



Minnetonka Public Schools
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Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you and your family are doing well. This latest surge in the COVID virus has affected many in our community, and it continues to impact students and staff enough to present crises in keeping schools open and learning at high levels. Due to the challenges we are facing with continued staffing shortages due to COVID-19 related staff absences and the effect of cases and quarantines for students, we need to implement options that will allow us to get back on track with all students.

Compounding the challenges for many students and the staff who work with them, the absences and differential deliveries of instruction have left many students deficient as they approach the end of the semester. In order to address these issues, we are going to a new plan for secondary students beginning this Friday (January 14) and ending the following Friday (January 21).

Principals will be sharing specific details with you, but here is an overview of the changes:

Middle schools will move to e-learning Friday, January 14 through Friday, January 21. The first Friday will be a blend of synchronous (live) e-learning instruction and asynchronous e-learning instruction to allow students to work more deeply with teachers to successfully wrap up the semester. Next week, Tuesday-Friday, January 18-21, will be synchronous e-learning days, with students following their regular schedule to successfully close the semester. The middle schools will be open all of those days for students who prefer to engage in e-learning from the school building. Lunch will be provided for students attending in-person. Buses will follow their regular schedule this week and next.

At the **High School**, Friday, January 14 and Tuesday, January 18 will be synchronous e-learning days, following the regular six-period High School schedule. Wednesday through Friday of next week, January 18-21, students will have an altered schedule, which will offer instructional opportunities to successfully complete all needed coursework to finish the semester. I know Principal Erickson has shared some of these details already, and teachers will communicate even more with students about specifics on this. The High School will be open all of these days for those students who prefer to engage in e-learning from the school building. Lunch will be provided for students

attending in-person. Buses will follow their regular schedule this week and next.

Elementary schools will continue with in-person learning. Next week, on Friday, January 21, teachers will work with students, as necessary, to close the semester. Therefore, most elementary students will not have school that day. Students who need additional instruction to successfully wrap up the semester will be invited by their teachers to work with them in-person or virtually for a portion of that day. In-school childcare will be available for those families who need it on that day. Lunch will also be provided, and buses will follow their regular schedule.

Again, principals will be sharing more details, along with sign-up forms for you to complete for days where it is optional for students to attend in-person and for elementary school childcare.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work hard to provide the best educational opportunities and experiences for students while also keeping students and staff safe.

Dennis L. Peterson
Superintendent of Schools