



# Marshfield Public Schools

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January 3, 2021

Dear MPSD Families & Staff,

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you healthy and well. I was hoping to write a more positive note to kick off the new year, as we look to put 2020 in our rearview mirror, but unfortunately Covid 19 continues to impact our community. We just received the newest number of positive cases late this afternoon from our Board of Health (those for the last few days), and we have 14 new cases since New Year's Eve. Added to that were another 18 cases between Christmas and New Year's Eve. In addition, we have found that we have a number of staff and students, at all levels, who have been notified that they are close contacts with others who were Covid-19 positive and would have to quarantine for an extended period of time. This causes numerous challenges that could have a detrimental impact on the effective management of our schools.

Thus, we have had late discussions with the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), our Board of Health and the District's physician, and we have decided that the district will move to a schedule of full remote learning for the next two weeks. This will commence tomorrow, January 4 and will run through Friday, January 15th. The goal would be to return to our hybrid schedule as of January 19th.

For the next two days, this means that students in the A Cohort will work remotely with their teachers, following the full remote schedules that are posted on the front page of our District website. In these schedules are the specific times when students who are working remotely would be "zooming in" with their teachers. Those who are in Cohort B will work independently at home, following the asynchronous assignments that were already scheduled for the next two days, just as they typically would on Monday & Tuesday. At the FBMS & MHS, students will follow their A, B, C, D schedule on Monday and their E, F, G, H schedule on Tuesday.

For those students who attend school in person for four or five days a week, they too will be remote tomorrow. They will receive additional information tomorrow from their principals and/or teachers.

There will be a typical Wednesday schedule and then, starting on Thursday, both cohorts (A & B) will then move to the full remote schedule with their teachers and work together for the remainder of the time the District is in Remote Learning. While the District works remotely for these two weeks, there will also be a temporary stoppage of winter athletics (practices & games).

As a district, we have taken all the steps necessary to reduce the chance of this situation occurring. We continue to adhere to DPH and DESE protocols, and while we have seen a significant increase in the number of cases in our town and within the school community, there have only been a few select cases that we determined to have been transmitted in the school community. Nonetheless, the numbers documented are concerning and out of an abundance of caution, feel this is the correct step to take for the health and safety of our students and staff.

Those students who will be working remote tomorrow with their teachers (Cohort A) will receive communication on the appropriate links for communication with their teachers. Apologies for not getting this information out earlier, but we, like most of our neighboring districts, had plans to open in traditional fashion tomorrow. Nonetheless, I am confident we will be able to work together and make this Remote experience a positive one for all of our students and staff.

If there is any new information related to the remote schedule for these two weeks, we will get it out to you immediately.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding and have a good night.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Granatino

Superintendent