

Chesterfield Township School District

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Dear Chesterfield School Community,

I want to thank all parents for your participation in our virtual Back to School Night. After hosting this type of event virtually for the first time, I am pleased with the result. I hope you too enjoyed the experience. I want to recognize our teachers and administrators for all the hard work they dedicated to planning the evening.

One topic that was raised in some classrooms last night was the topic of hybrid instruction and what that will look like for students on their virtual day. This is a topic we discussed over the summer and one we continue to research now. As you know, the number of students participating in the hybrid instructional model has changed since early August. When the district first began gathering information from parents on where they plan to place their child (hybrid vs. virtual), we had a large number of parents indicate they would choose hybrid. However, when the final placement information was gathered, only 56% of our parents identified hybrid. In the two weeks prior to the start of the school year, that number continued to drop to 54%. Due to the significant change, we had to reevaluate our original plan of how to provide instruction to our hybrid students on their virtual day. Our original plan was to use our fully virtual teachers to support our hybrid students on their virtual days. Based on our current numbers, that will not be an option. As we work to finalize a plan we are focused on a plan that best meets the needs of our students, but is also manageable for our teachers. We've been in contact with districts that are currently using the hybrid instructional model, and we look forward to finalizing the plan soon to share with all our parents. Remember, this plan affects students in our hybrid instructional model in grades 2 – 6.

Since the first day of school, we have been evaluating our arrival and dismissal procedures with the small number of students we have in the building for in-person instruction each day. We have also been in contact with other school districts to determine what's working and what's not working for student arrival and dismissal. I am confident we will be ready to safely welcome approximately 250 students to the building each day starting October 19th.

Lastly, the Chesterfield Township School District has been approved by the State of New Jersey to provide free meals (lunch) to all residents of the district who are 18 years of age or younger. The new program will reimburse the district 100% of the cost for the meals served to our residents. On Monday, all parents will receive an email with a flyer providing more details on how to receive a free meal (lunch) through our food service provider Maschio's.

Thank you for your support and the continued effort to work collaboratively between home and school.

Sincerely,

Scott Heino

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