



Office of Superintendent

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Dear MJSD Families,

We are happy to tell you that in cooperation with the Menasha Health Department we have decided to bring all of our grades 6-12 students back into school for full time, in-person instruction five days per week starting on Monday, March 8th. Students who are 100% virtual will remain virtual through the end of the school year.

The following points were considered in the decision to return to full time in-person learning:

- The two-week burden rate for the City of Menasha continues to show a consistent downward trend and will be below 150 this week. (There have been only 10 cases of COVID in Menasha in the past seven days. This is down from almost 140 cases per week in mid October.)
- Very few positive cases have been attributed to in-District spread with the majority of the cases originating outside of our buildings.
- We have consistently been able to implement the recommended mitigation strategies throughout our schools.
- We will continue to practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible, as recommended by the CDC, but this will become more challenging as we bring the cohorts together.
- Our needs for substitute teachers and staff have been manageable in recent weeks.
- Over a hundred of our staff members have been fully vaccinated and the remainder will have an opportunity to be vaccinated in the near future; some as soon as March 1st depending on availability of vaccine.

While we are excited to take this next step toward a more “normal” school setting, it will be important to understand that we are far from being done with COVID 19. Masks will still be required for students at school and hand sanitizing, social distancing (where possible), maximum ventilation in buildings, and thorough nightly cleanings will continue to be parts of our routine. I must also emphasize that students be screened by their family each morning prior to coming to school and that students who

are sick must not be allowed to attend school. This will help us minimize the need to quarantine students and/or staff as close contacts of infected individuals.

We will communicate again early next week with any necessary additional details, but in the meantime please contact your school office with any questions. We will use the next week to adjust transportation, food service, building maintenance, classrooms, CLC, and school nurses to meet the needs of our students.

Thank you for your continued patience through these interesting times. If we keep working together we can get through this pandemic and keep our children, families, and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Chris L. VanderHeyden

Chris L. VanderHeyden
Superintendent

For more information please visit:

City of Menasha COVID-19 info: <https://www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov/departments/health/covid-19.php>

MJSD COVID webpage <https://www.mjsd.k12.wi.us/district/district/covid-19>

Learn more: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm>