

July 25, 2020

MLP Announces Learning Models for the 20-21 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to share the decisions that have been made based on the results from the recent Staff and Parent/Guardian Surveys. The survey results will be sent in a separate email. Our re-opening plan will be continually evolving, and I vow to keep you informed of all details as they are developed.

We have selected to implement the 50/50 Learning Model, as it was one of the options presented by the State and has been adopted by many other districts in NJ and across the U.S. We had a total of 175 families complete the survey, representing 268 students. About 90% of the families selected the 50/50 Learning schedule to be 2 days back-to-back in-person learning in school, and 3 consecutive days of remote learning from home. As explained in the previous letter, you will also have the choice to select Full-Time Remote Learning for your child or children. Of those parent surveys that were submitted, almost 90 children will not be returning to school as their families have chosen full-time remote learning for them. The reasons varied from the schedule not being suitable for families, to parents/guardians not feeling safe that their child would be in school during a pandemic.

You will be given the choice next week to officially select from the 2 options below.

Option #1. Full-Time Remote Learning, as Requested by a Family

Families can choose this option based on their concerns about the potential for virus exposure because of their children being in the school building. This option may be selected because:

- the parent/guardian does not feel safe sending their child to school during the pandemic,
- the child is in a high-risk category due to their own health condition,
- the child lives with a family member who is in a high-risk category due to a health condition,
- the child lives with a family member who is an essential employee.

A combination of live and pre-recorded instruction will be provided for all subject areas through distance learning. Teacher-directed activities will fulfill 3-5 hours per day depending on the grade of the child. Specific schedules will be released to each family in September.

Option #2. 50/50 Learning

Students receive a combination of in-person instruction for 2 **full-days** per week at school, and remote learning at home for 3 days per week. Students will be with the same group all day (a cohort). This will reduce contact with shared surfaces and allow for a targeted quarantine when positive cases arise. Following CDC guidance, local health department recommendations and proposed Board policies related to COVID-19, in this option children must:

- wear a mask on the school buses,
- have their temperature taken every morning prior to entering the school bus or the school building,
- wear a mask in the hallways,
- wear a mask in the classroom because social distancing cannot be achieved,
- due to a rigorous cleaning schedule, students must follow a bathroom schedule,
- adhere to increased routine handwashing and sanitizing,
- be isolated if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms & get picked up within 30 minutes of determining illness.

Students will be on an A/B Schedule.

If your child is in **GROUP A**:

Monday & Tuesday IN-SCHOOL	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday REMOTE FROM HOME
8:00am-2:40- In-person learning	A structured schedule of live instruction with teachers through Zoom sessions and pre-recorded teacher videos, web links, skills programs, and/or selected choice activities. Students will also receive small group and/or individual sessions for tutoring, specialized support, and teletherapy services.

If your child is in **GROUP B**:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday REMOTE FROM HOME	Thursday & Friday IN-SCHOOL
A structured schedule of live instruction with teachers through Zoom sessions and pre-recorded teacher videos, web links, skills programs, and/or selected choice activities. Students will also receive small group and/or individual sessions for tutoring, specialized support, and teletherapy services.	8:00am-2:40- In-person learning

Based on the recommendations contained in the surveys, as well as the number of families who have informally stated that they will not be sending their children to school, the details of the learning plan have changed slightly:

- the 2-days students will attend school will be FULL school days,
- preschoolers will attend school 4-days per week for full school days,
- many Special Education students will attend school 4-days per week for full school days, *(a case manager will be in touch to determine if your child is eligible),*
- students will eat lunch at school,
- students will be in a “cohort”, and will not change classes or groups all day, and
- we are currently exploring options to offer limited after-school care in our cafeteria.

Families will be asked to commit to either the 50/50 Learning Model or the Full-Time Remote Model for each of your children. A separate link will be sent next week to give you time to review the details in this letter.

The NJDOE and Governor’s office are still producing other facets of the re-opening plan guidance for school districts. I understand it is difficult to be patient while waiting for all the details. Please remember that children are the most successful when their families and educators are partners in their learning. I ask for your patience with me as I am working hard to get you the information you need in a timely manner.

There is no perfect plan for a risk-free environment. We will continue to monitor this situation and adjust our plan and learning schedules accordingly. These Learning Models provide an opportunity to begin our journey back to school cautiously, with an abundance of optimism, that we will be able to increase class-sizes and the number of days students are in school in the near future.

Sincerely,

Shelley Magan

Dr. Shelley Marie Magan, Chief School Administrator