



COVID-19 has rearranged every routine imaginable. Schools are certainly not exempt. While disruptive, the pandemic is presenting us with an opportunity to respond collectively and creatively as we consider student needs for the fall. Many families are ready to get their children back to the traditional school model as quickly and safely as possible. Others still have major safety concerns and believe sending their children back to the classroom is too risky. As there are many held opinions on the matter, we want to assure families that there will be options for the fall. We are committed to providing the necessary programming to support students continuing their education as Cardinals, Cougars, Coyotes, Mohawks, Warriors, and Wildcats. These program models will be designed around the different challenges facing our students, families, and school communities. Options are likely to include remote learning, face to face instruction, and full virtual programs.

For quite some time, we have anxiously awaited guidance from the governor's office in order to best prepare for students' returning to classrooms. The guidance, titled MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap (R2SR), was released on Tuesday, June 30. The following Wednesday, all local district superintendents within the MOISD met to discuss the content of the plan, the need for consistency across districts, and how to utilize the guidelines in preparation for face to face instruction in the fall.

We are committing to these ideas collaboratively because we believe that collectively pooling resources, ideas, and efforts will result in the absolute best programming for our respective communities. Throughout the entire pandemic and now as we move forward, we will rely on the most current information coming out of Lansing, from the governor's office as well as from the Department of Education. We have and will continue to gather input from key stakeholders as decisions are made, and options are developed. Our collaboration is designed to pull information from best practices, explore each angle, to consider every option, and plan for as many contingencies as possible.

As was mentioned earlier, COVID has provided an impetus to reimagine school in new and creative ways. We desire that every student within the Mecosta-Osceola ISD community be provided the safest, best educational opportunity possible, regardless of the format. This letter is an assurance to our school communities that we are working intelligently and diligently in preparation for the fall and look forward to this journey together.

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