

# TERRILL MIDDLE SCHOOL



PHONE: (908) 322-5215

FAX: (908) 322-6813

Dr. Kevin Holloway  
*Principal*

Mr. Ralph Gerace  
*Assistant Principal*

March 2, 2021

Dear Middle School Families,

As Dr. Mast shared in her [correspondence on March 1st](#), we will now be combining Cohorts A & B starting on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Those students who have been attending school 2x per week will attend school 5x per week. **There will be no additional changes to the daily instructional schedule at this time. All students will continue to have both a morning and afternoon class schedule [according to the hybrid schedule they are currently following](#).**

Here is a timeline for the next month, key deadlines for requesting a change, and some clarifying information regarding this next step:

**[CLICK HERE FOR A CALENDAR VIEW OF THE KEY DATES AND DEADLINES BELOW.](#)**

March 3rd:

First in-person Wednesday for Cohort A. Cohort B will be remote.

March 8th:

**NEW** deadline for parents to contact [Dr. Dumaresq](#) or [Dr. Holloway](#) to request a change from Cohort C to in person. This change will still take effect on March 22nd. This will still be identified in PowerSchool as Track A, B, D, or E depending on initial cohort assignment.

**Please note this is a change from the original March 15th deadline.** Because our pivot to a 5-day weekly schedule will potentially double the number of students in certain classrooms, it is necessary to move up our in person opt-in deadline in order to have more time to prepare our classrooms.

March 10th:

First in-person Wednesday for Cohort B. Cohort A will be remote.

March 15th:

Students currently enrolled in Cohorts A & B (as of March 1, 2021) will begin to attend school 5 days per week.

March 22nd:

Students who have switched from Cohort C to in person learning by the March 8th deadline begin attending school Monday through Friday.

**March 29th - April 2nd: SPRING BREAK**

April 5th - April 9th:

Remote instruction for ALL students to provide a quarantine period.

April 12th:

All in person students return; deadline for parents/guardians to contact their principal to request a change from Cohort C to in person. This change will take effect on April 19th.

April 19th:

Students who have switched from Cohort C to in person learning by the April 12th deadline begin attending school Monday through Friday.

There will be ONE final opportunity to opt in to in person learning for the duration of the 20-21 school year. Principals must be notified by April 30th for a FINAL in person return date on May 10th. Any student who stays in remote learning after May 10th will remain virtual for the rest of the year.

**As always, students currently in Cohorts A, B & D may move to Cohort C (fully remote) at any time. A parent or guardian should contact the principal directly with this request. It is important to know that students going from in person learning to remote learning can only return to in person learning at the next in person entry date as outlined above.**

**ATTENDANCE UPDATE:** Ensuring the health and safety of our school community is our number one priority. Every morning before the student reports to school, the parent/guardian must accurately complete the Daily Symptom Screening in Powerschool.

If your child is too ill to attend school or classes due to COVID 19 or any other general illness, the parent/guardian must call the school attendance line and report the specific reason for the absence and the student will be marked absent.

Students who are scheduled to attend in person instruction (Cohorts A & B), but are not present in school, will be marked absent. There may be instances when a student may be permitted to log in and attend class remotely without being marked absent. For example, a student in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, or a student who is generally feeling well but has been ordered by their health care provider to recuperate at home after a contagious illness or medical/surgical procedure. Reporting the specific reason for the absence will assist the nurses and administrators in determining if temporary remote learning is appropriate and what, if any, return to school protocols need to be followed.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING UPDATE:** It is important to note that while the Centers for Control (CDC) does encourage Social Distancing of at least 6 feet apart between individuals, this will not be possible in all areas. There will be classrooms and other areas where students will be closer than 6 feet due to the number of students in relation to the size of the classroom/area. In some cases this might mean sharing a table with another student, separated by a desk shield. This makes the wearing of masks and other safety measures of utmost importance. We will be equipping classrooms with desk shields where 6 feet of social distancing is not possible.

As we continue to pivot, our success remains a collaborative effort. We understand that it is important that we continue our life's routines, but it is equally important we continue to engage in Covid safe practices outside of school. This includes but is not limited to walking to and from school socially distanced, and wearing a mask when interacting with peers. Please help us reinforce this message with your middle school student.

**MASKING UPDATE:** Because student desks will very likely be spaced closer than 6 feet, mask wearing is the single most important safety routine to follow. We recommend closely examining the fit of your child's mask. Specifically, masks should completely cover the nose and mouth, fit snugly against the sides of the face, not have any gaps, and have multiple layers. ([Refer to the CDC guidance for more information.](#)) One way to ensure a mask has multiple layers is to "double mask" by wearing a disposal mask under a cloth one.

We are hopeful that the mitigation measures we have in place, such as universal masking, screening procedures, social distancing, enhanced cleaning procedures, and other precautions, will have their intended effect and reduce or minimize the risk of transmission in the school environment. We encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms

Finally, the administrative team would like to express our deep appreciation to the commitment of our staff throughout this pandemic. Throughout the past year, we have asked a great deal of these professionals. They have completely adapted their instructional strategies to pivot to all remote learning, balanced the needs of in person and virtual learners simultaneously, and rigorously upheld our health and safety protocols to prevent in school transmission. *Thank you* to all of the teachers, custodians, secretaries, instructional aides, nurses, counselors, and lunch aides who have made this next step to bring our students back possible!

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr. Dumaresq, Dr. Holloway, Ms. Morano, and Mr. Gerace