

# Superintendent's Update – September 4, 2021

## Montville Public Schools



### Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Classes are off to a great start! Assistant Superintendent Dianne Vumback and I toured the schools on Wednesday. Students and staff expressed how happy they are to be back together in person. We saw very few issues with mask-wearing, and students were active, engaged participants in their work.

It feels wonderful to have everyone back after 14 months of hybrid and remote learning schedules!



### Transportation

Thank you for your patience this week as we have worked to make modifications to transportation especially in response to the number of parents transporting their own students. Principals and I worked with Lt. Radford, Facilities Director Steve Carroll, and Transportation Coordinator Kerry Tetreault to revise drop off and pick up procedures at the elementary schools. Changes made started Thursday at Mohegan and will begin on Tuesday at Oakdale. We very much appreciate the number of parents who are able to transport their children as it has eased the impact of the driver shortage and enabled us to avoid overcrowding the buses. On Friday all students were home by 4:35 which is very close to our normal bus route completion time of about 4:25. We will continue to improve next week!



## COVID-19 Cases – Quarantine and Isolation

We learned of six positive COVID-19 cases this week. They had no impact in terms of quarantining because the people had not started work/school when they were contagious or because the close contacts had been vaccinated and vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine. Instead of sending out emails for cases this year, we have a table of cases posted on the website and are updating it daily. You can view that table at: [MPS COVID-19 Data – Positive Cases and People Quarantined](#). All people who might be considered close contacts will always be notified personally as part of the contact tracing process.

Information about decisions to stay home when sick, as well as new quarantine and isolation protocols can all be found on our [district website](#). Please don't hesitate to [contact your school nurse](#) for advice.



## Meals

We will open "Grab and Go" meal distribution to provide breakfast and lunch to Montville children who do not yet attend school. Meals for the entire week can be picked up on Monday mornings at Montville High School between 8:00-8:30.

While meals will be provided at no cost to all students this year, **families who are eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Meals MUST still complete the [Free and Reduced lunch paperwork](#)** as this is essential for district and family eligibility for other funding.



## Staffing

We had an unprecedented amount of hiring this summer. Twenty-three new teachers attended our new teacher orientation, and we have a number of new paraprofessionals, monitors, and secretaries as well. We were able to attract excellent applicants who come to us highly recommended by their past employers. Our new teachers have already acclimated well to their schools and classrooms; we are excited by the skills they bring to the district.



## Documentation of Vaccination

**Staff and students are required to submit a copy of their vaccination cards to the school nurse in order to be exempt from quarantine.** This information will be kept confidential but when we conduct contact tracing, if we do not have a vaccination card on file, we will require close contacts to quarantine.

You can email a copy (or photo) of your student's vaccination card to the school nurse or bring your card to your school and we will make a copy for you. [School nurses and their email address](#) are listed on our website.

We are well-poised for compliance with Executive Order 13D regarding vaccination of staff which goes into effect on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>.



## Athletics

We are pleased to introduce our new Athletic Director, Meagan Sears. Meagan comes to us from Haddam Killingworth where she worked as the Wellness Department Head, interim Athletic Director, and Coach. We are very fortunate that she was able to start the school year with us. She worked with our coaches to start the fall season and is enjoying meeting our student athletes and their families.



**I hope you have a wonderful Labor Day Weekend and that your students had a great first week at school!**