As it was this year, Middle School elective courses will not be offered to remote learners.
- High school elective courses will be severely limited for remote learners.

Elementary, Middle School and High School Instructional Bell Schedules

This year we made changes to lunch schedules, recess schedules, start times and end times in order to meet the health and safety requirements and ensure quality instructional practices. We also reorganized time within the school day to better meet the needs of learners and provide staff the time to better prepare. We learned that the way we reorganized time around learning and professional growth had unforeseen benefits. We are going to continue to implement some of these changes. We are still working through the details. You will receive more information regarding these changes from your principal.

In general, you can expect the following.

Elementary Schools

- The one-on-one family/teacher meetings at the beginning of the school year will continue.
 - Families and teachers found these meetings to be a great way to start the year. Many enjoyed the personal touch.
- All elementary schools will now follow a similar daily instructional schedule with minor variations.
 - The continuity and consistency of instructional scheduling across all elementary schools will enhance progress monitoring of student achievement and the development of professional capacity.
- Buses will drop students off at school at 8:20 a.m. Students will be dismissed from school at 2:20 p.m. (as they did before the pandemic).

- The latter start time for students allows teachers and staff valuable planning and collaboration time each day.
- Collaborative planning time at the beginning of each day allows instructional time throughout the rest of the day to be better utilized for learning.
- Collaborative planning time at the beginning of the day will lessen instructional interruptions and reduce the need for substitute teachers due to professional training.
- Instructional time will continue to be organized in chunks of time during the hours of the day that are most beneficial for learning.
 - This approach enhances our ability to adjust to individual learning needs and employ our All-Access Learning approaches that include the personalization of instruction, hands-on learning, project-based learning, whole-group and small-group instruction.
 - Specials (Art, Music and PE) will continue as currently scheduled.
- Before- and after-school care will be offered to all families for a fee.
- Our goal is to return to large group settings for lunch as soon as possible. However, we anticipate that the kids will start the school year eating lunch in their classrooms as they do now.

Middle School

- There is no change to the beginning and ending of the school day. Drop off and pick up times will remain the same.
- Instructional time will continue to be organized in chunks of time during the hours of the day that are most beneficial for learning.
 - This approach enhances our ability to adjust to individual learning needs and employ our All-Access Learning approaches that include the personalization of instruction, hands-on learning, project-based learning, whole-group and small-group instruction.
- Specials (Art, Music and PE) will continue as currently scheduled.
- Our goal is to return to large group lunches as soon as possible. However, we anticipate that the kids will start the school year eating lunch in a variety of areas which could include classrooms.

High School

- There is no change to the beginning and ending of the school day. Drop-off and pick-up schedules will remain the same.
- The current instructional schedule that utilizes extended class periods of approximately 90 minutes on alternating days will continue. These are some of the benefits:
 - Allows for the continuation of safety and health protocols as we anticipate starting the school year with a declared public health emergency
 - Allows for deeper and more meaningful study of academic content

- Allows more time for class discussions, labs, research and projects to be completed in one class period
 - Lessons do not have to be rushed, and students can receive more effective help and feedback
 - Allows for the use of a variety of teaching and learning strategies
 - Enhances the opportunity for personalization and customization of instruction
 - Students can better manage 3 or 4 classes a day rather than 7 or 8
 - Students can better manage nightly homework assignments
 - Enhances student teacher relationships
 - Limits the number of class changes in one day
 - Enhances teacher collaboration and planning time
- Our goal is to return to large group lunches as soon as possible. However, we anticipate that the kids will start the school year eating lunch in a variety of areas which may include their classrooms.

2021 - 2022 SCHOOL YEAR PHASE-IN PLANS

We learned that the Phase-In approach to the beginning of the school year enhanced student teacher relationships, helped our students to transition to new buildings and provided time for our staff to get to better know our families.

Elementary Schools

1st - 5th Grade Phase-In and First Day of School		
Monday, August 16th	Tuesday, August 17th	Wednesday, August 18th
Individual Meetings with Students and Families	Individual Meetings with Students and Families	School Starts for all students in grades 1st-5th
Classroom teachers will reach out to schedule a time for a 1:1 Meeting. You will have the option to meet in person or online via Zoom.		

Kindergarten Phase-In Schedule				
Monday, August 16th	Tuesday, August 17th	Wednesday, August 18th	Thursday, August 19th	Friday, August 20th
Kindergarten Screening Appointments	Kindergarten Screening Appointments	Kindergarten Screening Appointments	Full Day of Instruction for Students with Last Names A-L	Full Day of Instruction for Students with Last Names M-Z

****First Full Day of Instruction for the Whole Kindergarten Class is Monday, 8/23**

Middle School

Monday, August 16th	Tuesday, August 17th	Wednesday, August 18th	Thursday, August 19th	Friday, August 20th
All 6th graders	All 6th graders	All students	All students	All students
7th and 8th grade teachers will schedule a 1:1 meeting with their homeroom students on August 16th and 17th				

*Sixth Grade Parent/Student Orientation -
 August 12th: 8:00-10:00 a.m. Team 1; 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Team 2; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Team 3

High School

Monday, August 16th	Tuesday, August 17th	Wednesday, August 18th	Thursday, August 19th	Friday, August 20th
All 9th grade students All students assigned in Ms. Morgan's, Ms. Stack's, and Mr. Bandiera's classes	All 9th grade students All students assigned in Ms. Morgan's, Ms. Stack's, and Mr. Bandiera's classes	All students report to the building	All students report to the building	All students report to the building
Students in grades 10-12 will receive remote assignments on Monday, August 16th and Tuesday, August 17th				

Thank you for the support and patience you have shown throughout the past 14 months. Have a wonderful summer.

Keith