

**District Office**

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Milan Area Schools

*Founded on Tradition – Focused on Excellence*

November 17, 2020 - COVID-19 Instructional Model Update

Milan Area Schools Families,

On November 15, 2020, due to an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases, The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced that all high school students across the state must shift to remote learning effective November 18, 2020. The MDHHS pandemic order dictates that in-person high school learning cannot take place, and instead, all high schools must transition to full remote instruction. During their hybrid instructional periods on Monday and Tuesday, high school teachers prepared their students for this shift to remote instruction. The MDHHS order continues through December 8, 2020. Barring any extensions of the MDHHS order, high school students will return to hybrid instruction on December 9, 2020. Full virtual high school students may experience some changes to their daily schedule during the shift, but a return to the hybrid model will also return full virtual students to their previous schedule as well. It should be noted that all athletic practices/contests and extracurricular activities are suspended from November 18th through December 8th.

At their meeting on November 17, 2020, the Board of Education received an update on the district's Extended Continuity of Learning (ECOL) plan. The update included:

- A review of student's two way communications with teachers (student attendance)
- An update on the Milan Area Schools COVID Case Dashboard
- A discussion of the MDHHS School Decision Matrix for In-Person Instruction
- Staffing concerns caused by COVID quarantines and substitute shortages

Following the update, the Board of Education voted to shift ECSE, GSRP, Young 5's, and K-8 students to remote instruction effective November 30, 2020 (following Thanksgiving Break). For these groups, the current model of hybrid instruction will continue through Tuesday, November 24th. At this time, these programs are scheduled to return to hybrid instruction on December 9, 2020. Full virtual middle school students may experience some changes to their daily schedule during the shift, but a return to the hybrid model will also return full virtual students to their previous schedule as well. Full virtual elementary students should not be affected by this shift.

This decision was not taken lightly by Superintendent Girbach or the Board of Education. The district values face-to-face instruction, but the current COVID data and the sheer number of cases and quarantines across the country dictate that we must shift from the hybrid model to remote instruction.

Beginning November 30, 2020 all MAS students will be involved in remote learning. Building principals and teachers will be sharing detailed daily schedules with their students. To ensure that everyone can successfully access curriculum materials and to learn if additional support is needed, principals, teachers, and other staff members will be communicating with district families as we make this transition.

Many traditional school services will remain available while buildings are closed to in-person instruction. Families are encouraged to reach out to teachers, office staff, or building principals should they need help. Services include (but are not limited to):

- Technology assistance (for both students and parents)
- Food service distribution
- Social-emotional support (e.g. counseling, behavioral support, crisis intervention)
- Special Education and English Language Learner support

Please do not hesitate to contact your school building office if you have any questions. Offices will remain safely open for the duration of the closure. We will continue to keep you updated as information becomes available.

In the meantime, please continue to follow all COVID-19 health and safety recommendations from the [Washtenaw Health Department](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

We know our students, staff, and community have done an incredible job of keeping our schools open safely for hybrid instruction. We also know that doing our part now will support the greater good. You have been incredible partners through this pandemic and I have no doubt we will continue to get through this together. Thank you again for your support.

Thank you,

*Bryan M. Girbach*

Bryan M. Girbach  
Superintendent

November 18	MHS Hybrid Students Shift to Remote Instruction
November 30	ECSE, GSRP, Young 5's, and K-8 Students Shift to Remote Instruction
December 9 *	All Hybrid Students Return to Hybrid Instruction (if determined appropriate)

\* The district will continuously monitor MDHHS Epidemic Orders and local COVID data. Any changes to the plans described above will be communicated to families in a timely manner.