



September 29, 2020

Dear Merion Families,

Good Morning, Merion Families!

I hope this message finds all of you well and excited to get students back in schools in a safe, calculated manner. A few quick-hitter items below:

- You're invited to join me on Zoom this coming Thursday evening, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting will start at 6:30pm and wrap up around 7:15pm. Much like a similar meeting back in July, I will run through a presentation and then respond to some of your questions. The purpose will be to provide an overview of our phased "Hybrid" return to school we're in the midst of. I will shed some light on what a day will look like for students and safety precautions we're taking to mitigate risks. The Zoom link for this meeting is below...

Topic: Merion Hybrid Opening

Time: Oct 1, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93393543844?pwd=YXdhZmtUMmZCNVpHRXdHOEFYNkZTZz09>

Meeting ID: 933 9354 3844

Passcode: 651876

- Reminder, the following details the phased return to school:
  - Week of Sept 29 (this week) Kindergarten Students return in am/pm cohorts
  - Week of Oct 5 students in grades 1-3 return in am/pm cohorts
  - Week of Oct 12 students in grades 4-5 return in am/pm cohorts

*Depending on the student cohort, Grades 1-5 will be in-person either for the AM or PM session M-Th. There will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous activity while students are home the other half of the day. Friday is generally a remote day for most students in grades 1-5. Kindergarten students will attend in-person on Fridays per their am/pm cohort and M-Th schedule.*

**\*\*On October 2nd, the day will be fully asynchronous for students.** Starting October 9th, Fridays will begin with a synchronous morning meeting and a synchronous special will occur at a point during the day. There will also be opportunities for targeted synchronous small group instruction by invitation. Students will participate in asynchronous instruction for the remainder of the day. This will allow teachers additional time to assess and develop lessons within the hybrid model as well as afford teachers the preparation time they would have in a typical school week.

### Transportation:

- Kindergarten families will have received transportation information via the Parent Portal on Friday, September 25th. For the first week of school, students will ride the small school busses and these routes will be in effect until 10/2. Starting on 10/5, K students will join our 1-5 students on the larger busses. Information on these routes will be available by 10/2.
- Families with 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will receive information via the Parent Portal about bussing routes by 10/2.

### Supplies and Materials:

- Each teacher will communicate any specific supplies that they would like students to bring to school.
- Students in grades K-2 will need to bring their black math manipulatives bag.
- All textbooks and workbooks should return to school on the student's return date.

### Electronic Devices - iPads, MacBooks, Chromebooks:

- All device chargers can remain at home and do not need to come to school.
- Kindergarten –
  - Since kindergarten students are not assigned homework and have no asynchronous expectations for work when not in school, iPads will remain at school. If we see a rise in the number of COVID cases we will begin sending the iPads home each night in anticipation of a potential school closure. Leaving the iPads at school will help reduce the possibility of damage to the devices.
- Grades 1-5 –
  - Students will transport their devices to and from school each day as they will need them while they work on their asynchronous and synchronous activities during the half of the day that they are working from home. **All students should develop the habit of charging their devices at home each evening so that it is fully charged in the morning.** We also have charging stations in the building if needed during the time the student is in school.

### Snack:

- Students can bring a **nut-free** snack to school. During scheduled snack breaks, the students will be able to remove their mask. We are asking that families pack snacks that can be finished within 10 minutes. This is due to the guidance that mask breaks of 15 minutes or less indoors and socially distanced is determined safe.

### Health and Safety:

- **Screening:** Parents/guardians must complete a screening at home each morning and keep your child at home if they are displaying symptoms or have a temperature above 100 degrees. Temperatures will not be taken at school by the school nurse unless a student expresses that they are not feeling well. LMSD screening tool: [www.lmsd.org/screening](http://www.lmsd.org/screening).
- Staff must conduct a self-screening at home prior to coming to work each day.
- All classrooms have been de-densified so desks can be arranged 6 feet apart.
- Permeable surfaces such as soft chairs and rugs have been removed.
- Additional staff have been hired to clean high touch/traffic areas throughout the day as well as students' desks between the AM/PM sessions.
- All classrooms have sinks for students to wash hands. Hand sanitizer is also available.
- [LMSD Health and Safety Plan](#)

**Face Masks:**

- Students are expected to wear a face mask at all times, including on the entire bus ride to and from school if using school transportation. Mask breaks will be scheduled by classroom teachers and will not last more than 10 minutes. Please send in a spare mask with your child in a labeled Ziplock bag. If your child needs to use their spare mask, the soiled mask will be sent home in the Ziplock bag for laundering. In addition, the District will be providing an extra mask for all students that will be sent home on the first day.

There may be some bumps along the way during this unprecedented start to the school year, but I look forward to partnering with you to create the best possible experience for our students.

Respectfully,  
Toby J. Albanese  
Principal