

Dear Parents and Families,

As you may be aware, the number of COVID-19 cases, infection rate, and hospitalizations are on the rise. We have continually used school and district data to safely maintain in-person learning. While transmission of COVID-19 has not occurred in schools, given the number of staff members and students in quarantine due to both school-mandated quarantines due to close contact and quarantines as a result of community contact, it is becoming increasingly difficult to staff our schools and ensure continuous and quality learning experiences for all students. In addition, our ability to contact trace effectively is being hindered by the increased time required to receive individual test results.

Given these circumstances, Manchester Public Schools will move to full remote learning at all grade levels beginning on Monday, December 14, 2020. I do not make this decision lightly as I realize it creates a number of challenges for our students, families, and staff. However, in the interest of health and safety, the move to full remote is one we must make. In the full remote model, students follow the same schedule as the hybrid model except students are online with teachers. At this time, we plan to remain in the full remote model through Friday, January 8, 2021. Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus our plans may be subject to change based on the situations in individual schools.

On Monday, January 11, 2021 we plan to return to full in person learning PK-4 and to the hybrid model in grades 5 - 12.

Meals will continue to be available at Bennet, Buckley, Waddell, and Manchester High School. Families can pick up breakfast and lunch at the times below.

Bennet	11:00 am - 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Buckley Elementary School	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Manchester High School	12:00 pm - 1:00pm and 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Waddell Elementary School	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Supplies and materials for students in grades PK - 8 will be sent home from schools in the next few days. For students at Bowers and Keeney, we are working on a material distribution schedule. All students should be accustomed to bringing their devices to and from school daily so those will be sent home as well. While we are remote, any families who experience problems with devices should contact the Family IT Helpdesk using this [link](#) or call or text 860-682-0607 (M-F; 8:00 am-3:00 pm). Please do not contact the schools for technology issues.

I am aware of the numerous challenges thrust upon us all during the past nine months and I am most appreciative of the efforts of school staff and families to work together to ensure quality learning experiences for all students. I am confident our continued work as partners will support students' remote learning over the next few weeks.