



Matthew D. Thompson, Ed.D., Superintendent  
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High Expectations + Compassion = Growth for Every Student

Carmela Fletcher-Green, Board Member  
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1/12/21

Montgomery County Schools Families, Staff and Community,

Montgomery County Schools is prepared to return to in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 utilizing the same hybrid schedule (Blue and Red groups) used earlier in the school year. Blue group attends in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday and then works from home Wednesday through Friday. Red group works from home Monday through Wednesday and attends in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday. However, there are a few 4-day weeks in the calendar coming up over the next month that make it difficult to provide both Blue group and Red group with two days of in-person instruction in those weeks. Thus, in order to provide equity to the number of days per week each group has in-person instruction, please be aware of the following changes:

**Week of 1/18/21 – 1/22/21** – Due to this week being the first week back for in-person instruction we are revising the schedule to allow the Blue group to attend in-person instruction on Wednesday. Normally Wednesdays are NTI for all students to allow our teaching staff the ability to provide support for students working from home. During this week, the Blue group will attend in-person instruction on Tuesday and Wednesday while Red group will attend in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday. This may mean less availability of teaching staff to assist students learning from home on Wednesday. **This change will only apply to this week.**

- Monday (1/18/21) – no school (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Tuesday (1/19/21) – Blue Group in-person
- Wednesday (1/20/21) – Blue Group in-person
- Thursday (1/21/21) – Red Group in-person
- Friday (1/22/21) – Red Group in-person

**Week of 2/1/21 – 2/5/21** – Originally, Monday, February 1, 2021 was a teacher planning day with no instruction for students. However, pending approval by the Montgomery County Board of Education on January 26, 2021, Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> will now become an instructional day for students. The teacher planning day will be moved to Friday, May 28, 2021. Once approved by the Board, the schedule will be:

- Monday (2/1/21) – Blue Group in-person
- Tuesday (2/2/21) – Blue Group in-person
- Wednesday (2/3/21) – NTI for all students
- Thursday (2/4/21) – Red Group in-person
- Friday (2/5/21) – Red Group in-person

At this time, Monday, February 15, 2021 (Presidents' Day) is still scheduled to be a day off for students. Also, as school staff receive the COVID-19 vaccine over the next two months, it is possible that we may need to switch back to virtual instruction on strategic days to address staff dealing with rare cases of symptoms from the vaccine. We will keep everyone updated on this as we move forward. It is our hope that we will see our in-person students next week beginning on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Watch our website and social media channels for more reminders regarding our safety protocols when returning to in-person instruction. Take care!

Matthew D. Thompson, EdD  
Superintendent