

March 18, 2021

Dear Chenery Families,

We are pleased to update you on the process of bringing Chenery Middle School students back to a full-day 5-day/week schedule for both in-person and remote students. This change will enable us to complete the school year with strong in-person and remote options for our middle school students and will be done in compliance with the DESE requirement to end our hybrid model. There will be an information session for grade 5-8 families on Monday, March 22 at 6:30pm. The link may be found [here](#).

For Grade 5, the transition to full in-person or remote learning will take place as early as April 5 and no later than April 28. The exact date will be announced as soon as possible. For Grades 6-8, the transition will happen on April 28.

The Return to In-Person Learning Working Group met last Monday and began to consider the opportunities and constraints specific to our Chenery students and campus. They heard from Principal Koza about the challenges posed by the large number of Chenery students and specific issues related to the building, campus, and schedule. Many of the guidelines that the Working Group developed for our K-4 students will translate well to our middle school – such as in-person distancing guidelines, bus operations, and lunch protocols – but others require us to consider them through a different lens. Notably, the Working Group is still actively considering a live-streaming model for our remote students, as well as the possibility of remote-only classes. The group has not yet made a final recommendation for a remote learning model but hopes to do so at its next meeting on Monday, March 22.

At this point we need information from families in order to complete our planning work for the Chenery community. Because of the large number of Chenery students and the increased complexity of a middle school schedule (i.e., multiple math class options in the upper school, a variety of music options, moving between different classrooms/teachers, developing a lunch model, etc.) we need to understand how many students will be in-person vs. remote in order to determine our next steps. We understand that it may be difficult for families to make decisions without knowing the details of the remote program and hope you will understand why we are asking for this decision now.

You will receive a survey (one per student) on Friday morning by 9am asking you to choose either the in-person or remote model for your child. We request that your survey be returned by 12 noon on Tuesday, March 23.

Attached is a [Q&A document](#) about our planning to date. If you have additional questions I encourage you to contact [Janice Darias](#) or Principal [Karla Koza](#).

Thank you for your partnership as we work toward a strong end to the school year for all of our Chenery students.

Respectfully,



John P. Phelan
Superintendent of Schools