



November 6, 2020

Dear Mill Falls Families,

Good afternoon. We are once again writing with an update regarding COVID-19.

As most of you are aware, there has been a steady and significant increase in daily new positive COVID cases over the last few weeks and therefore in our city's active case load. Manchester has long had the largest caseload in the state, and for the last two weeks, our cases have averaged up and over the metric that most around the country are using to signify significant viral presence in a community – 10 or more cases per 100,000 population. The state is also now seeing increased community spread in many areas, and most counties in the state are in the 'red' zone meaning the case load is significant in relation to the population.

Our families and staff participating in our In-Person Teaching and Learning have been great about following our wellness protocol to help protect us all. We continue to be fortunate – as of this writing, we've had no cases in our school building.

However, at this point, we feel that we need to move to an emergent Full-School Remote Learning Model, given the level of community transmission being reported.

**Therefore, today will be our final in-person day. We will continue to assess the situation, but we will remain in the Full School Remote Learning Model until further notice.**

Please take a moment to carefully review the following details related to our school schedule & Chromebooks.

**NO SCHOOL for Students on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

- We will be working as a staff on Monday to facilitate the transition to the All-School Remote Model, and so there will be **no school on Monday for students**. However, families who do not yet have Mill Falls Chromebooks will be asked to come to school on Monday for their Chromebook pickup (please see more details below).
- As a reminder, **Veteran's Day is on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** and school is closed as previously scheduled. This is a school holiday for both students and staff.

**ALL-SCHOOL REMOTE LEARNING PERIOD BEGINS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

- Beginning Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, we will officially pivot to an emergent All-School Remote Learning Period; there will be no in-person classes.

- This plan, supported by the Mill Falls Board of Trustees, will be in place at least until January 19<sup>th</sup> but may extend beyond that point. We will continue to communicate any and all updates.
- The length of this All-School Remote Learning Period was determined by the rise in numbers, as well as the upcoming holiday period which will likely include travel and gatherings which will greatly increase viral exposure.
- Our Teachers will be sending out a separate email to explain what Remote Learning will look like for those who have been in the Hybrid Learning.
- As mentioned in our last correspondence, we have been hard at work designing our plan for Trimester 2. We hope to be able to expand our hybrid offering once it is safe to do so. At this time, however, given the rising level of COVID cases, our focus will shift largely to the All-School Remote Model.
- We will continue to evaluate this situation and the many variables this virus is presenting to our community and our nation.

### **BACK-ORDERED CHROMEBOOKS HAVE NOW ARRIVED!**

We want to thank those from the bottom of our hearts who helped us bridge this challenging time while we were waiting for our backordered Chromebooks to arrive. And now, with all ordered machines here at school, we urge those families who do not yet have Mill Falls Chromebooks to please plan on picking up their technology loan on Monday.

**On Monday, November 9th between 8am and 3:30pm we will providing technology to all families who have not yet received Mill Falls Chromebook Loans.**

The machines arrived mid-week and we are busy getting them set up and integrated into our school system and ready for distribution. Using a school-loaned Chromebook will greatly support your child/children's schoolwork and independence. Additionally, it will ease any tech support issues that may arise, because we will be able to work with the machines that are part of our system. Those who have not yet acquired these machines, are strongly encouraged to do so.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

As noted above, we have been very fortunate not to have any cases in our school building. From the start of this pandemic, our goal has been to keep our learning community as safe and as healthy as possible. Without our health, running our small but mighty school would be impossible.

We realize this change in learning model may cause many challenges for our families and our staff. We ask for your continued patience and creativity as we all muddle through this period. And of course, we will remain in close communication as the situation continues to unfold.

Stay safe and well, and please stay in touch,

Meryl Levin, Executive Director & Laura Wrubleski, Educational Program Director