



Sharon City School District

Office of the Superintendent

December 31, 2020

Sharon City School District Families, Staff and Community Friends,

As we approach the end of 2020, I want to again thank you for your patience and understanding as we have navigated this extraordinary year. I know this year, with all of its ups and downs, has been like nothing any of us have experienced before, so please know how grateful we are to have been in this together. Our remarkable staff, our resilient learners and our community have bolstered us as we have worked to meet the challenges posed by this pandemic.

Because there is no question that the best place for most of our students is at school in face-to-face instruction, we are announcing today that **the Sharon City School District schools will re-open for in-person instruction on Monday, January 4, 2021**. Know that keeping our schools open is dependent upon our ability, as a community, to achieve and maintain a lower virus incidence rate. This decision has been made after consulting with the PA Department of Education and Department of Health and reviewing the most recent two weeks of COVID-19 data for Mercer County, which shows a downward trend in both the number of positive cases and in the percentage of those tested being found positive.

What does this mean for your student(s)?

Students enrolled in grades K-12 for in-person instruction will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 4, 2021. Elementary students will report at 9:30 A.M. and Middle/High School students at 9:00 A.M.

Students enrolled in grades K-12 virtually will continue to learn remotely. There will be no change to this schedule. Please note that with the return to in-person instruction our staff will once again have limited availability between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. daily.

Mercer County Career Center (MCCC) students are to follow their Sharon High School morning schedule. MCCC will announce plans for attendance for our MCCC students directly.

Additional Guidelines

- Students who are ill or who have been exposed to COVID-19 over the holiday break should NOT report to school on January 4, 2021.
- Please stay home even if your symptoms are minor if you think you may have been exposed COVID-19.
- We request that families report any cases of COVID-19 related to our students or their immediate family members to our school nurses as soon as possible, so that we can appropriately contact trace and provide reporting to the PA Department of Health.
- All students have the option to shift to remote learning instead of returning to school for in-person instruction during this return.
- If a student is shifting from in-person to virtual learning or from virtual to in-person, we ask that you complete the online form (link attached) by 5:00 P. M. on Sunday, January 3, 2021 so that we can appropriately plan. Change of Option Link:
<https://forms.gle/E6ec6zzK3NTuXPU18>
- With the beginning of the second semester (January 20, 2021) all families will have the opportunity to review and change learning modes if requested.

Athletics and Activities

As per the Governor's order, our athletic and all extra-curricular activities including practices have been suspended until 8 a.m. on January 4, 2021. Mr. Revale, our Athletic Director, will contact coaches prior to starting any competitions or practices.

While we are committed to reopening schools for in-person learning using all available safety protocols, if COVID-19 cases increase in our community, we may have to close individual schools or the entire District and return to complete virtual learning. When making these determinations, we will continue to monitor the Mercer County and Sharon City School District COVID-19 incidence rate, as well as direction from local, state, and federal health officials.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your patience and partnership. I am confident that 2021 will be better and I believe we will be returning to normal as the vaccine becomes readily available. My New Year's wish is that 2021 is a better year for us all.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Calla

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Superintendent