

Dear WM Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to give an update on Governor Walz's announcement on Wednesday. Currently, our Safe Return to School Committee and Administrative team is reviewing the updates to the Safe Learning Plan and working through the many details of the plan. Here is what we know as it pertains to our district:

- Schools cannot have more than three grades resume to in-person learning in a two-week period. An example of this would be that schools can return K-2 students on-site on Jan. 18 and then grades 3-5 on Feb. 1.
- School districts still have the option of not going to in-person, if they choose.
- School districts are required to continue in the model they are currently using for middle and high school. Middle and high school grades cannot go to a less restrictive model until after Jan. 18, unless it has already been articulated to the public.
- All sports and youth activities can begin practicing on Jan. 4.

At this time, we hope to begin shifting some grade levels back beginning January 19th, per our existing timeline using a staggered approach. Specific details regarding the learning model transition plan for all K-12 students will be finalized in the coming weeks, after further consultation with our Regional Support Team on January 8th and review of current Covid-19 case data. This information will be communicated to families by the week of January 11th.

We know this has been an extremely difficult school year for our WM families. These new changes continue to challenge us more than we could have imagined. We hope that you and your family begin your holiday break with a sense of excitement and anticipation for a brighter 2021!

Together in Education,

Darren Schuler  
Superintendent