



## **Montville Public Schools Hybrid Model**

Last Monday, Governor Lamont revised his requirement that schools must open for all students every day to allow districts the option of opening in a hybrid model. After a week of studying this option with our Re-Opening Schools Steering Committee, the administrative team and area superintendents, this evening I recommended to the Board of Education that we open school in a hybrid mode and the Board has approved that decision.

### **Why Start the Year In A Hybrid Model?**

Under the hybrid model about 50% of students are in the schools on any given day while the other 50% are distance learning. This decreases the density of people in the buildings, increases social distancing to meet Center for Disease Control guidelines, decreases the number of people in shared spaces like bathrooms and hallways, and allows time to practice policies and protocols to enhance the health and safety of students and staff. We will be able to meet the 6-foot distancing guideline and keep class sizes below 14 students at all schools. Hopefully, combined with the number of parents who have agreed to drive their students to and from school, this will enable us to significantly reduce the number of students on buses. Ideally, unless students are in the same household, we would like only one student in each seat on the bus.

Montville has joined many other districts in the region who have decided to start with a hybrid model. Just as the state has successfully slowly phased in re-opening, we believe schools should start at 50% capacity and build to full capacity over time. The Board will reassess our plans in the fall, and hopefully our community health data will indicate that we can reduce mitigating strategies and move to phase 2 of our re-opening (full in-person instruction with decreased social distancing).

The information which schools are receiving from the state government, the Department of Education, and the Department of Public Health changes very frequently. I know these changes are frustrating to families; please know that we are working extremely hard to address changes and make informed decisions for our families and the community.

### **How Will the Hybrid Model Work?**

One group of students will attend school on Monday and Tuesday; a second group on Thursday and Friday. Schools will be fully cleaned between cohorts on Wednesdays. All students will attend school in person two days a week and participate in distance learning three days each week. As much as possible, families will be grouped together to minimize the inconvenience to families and ensure siblings are home together. All teachers and students will see each other at least once a week. Elementary students will see their teachers two days each week. Secondary students will attend each class one day a week as they will be in school for one A day and one B day. Cohort 1 will primarily include students whose last names begin with the letters A-K and Cohort 2 will primarily include students whose last names begin

with L-Z. However, the alphabetic grouping will not be followed exactly when students in the same households have different last names or when specific classes have a disproportionate number of students in one cohort. Knowing that the hybrid model requires parents to adjust daycare plans, elementary principals will communicate students' groups to families by mail no later than Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Secondary student cohort letters will be mailed out by the end of next week. **If you have children with different last names who reside in the same household, and you want to ensure they are in the same cohort, please call your child's school office no later than Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Hybrid Model by Cohort**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort 1 In-Person Full Day Instruction A-Day*	Cohort 1 In-Person Full Day Instruction B-Day*	All Students Participate in Distance Learning  Wednesdays will alternate between A and B days for Tyl and MHS students. A calendar designating A and B days will be published soon.	Cohort 1 Distance Learning	Cohort 1 Distance Learning
Cohort 2 Distance Learning	Cohort 2 Distance Learning		Cohort 2 In-Person Full Day Instruction A-Day*	Cohort 2 In-Person Full Day Instruction B-Day*

\*A-Days and B-Days are at Tyl and MHS only

The schedule allows for a break of 5 days between each cohort's presence in school. (Cohort 1 is at home Wednesday through Sunday and Cohort 2 is at home Saturday through Wednesday.) Since research indicates symptoms may present in as early as two days, this schedule could help ensure that pre-symptomatic infected students stay home.

**What is the Schedule for the First Two Weeks of Schools with Mondays Off and Half Day Sessions?**

MONDAY, 8/31	TUESDAY, 9/1	WEDNESDAY, 9/2	THURSDAY, 9/3	FRIDAY, 9/4
NO SCHOOL, PD DAY for staff	Half Day for all COHORT 1 students B Day	Distance Learning for All Students B Day	Half Day for all COHORT 2 students A Day	Half Day for all COHORT 2 students B Day
MONDAY, 9/7	TUESDAY, 9/8	WEDNESDAY, 9/9	THURSDAY, 9/10	FRIDAY, 9/11
NO SCHOOL, LABOR DAY	Full Day for all COHORT 1 students A Day	Distance Learning for All Students A Day	Full Day for all COHORT 2 students A Day	Full Day for all COHORT 2 students B Day

**When Will Students Receive Devices?**

For hybrid learners, devices will be distributed on the students' first day of school if we have received a completed device agreement. It is imperative that parents or guardians complete an [online device agreement](#) so we can have devices ready for distribution. **Please complete your device agreements by**

**Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.** Please see the section on fully remote learning for device distribution information for fully remote learners.

### **How Will Bus Transportation Work?**

Buses will follow their regular routes each day, picking up only students in Cohort 1 or 2 (based upon the day of the week) who have not opted out of bus transportation. Families will receive letters with bus stops and approximate pick up and drop off times the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Buses will be sanitized between each route. Students will be required to wear masks and fill the bus from back to front when they enter in the morning. Because the buses will have fewer students in the hybrid model, we do not plan to put monitors on elementary buses. We will review and revise this decision if necessary.

### **Will Meals Be Available to Students on Distance Learning Days?**

We will have "Grab and Go" meals available for all distance and remote students. Pick up sites will be at Montville High School and Mohegan Elementary School from 9:00-9:30. Both breakfast and lunch and meals for multiple days can be picked up at the same time. Grab and go meal costs will align with students' free or reduced lunch eligibility or normal meal prices. Payments for meals must be made online.

### **Is Full Remote Learning Still an Option for Students?**

If you believe that your child should temporarily stay home all five days and participate in full remote learning to ensure the health of your family, that is still possible. We do believe the hybrid model enhances student safety and provides important time for direct interaction and relationships with peers and adult staff and hope that families will feel more comfortable sending their student back to school with this model. If you plan to keep your students home full time, please complete the [Remote Learning Form](#) and return it to your child's school **NO LATER than August 12<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to email the completed form, please email to [mromano@montvilleschools.org](mailto:mromano@montvilleschools.org).

**If you had already returned a distance learning form but have reconsidered your decision based upon our shift to the hybrid model, please call your school office to make this change.**

Devices and any necessary instructional materials can be picked up at your child's school by appointment on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. You can schedule an appointment by calling the school secretary. Please complete the [Device Agreement form](#) by August 14<sup>th</sup> so we have a device ready for your student.

### **Important Information Regarding Governor's Quarantine Orders:**

As we approach the start of the school year, it is very important that you are aware of the expectations for travel quarantines. **Your children CANNOT start school if they have traveled to an affected state for more than 24 hours within 14 days of the start of school.** More information about mandatory quarantines can be found by [clicking here](#).

### **Summary of Important Due Dates for Paperwork:**

- **Due August 11<sup>th</sup>:** Phone call to school office if you have children living at the same address with different last names who should be in the same cohort
- **Due August 12<sup>th</sup>:** [Remote Learning Form](#) if your child will not attend in-person school at all
- **Due August 14<sup>th</sup>:** [Device Agreement](#) so your child can receive an iPad or Chromebook at the start of school

### **Do You Still Have Questions?**

I will hold two parent Zoom meetings at 5:00 and 7:00 on Monday evening, August 10<sup>th</sup> to address parents' questions. Please see our district web site or below for links to those meetings.

#### **5:00 Zoom Meeting for Parents**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86221502113?pwd=STlxc05oUkdKdlhZdmdYWnBtamNNQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 2150 2113

Passcode: 497516

Dial in: 1 646 558 8656

#### **7:00 Zoom Meeting for Parents**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85271482135?pwd=empmd2ZJbExUZW53VEZmeWkxQXISQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 7148 2135

Passcode: 894412

Dial in: 1 646 558 8656 US