

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

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SUPERINTENDENT

Equal Opportunity Employer

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CATHERINE A. STONE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families,

October 30, 2020

I would like to begin by thanking you for all of your support during this most challenging time for our school district and our Island. We greatly appreciate your input, flexibility, and patience as we have phased our elementary grades back into school. I am writing to update you on the current plan to bring back more of our students to in-person instruction in the district. As we develop the plan for our next phase, we are aware of the recent increase in positive cases on the Island and will continue to partner with the local Boards of Health to monitor the situation and make any necessary adjustments.

With this in mind, each of our elementary school districts will be presenting a plan to its school committee to bring back our middle school students to four or five days of in-person instruction. The plan that each school presents will vary due to the individual building needs and resources available. Oak Bluffs and the Up-Island School Districts have already had their plans approved, and the remaining two districts will be meeting within the next two weeks. The goal is to bring our students back to in-person learning as soon as safely possible.

The High School will also be presenting a plan to bring students back to in-person instruction. Due to the six feet distancing requirement, the High School will need to develop a hybrid of in-person and remote instruction. The school committee will hear the plan on Monday evening, November 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

The district continues to pursue a testing program for our students and staff. The MVPS COVID-19 Testing Task Force met twice this week with medical professionals who will be assisting in the development of an efficient and effective asymptomatic testing plan. The task force plans to present a draft proposal to the All-Island School Committee on Thursday evening, November 5th at 5:00 p.m. The district has also applied to participate in a symptomatic testing program that is being developed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. We will have additional information on both of these programs over the next couple of weeks.

Please know that we will continue to implement safety measures of masking, six feet of social distancing, and frequent hand washing when our students are in school. Testing, when in place, will be an additional safety measure for our schools. Attached please find an overview of the protocols we will follow in the event we have a positive COVID-19 test in our schools.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Have a safe and happy Halloween.

Sincerely,

Matthew D'Andrea