

# Middleton School District #134

Kristin M Beck Ed.S. Interim Superintendent, Human Resources, and Communications  
5 South Viking Drive, Middleton, ID 83644 Phone (208) 585-3027 Fax (208) 585-3028

August 21, 2020

Dear MSD Parent/Guardian,

Thanks for bearing with us as we determine the final details before we reopen schools. The Middleton Board of Trustees met Wednesday afternoon, which has enabled us to share some additional information with you regarding our category of reopening, and timeline of assessment to determine our category of operation throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

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

The Middleton Board of Trustees plans to evaluate the metric above every two weeks. Currently zip code 83644 is yellow, if we were starting school now, we would be reopening in Category 2 (yellow) of the MSD plan. The school board will re-evaluate this metric on August 31st, and at that time, it will be determined and announced what category MSD will open on September 8th. The board will re-evaluate the metric 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.

The Middleton Board of Trustees also continued their discussion regarding whether or not to require students and/or staff to wear face coverings. The board plans to amend the MSD COVID-19 Reopening Plan to state that students and staff may be asked to wear masks when social distancing cannot be achieved. We want to continue to encourage face coverings, as we believe this measure, along with others, will have a direct impact on our ability to remain open for face to face instruction and interaction with students.

Although it is always our preference that parents keep their children home when they are sick, we want to especially reiterate the importance of keeping your children home when sick this school year. It is our goal to keep our doors open to staff and students for as long as possible, keeping your children home when they are not feeling well will allow schools to stay open longer with lower transmission levels of all illnesses. Likewise, encouraging your children to wear masks will also help us to keep our staff and students well, reduce the likelihood of needing to quarantine staff and/or students for long periods of time, and will allow us to remain operational for longer with face to face instruction. The circumstances regarding each positive case of COVID-19 dictate the steps the school district will need to follow in an effort to contain spread. Large group quarantines will be less likely if masks are being worn and social distancing is maintained when possible. Please help us by talking with your children about face coverings and social distancing when possible, as well as the importance of thorough handwashing, and use of hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible.

The 2020-2021 school calendar was just recently amended and approved by the Board of Trustees. The calendar was amended to reflect our delayed start, and the insertion of student instructional days that were missed in August and September due to the late start. The new calendar may be found on the Middleton School District website.

**Registration for our online school will close on Monday, August 31st. We have closed our online registration, and ask that parents contact school offices if a change needs to be made.** We are excited to additionally welcome two new full time staff members to our online school, as well as, our Instructional Specialists who will also be helping to teach online students.

Ms. Pam Gibba- Math  
Ms. Tina Bentley- ELA  
Ms. Kelly Cooke- ELA  
Ms. Kim Brocke- ELA  
Ms. Kelly Stauffer- Health  
Ms. Sarah Thompson- ELA

As noted in previous communication, we have a combination of teachers assigned to our online school. Some teachers are MSD staff while others are from the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA). Elementary school students will only be assigned to MSD certified elementary teachers. Middle school and high school teachers will be assigned to a combination of MSD

and IDLA certified teachers. **We want to communicate in advance that IDLA classes will not start until Monday, September 14th, all other classes will start in conjunction with our school calendar on Tuesday, September 8th.**

Lastly, we want to pass on a list of resources to you if you are needing to secure daycare for this coming school year. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, these daycares currently have open enrollment and asked that we share their information with parents:

KidZone Christian Preschool and Daycare  
3 W Concord St. Middleton, ID 83644  
208-585-3505

Little Leggs  
1046 West Main St Middleton, ID 83644  
208-585-9063

Stepping Stones  
12228 W Bridget Bay Dr. Star, ID 83669  
208-286-9362

We look forward to welcoming our students back in two weeks, we hope you enjoy the last few days of summer!

Sincerely,  
Middleton School District