

# Chesterfield Township School District

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Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

I want to thank all the parents who responded to our September survey. We had over 300 responses. We are reviewing the survey data and will share the survey results with you next week. Please know that your feedback is a factor in the decisions we make for the district.

This week we are completing the final preparations for the start of hybrid/in-person instruction starting Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Today I want to share with you information specific to that transition.

Starting Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have students entering the building for in-person instruction at all grade levels. In-person instruction will take place using two instructional models: (1) Fully In-Person Instructional Model and (2) Hybrid Instructional Model.

## **Fully In-Person & Hybrid Instructional Models**

*On Monday, October 19, 2020, the district will transition to in-person learning for all students who choose the Fully In-Person Instructional Model (K and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade only) and the Hybrid Instructional Model (Grades 2-6). Both models will operate on an Early Dismissal Day schedule and will begin at 8:35 AM and conclude at 12:45 PM.*

### **Fully In-Person Instructional Model**

*The Fully In-Person Instructional Model is designed for our kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. As a district, we believe the primary years are critical to future academic success. As a result, we have adjusted resources and personnel to provide a fully in-person option to our kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. For example, we've added an additional section/teacher at both kindergarten and first grade to make this model work. This model will follow all the same health and safety protocols that are implemented throughout the school including social distancing in the classroom. Since there is no hybrid model in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, students*

*participating in the Fully In-Person Instructional Model will experience the most “normal” learning environment to school prior to COVID-19. That being said, due to health and safety restrictions, the classroom will be very different than “normal”.*

### ***Hybrid Instructional Model***

*The Hybrid Instructional Model is designed for our students in grades 2-6. The model is based on two cohorts of students, Cohort A and Cohort B. Both cohorts will attend in-person learning on a fixed schedule as follows:*

<i>Cohort A</i>	<i>Mondays and Thursday</i>
<i>Cohort B</i>	<i>Tuesdays and Fridays</i>

*All students in the Hybrid Instructional Model will learn virtually on Wednesdays. On the days the students are attending in-person learning, students will learn in the classroom with their teacher and fellow students while following all health and safety protocols. On the days the students are learning virtually, they will continue to participate in the same learning experience as they experienced at the start of the school year and attend live lessons with their teacher. Thus, the classroom teacher will be instructing both cohorts of students at the same time. We know this will be a challenge for our teachers; however, we also know that providing our students learning virtually with live instruction is critical to student engagement and growth.*

*Teachers will continue to provide all students with instructional videos for reteaching and support. However, teachers will now use commercially-developed instructional videos when available.*

*Whether a hybrid student is learning in the building or remotely on a specific day, the afternoon schedule will not change. During the afternoon, teachers will provide instruction through small group work. Scheduled afternoon related arts classes/specials will be held as scheduled.*

We look forward to October 19<sup>th</sup> and welcoming more students back into the building. Mr. Mazzoni will be sending home specific information related to arrival and dismissal procedures for October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please review these procedures carefully with your child to prepare for their return to the building.

In the spring, the district instituted the Social Emotion Friday. As you know, we are no longer using the Social Emotion Friday. However, starting Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, the district will be instituting a “Flex Afternoon”.

The Flex Afternoon is being instituted to provide teachers with additional time to prepare meaningful lessons and assess student work to provide actionable feedback to students and parents. If your child has a specific related arts/specials class or participates in a special program during the scheduled Flex Afternoon, the related arts/specials class and/or special program will proceed as scheduled. So your child’s schedule will determine how much “flex time” they have on a Flex Afternoon. During a child’s flex time, students may catch up on work or simply take a break from the computer.

Due to the schedule and specific needs of students, Flex Afternoons have been assigned by grade level. Thus, it is possible for two children from one family to have different flex afternoons. Your child's teacher will notify you of the day of the week that will be the Flex Afternoon for your child's grade level. If you have any questions about the Flex Afternoon, please contact your child's teacher.

For your reference, the following topic areas have been added to the Virtual Parent Handbook that can be found on the district's homepage.

Fully In-Person Instructional Model

Hybrid Instructional Model

Flex Afternoon

COVID-19 Pandemic Health Status Resources (websites)

Again, information specific to arrival and dismissal for in-person learning starting on October 19<sup>th</sup> will be sent home this week. Once it is sent home, that information will also be added to the Virtual Learning Handbook.

Sincerely,

*Scott Heino*

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