



RESTART/REOPEN 2020-2021

MONROE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 16, 2020

Monroe Local Schools Families:

I hope you are doing well and that you enjoyed the weekend. The purpose of this letter is to proactively communicate issues that may trigger the need to shift our learning model. Every day, we closely monitor numerous data points and regularly communicate with our local health department and medical professionals. This information will guide our decision to remain in school five days a week; make a shift to hybrid, or move to full remote if necessary.

Both Monroe Local Schools and the surrounding communities are currently experiencing an increase in the spread of COVID-19, resulting in a sharp rise in the number of staff and students that must be quarantined. As of Friday, November 13, 2020, we continued to have 80%-85% of students in the district in attendance every day.

Hamilton and Butler County Health Departments and medical professionals share that our schools are still a safe place because of the preventative measures we have in place. Although we are not seeing a spread of COVID in our schools, we are definitely experiencing a large number of students in quarantine. Quarantine is a precautionary measure required by the health department to prevent the potential spread and keep our students and staff safe.

We will do everything we can to preserve the current in-person schedule. Please be aware that if our staff and student quarantine numbers continue to rise and substitutes cannot be secured; we may need to shift to our hybrid or remote learning model. As educators, we know our students are best served when they can be here everyday and connected with their teachers. If changes are necessary, we will try to provide as much notice as possible.

Our concern is that with the increased number of employees who have been quarantined, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find substitutes to cover in-person teaching, learning, and supervision responsibilities. Our staff has done an outstanding job covering unfilled absences these past few weeks; however, continuing to respond in this manner is neither practical nor sustainable week after week. If you or anyone you know may be interested in substituting, please visit our website (www.monroelocalschools.com) to get more information and apply online.

Depending on the schools and grade-levels where the district is experiencing the most quarantines, the need to switch from in-person learning could impact specific classrooms, grade-levels, or schools as opposed to the entire district. The switch from our in-person schedule to remote learning is intended to be temporary, and we will switch back as soon as possible based on the recommendation of our health department, case numbers, and staffing. The switch may last one to two weeks or possibly longer depending on many different variables. If we move to remote, students will log in to Google Classroom each day and expect to receive daily contact from their teachers while learning continues.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we need everyone's help to continue to mask, distance, and hand wash so that we can keep our students and staff healthy and can continue to keep everyone in school every day, all day, five days a week.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work through these uncertain times together. We know everyone is doing the best they can, and that includes your efforts to support your child's learning and encouraging them to follow all safety protocols.

As always, we appreciate your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Kathy Demers
Superintendent