

# Middleton School District #134

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September 2, 2020

Dear MSD Parent/Guardian,

First off and foremost our sincerest thanks for supporting Middleton Schools! We are excited to be able to expand what we offer to students this year with the passing of the supplemental levy. A budget workshop will be held next week to set priorities for adding items back into the budget. The budget will be amended, and the new budget will be prepared for adoption at the September 14th board meeting. One item that has already been added back in is transportation for middle school athletics. This adjustment was approved at the special board meeting on August 31st, and takes effect immediately.

With school starting in just one week, we want to communicate some final details regarding our reopening. The Middleton Board of Trustees met Monday night, and determined that Middleton Schools will start in **Category 2 (yellow)** on Tuesday, September 8th.

Our category 2 schedule has students attending school on campus two days per week, and remote learning the remaining two days per week. You should have already received communication from your child(ren)'s school regarding their assigned cohort (Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday). If you have not received this communication, please know that you should receive it by the end of this week.

**The first day of school for the Monday/Tuesday cohort will be Tuesday. The first day of school for the Wednesday/Thursday cohort will be Wednesday.**

Google Chromebooks are being deployed this week to online students, high school students, and middle school students. Elementary schools will receive theirs next week. Please be aware that if you have a child(ren) in kindergarten or first grade face to face, their chromebook deployment will be delayed. We are optimistic that these students will receive Chromebooks by the end of September. In the meantime, first grade and kindergarten students will be provided with kits to expand at home learning for their remote days.

We are very excited to open with face to face instruction next week. In an effort to continue face to face learning for as long as possible, we have incorporated many precautions into our reopening plans that will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The more successful we are at containing spread, the longer we will be able to keep students in our school buildings. We understand that some of what we are asking is outside normal protocol, but please remember we are in a school year that is outside the norm.

If you are bringing your child(ren) to school on their first day, please make plans to tell them goodbye outside of the school buildings. We will be asking that parents do not enter schools unless absolutely necessary. Also, when dropping off your children, please be cognizant of social distancing.

We encourage you to talk to your students about what they can do to help keep themselves and others healthy before they return to school. This conversation will mirror and reinforce what they are hearing at school. Consider the following points to guide conversations.

- Wash hands often and use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not possible
- Avoid touching your face
- Social distance as much as possible
- Wear a face covering when social distancing isn't possible
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze (preferably by the inside of your elbow)

It is imperative that you keep your child(ren) home when they are sick. Temperature checks will be done prior to students entering school buildings each day. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be sent home, and will not be permitted to return until they have been fever free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine. Please do not send your child(ren) to school if they are not feeling well - this includes: fever, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, cough, and/or shortness of breath. Similarly, please do not send your child(ren) to school if they have been exposed to someone who is currently sick or presumed to be sick with COVID-19.

If your child becomes sick at school, they will be sent home. Students will be kept in a private area until they are picked up. Please ensure that you have contingency plans in place to have your child picked up in a timely manner if they become sick at school. **If your child(ren) is sick, and you do have them tested for COVID-19, please notify the school office in the case of a positive result so that we may isolate the incident to the best of our ability.** In accordance with our reopening plan, please note that students who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who have not been tested, but were directed to stay home from school may return to school under the following conditions per CDC guidelines:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as; resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath) **and**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

If your child(ren) is enrolled in our online school, please be aware that families should receive communication from online teachers no later than this Friday, September 3rd. This correspondence should welcome students to class and share basic housekeeping information with parents including how to communicate with online teachers and their availability for

consistent office hours. After receiving this communication, students and parents should have a good idea of what to expect this year in terms of online learning with each teacher. **Please remember to consistently check your spam folders for school correspondence.**

We want to remind you that at the end of last year, Middleton School District lost our Provision II status. This means that breakfast for students at school is no longer free. Students will be charged to eat breakfast at school, but free/reduced rates will still apply if you are a qualifying family. Our Provision II was lost because we do not have a high enough percentage of students in Middleton School District that qualify for free/reduced lunch. **We also want you to be aware that students will still be able to access school breakfast and lunch on remote days. This access will also apply to students that are taking courses online only.** This service will not begin until the 2nd week of school, but regular meal service for students present on campus will be available as usual beginning the first day of school. Please watch for more information to come regarding pick-up, drive thru, and availability.

Lastly, we want to extend a huge thank you to our staff. They have worked tirelessly to prepare to teach students to learn in a way that they have never done before! Our teachers are very excited to welcome students back, but they are also very nervous about the increased expectations and steep technology learning curve. Please practice patience and understanding as we head into this year. If one thing is for sure, it is that we won't be without mistakes! Also just a friendly reminder that **no Middleton School District materials should be copied, reproduced, or shared in any fashion, including social media, by students or parents without the prior written consent from Middleton School District administration.** We thank you in advance for your grace as we embark on this new school year. We are so excited to welcome you back!

Sincerely,  
Middleton School District

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PLEASE BE ADVISED....

The following information was previously sent out, but we have included it again in case you missed it. Middleton School District will be closely monitoring the daily incident rate (seven day rolling average for the city of Middleton zip code 83644) as offered by Southwest District Health. This rate can be viewed by any individual by clicking on the link below. Once you have accessed the page, select "daily incident rate by zip code" to view the information MSD is monitoring. <https://phd3.idaho.gov/covid19/#1593641643692-21d16ea6-2570>

The daily incident rate by zip code issues a color coded level of Covid-19 community spread. It is important to note that the color coding scheme created by Southwest District

Health does not directly correlate to the categories and colors identified in the MSD Covid-19 Reopening Plan. Generally speaking, the correlation from Southwest categories to MSD categories will be the following, however, the Middleton Board of Trustees may from time to time make allowances that may be outside this correlation based on a number of factors.

SWDH grey= MSD green

SWDH yellow = MSD yellow

SWDH orange= MSD yellow or red

SWDH red= MSD red

Although the board has determined that school will start in category 2 (yellow), this will be re-evaluated again on Wednesday, September 9th, and every two weeks thereafter taking into account the metric referenced above in conjunction with our rates of absenteeism, and substitute availability. If it is determined on a Wednesday that a change in categories will be made, that change will take effect the following Monday. We are hopeful that this window of time will allow for staff members and families to make adequate plans and prepare for the upcoming change.