

November 20, 2020

Medina City Schools,

We have spent a lot of time over the past week contemplating the best decision for Medina City Schools as we move into the holiday season and the end of the first semester. The academic and social-emotional needs of our students is a top priority. In addition to academics, we also feel a high level of responsibility for the health and safety of our students and staff. The pandemic has created a situation where it has been a continuous balancing act between the two.

This week I have participated in multiple meetings with Medina County Superintendents, the Medina County Health Department, the Summit County Health Department, and Akron area Superintendents. The majority of these conversations have focused on how to proceed through the holiday season with increased cases occurring across the state. The feedback from the other districts and area Health Departments is very important as we navigate the decision-making process and what is best for Medina City Schools.

During discussions with the other districts, our current numbers are higher than those surrounding the Medina City School District. If you visit the [Ohio Coronavirus School Data](#) page you will see that the number of active cases in the District is among the highest in the county; far higher than districts in Cuyahoga and Summit counties. While the approaches school districts are taking in the upcoming weeks may vary, we are looking to take preventative measures and move to the [Online 3.0](#) instructional model for the entire District.

The largest challenge we are currently facing is the number of staff that has tested positive or are currently in quarantine. This has created a situation where we have had to move to period substitutes, revolving substitutes and in some instances guidance counselors and principals substituting in classrooms. Due to the lack of consistent substitutes in the classroom, students may not be receiving quality instruction. We feel that moving to [Online 3.0](#) will provide our students with a more structured instructional day.

Following consultation and collaboration with the Board of Education, the District will transition to [Online 3.0](#) from November 30th through January 14th. This will take us through the holiday season providing a quarantine period of time for students and staff following the new year. In addition, it will take us through the end of the first semester and provide a clean start as we begin the second half of the school year. Despite having the timeline mentioned above, we will continue to reassess the COVID situation in the community and the District on a regular basis and adjust our plans accordingly.

In preparation for the move to [Online 3.0](#) districtwide, **Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24** will be mandatory staff work days. **Students will not attend school on those days with the exception of students at Medina High School and Root Middle School as they are currently in the [Online 3.0](#) model. November 30 will be the first day of [Online 3.0](#) instruction.** Parents and guardians of special education students will be contacted by their individual teachers.

District meetings, including those of the Board of Education, will move back to the previous virtual platform used in the spring. Middle School and high school athletics and extracurricular activities continue to be reviewed. Communication will come directly from the athletic department early next week and will provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Aaron Sable, Superintendent