



# Mayfield City Schools

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

November 19, 2020

Dear Mayfield Schools Teachers, Staff, Families and Community,

Before we all step away, relax and unplug for a few days for Thanksgiving, I wanted to update you about what lies ahead and offer my gratitude to our entire Mayfield Family. Everyone - the school board, teachers, students, staff, parents, siblings, administrators, and community members - has stepped up to continue the mission to educate our students and provide in-person learning with a remote option.

There is no doubt that the next several months will present more challenges, but the fortitude, care and love that has been shown for our students and our school system are blessings that I will count over and over again in the days ahead. Your ingenuity and efforts to provide in-person learning with a remote option demonstrates how important it is to you to keep our students engaged in learning to the greatest extent possible.

**Because of your collective efforts the School Board and I have decided that we are going to stay the course and continue to offer in-person learning with a remote option.** However, as more is known everyday about the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to once again remind all of you that our learning model may have to change.

**The current increase of positive cases, exposures and quarantines may require a shift to remote-only learning and eliminate in-person learning for some or all of school buildings.**

Every day, we analyze the COVID related staffing data and assess the feasibility of maintaining in-person learning. We examine the data by grade level, team, program and building - then make decisions accordingly. **The best way I can say it is this: If we can't staff it. We can't have it. This includes sports and activities.**

As you know, Mayfield High School is currently on a full-remote learning program because of staffing issues related to COVID. I have been asked many times if the high school will be able to offer in-person learning any time soon. My answer is, it depends on the infection and quarantine trends. Several staff will be returning from quarantine the Monday following Thanksgiving. But, as I write this letter I am being informed of additional cases at the high school. If those coming back from quarantine are replaced by new quarantines then we cannot bring an in-person option back to the high school.

Currently, we have 68% of our students learning in person. Our teachers and staff are engaged, determined and getting the job done. We are resolute to continue to offer safe, responsible in-person learning. But I repeat: **If we can't staff it. We can't have it.**

I have also been asked about the CCBH Stay-At-Home Advisory and its impact on my decision making. From the outset, I have argued against the logic of making educational decisions based on a public health color coding system not intended to be used by school boards and superintendents to make school closing decisions. I will say it again. The Governor has not closed school facilities to students and the public as he did last spring. Issuing strong advisories places the decision in my hands and the hands of the school board. I will continue to advocate for the in-person learning option as long as we can staff our schools, provide the necessary health and safety protocols and continue to be assured that schools are not responsible for the current conditions of community spread. The school board concurs. Thanks to our incredible staff and families our remote option is one of the best if not *the* best in the state.

It is the expert consensus of health officials that COVID-19 is spreading across our community because of the actions happening outside of our schools. You have heard the Governor state that this is a major concern of his, as well as those in charge of hospitals, the CDC and the CCBH. **With Thanksgiving break upon us and the start of the holiday season, I urge everyone to pause and read the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for family gatherings, as well as the Ohio Department of Health Travel Advisory.**

[CDC Celebrating Thanksgiving](#)

[ODH Travel Advisory](#)

Our actions over the coming days and weeks can either have a profound positive impact or a devastating effect. Please commit to doing everything possible to prevent further community spread and **further closures to our in-person learning option.**

Mayfield, we have been confronted with challenges unlike any of us have experienced in our lifetime. Despite this, I continue to be amazed by the generosity, the empathy and the support the community has given to our district during this school year. Through all the ups and downs, families and staff have been understanding and flexible. Most have risen to the challenge with grace and strength. For you, I give thanks.

Our principals continue to receive encouraging words from our parents like the ones below. That encouragement is what keeps us going. It really speaks to the care our community has for each other.

*"As a Business Manager in a school district, I have witnessed firsthand how challenging running two school districts at once - virtual and bricks/mortar - truly is, and how much additional work it is on the teachers, support staff and administrators, but Mayfield, Mr. Caroff and Ms. Snow, you have done an amazing job at making our second grade year, a great one." ~ Chad W.*

*"While checking out at Target tonight the extremely polite young man working the register started a conversation with my son. He asked where he went to school and when he said Mayfield the employee said something like - you're lucky because I go to Mayfield High School and it is a great school." ~ Kelly S.*

*"I wanted to take a moment to commend you and everyone involved for your clear and appropriate communication during this difficult time of the pandemic we are all managing daily. Specifically, I appreciate what you and Mayfield Schools are doing as a whole to keep in-person learning an option as long as you are safely able. Your communication does an excellent job in laying out not only decisions made, but the details and reasons behind those decisions." ~Danny B.*

*"I just want to personally thank you for your communication and willingness to keep the schools open. My three children have been so much happier (K, 3, 6) and the schools are doing an amazing job keeping everyone safe and educated. I know I am speaking for many parents as well when I say this. Thank you!" ~ Laura R.*

Looking ahead to Thanksgiving, please stay safe and relax during your break. Remember, rest is just as important as the time we spend at work and school. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do as we press on to face this challenge... Mayfield Strong. Mayfield Together.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Be safe. Be well. Do your part.

Sincerely,



Dr. Keith Kelly  
Superintendent