

# Montgomery Township School District

*Creating confident, compassionate, and successful learners*

February 16, 2021

Dear Montgomery Township School Community,

I hope this message finds you well. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with an update on our current hybrid instructional model. As I shared at the Board of Education Meeting on January 26, 2021, the next phase in our full return to school is to combine the two in-person cohorts so all in-person students attend school on all in-person days of instruction. This is currently four days at OHES, VES and LMS and five days at UMS and MHS. We have been in constant consultation with the Montgomery Township Department of Health and the school physician to determine the date for the implementation of combining cohorts.

On Friday, February 12, 2021, the President of the Board of Education and I received a letter from the Montgomery Township Board of Health. This letter, adopted by the Department of Health on February 10, 2021, provides a recommendation to combine cohorts at this time. The letter states, “*we can confidently recommend to you that our district schools may safely combine cohorts, and all hybrid students attend school for maximum allowable days of the hybrid schedule per week.*” Therefore, we will combine cohorts beginning **Monday, March 1, 2021. The daily school schedule will remain the same at this time.** Please be assured that we are able to maintain our established safety and cleaning protocols and will continue with our daily health questionnaires for staff and students. A future correspondence will be sent regarding transportation.

Please note that as the district combines the current hybrid cohorts, the Fully-Remote Option will remain in effect. Students not currently in the hybrid program will not have the option to choose hybrid participation until the next parent survey in March for the period April 19-through the end of the school year.

The district is hosting a presentation for the public on Monday, February 22, 2021 from 7-8:30 PM. The presenters include the Montgomery Township Health Officer, Stephanie Carey, and our school physician, Dr. Bert Mandelbaum. Other members of the Department of Health will also be in attendance to answer any questions from the public. Please use this link [Montgomery Community and Health Professionals](#) to attend the meeting on Monday night.

The letter from the Department of Health also advises the district to continue to plan for all in-person students to attend full days of school. Planning will continue to take place through our collaborative structures: School Leadership Teams, the District Leadership Team, and Solutions Committees. During the next month of planning, we will be discussing the following:

- Five days of in-person instruction at OHES, VES, and LMS
- Surveying the parents on their choice of hybrid or 100% virtual model for their child(ren) for the April 19-end of school year time period

- Scheduling the hybrid students based on parent survey for April 19 through the end of the school year
- Increasing the length of the school day - serving lunch
- Long term planning for the return of all students full time

I thank you for your continued cooperation with completing the daily health questionnaires. The success of this next phase is dependent on your diligence with not only completing the daily forms but also practicing recommended protocols outside of school. Please continue to contact the school nurse if anyone in your family becomes ill or is exposed to COVID-19. We are here to assist you in any way we can.

Together we are a strong community and we will continue to support each other through these times.

Sincerely,

Mary E. McLoughlin  
Superintendent