

Middleton School District #134
Kristin M Beck Ed.S. Interim Superintendent

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August 7, 2020

Dear MSD Parent/Guardian,

We want to provide you with a quick update as to our current standing with regard to the start of the school year. As you are likely aware, Southwest District Health has continued to issue a category 3 (red) rating for Canyon County indicating substantial community transmission of COVID-19. Last week we released correspondence projecting a category 2 (yellow) start for Middleton School District. Although we knew this projection was optimistic, we remained hopeful about the possibility of starting school with students in our buildings.

Due to the continuation of high numbers of community transmission, and positivity in testing, it is becoming increasingly evident that our reality may not be what we had hoped for, and that MSD will likely be starting school in category 3 (red) of our reopening plan. We are working to amend our reopening plan to include some very limited face to face time with students as opposed to 100% remote learning. We want to continue to preface that we believe it is best for our students to be in school, and that some time is better than no time.

MSD is additionally considering a delayed start date. Consideration is being given to a later start date for multiple reasons including the following:

- Adequate time to properly train staff for what is ahead in a way that sets both students and staff up for success when school does start
- Additional time for instructional staff to make shifts with regard to instructional design that will best suit learners in a category 2 (yellow) or category 3 (red) environment
- Additional time for the arrival and proper installation of instructional technology for teachers, and adequate time for the deployment of devices
- Adequate time to plan and adjust for changes in staffing and staff responsibilities
- Additional time to allow for the possibility of decreased COVID-19 transmission levels that would permit us to start school in category 2 (yellow) rather than category 3 (red)

The MSD Board of Trustees will be meeting Monday night at 6:00pm. Both the amendment to our reopening plan, and the start date for MSD will be considered. Last week our correspondence indicated that we would be notifying families of their assigned cohort for student attendance this week. Because the cohorts will change under category 3 (red) to further reduce numbers on school campuses, we will not release cohort assignments until after a decision has been made Monday night in regards to the amended reopening plan and start date.

As always, please know that we appreciate your patience as we work to propose the best solutions to protect the health and safety of both staff and students.

Sincerely,
Middleton School District