

Dear Families and Staff,

Good Morning, last night was the first meeting of the District's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion task force. The meeting was chaired by Marc Strachan and focused mainly on the organization, structure, timeline and goals. The DEI TF will be looking to create a district DEI strategic plan and metrics for presentation to the BOE by September. As the task force continues, we will update you periodically on our progress.

Unfortunately, I must report that after several weeks of minimal Covid cases in the district we are experiencing a spike in numbers. I understand that everyone is tired of the pandemic, but I would ask parents to continue to stress to your children the importance of wearing masks. Although inconvenient, mask wearing is the simplest way to cut infection rates until vaccinations become more widespread.

In response to the outbreaks in the Elementary Schools specific grades have been moved to remote to contain the spread of the virus. We have structured the elementary schools so that, for the majority of the students, grade levels are discrete; they do not travel from room to room and there are no interactions between grades. Thus, if there are multiple cases in 5th grade, we are able to move the 5th graders to remote while keeping grades 2-4 in school. If a situation would arise that saw multiple cases across several grades, we would move the whole school to remote. This decision would be made on a school-by-school basis, with the goal of isolating the cases while trying to keep as many students in school as safely possible. The district still has every intention of moving all students grades 6-12 to Plan A on April 12th. However, a final decision on this hinges on a reduction in the number of positive cases in our schools.

I also want to take a moment to address Spring Break. Please be aware that the entire District might have to move to remote learning for the week of April 5th. Although it is my desire to keep the district open, we have a number of staff who are traveling, and CDC guidelines dictate that they must quarantine on return- even if they are fully vaccinated. Given the numbers and the guidelines we will not be able to get enough coverage to staff the buildings. Given the current spike in numbers, a remote week following Spring Break might also be prudent. As a parent myself, I know the need for lead time when it comes to making arrangements for child care. There are a number of factors influencing this decision that are still very fluid. I will let you know as soon as possible.

New Cases (since 3/5 update)		
School	Staff/Student	Result
MKM	2 Students	Last day in School 3/5 Close Contacts Notified
MKM	1 Staff	Last day in School 3/5 Close Contacts notified
MP	4 Students	Last day in School 3/4 Close Contacts Notified

MP	1 Staff	Last day in School 3/4 Close Contacts Notified
TPH	3 Students	1 Student Last day in School 3/4 2 Students Last day in School 3/8 Close contacts notified
CMS	3 Students	2 Students Last day in School 2/26 No in school exposure 1 Student last day in School 3/3 Close contacts notified
GL	3 Students	1 Student Last day in School 3/3 Close contacts notified 2 Students are fully remote No in school contact

Have a great day!

Sincerely,
Dr. Melissa Varley