

Good Afternoon!

I am writing this note on the day of the inauguration of the 46th President of the United States. Throughout our history, in moments of triumph and darkness, every President has followed in the footsteps of George Washington and peacefully handed over the power of the Presidency to his successor. This day lies at the heart of our nation's strength and each and every one of us, regardless of party affiliation, should take pride in this moment.

Over the course of the last week, I have spent time in all of the Elementary schools, and it is so heartwarming to see our students happily in school with their classmates. At a time in education when we focus so much on scores and data, it is an important reminder that the social aspects of schools are so critical to the wellbeing of all of our students. I understand that there is an issue for some students who are having difficulty seeing the whiteboard from the back of the room. Our principals are developing work-arounds that should be deployed shortly to remedy this. Thank you to our teachers in all buildings for being so dedicated to their students.

I have been receiving a great deal of email from parents asking what the 2021-22 school year will look like. Like all of you, I hope everything will be back to normal. At this point we are planning for the possibility of several different scenarios for the Fall that range from our current hybrid to a full return to normalcy. It is likely that the single most important factor that will determine what next year will look like is the distribution of the COVID 19 vaccine. Educators were originally designated as part of tier 1B, and by the original timeline should already have been getting their vaccines. However, the state moved back the timeline for teachers a minimum of eight weeks in order to vaccinate the obese and smoking population. Hopefully, as more vaccines become available and the distribution network ramps up the plan for the Fall can come into greater focus.

Just a reminder that our Covid Dashboard is only updated on Fridays. Our current active Covid cases are as follows:

New Cases (since 1/15 update)		
School	Staff/Student	Result
MKM	1 Student	Last Day in School 1/15 Close Contacts Notified
MP	2 Students	Students are fully remote No in- School Exposure
MP	1 Student	Last Day in School 1/15 Close Contacts Notified
Woodruff	1 Student	Last Day in School 1/15 Close Contacts Notified
GLHS	2 Students	No in-school exposure

Have a great rest of the week.

Sincerely,
Dr. Melissa Varley

