



August 14, 2020

Dear Elementary Families,

Thank you for providing your information on the "Parent Decisions Survey." The updates are very helpful.

As I have been speaking with parents today, I have been asked why it was so important to have a firm commitment from elementary parents, when the Middle School and High School do not need a firm commitment. The difference is due to how instruction will be provided in the different schools.

The MS/HS is using a hybrid model to reduce the number of students in the building at any given time. Each teacher is teaching some students in the room and some students via the computer at the same time. This system can work well for older students.

Younger students need a greater level of teacher attention and support, so we are not using this model. We see a real benefit by providing as much in-person instruction (every day) as possible. Also, we will have teachers dedicated to "in-person" students and teachers dedicated to "remote" students. This is why we need to know, because student groups, staff assignments, and even room locations will be determined based on the number of "remote" and "in-person" requests at every grade level.

A potential challenge occurs if a number of families ask to "go remote" after we have planned space for them in an in-person class; adjustments might lead to reassigning staff, which would mean taking a teacher away from in-person instruction and re-assigning the children in that room to new teachers. This is the consequence I am trying to avoid, as it would be upsetting for children.

I hope this clarifies an important question. I have appreciated the conversations with parents who called or emailed me. Please continue to complete the survey, and enjoy your weekend.

Sincerely,
Peter Mahan
Elementary Principal