

March 12, 2021

Dear Families,

Last night we held a Q&A forum for elementary parents who will soon need to choose either full in-person or remote schooling for their children. Beginning April 5, 2021, in accordance with DESE guidance, we will end our hybrid program. Families received a survey this morning and are asked to return it by Tuesday at 11:30 AM indicating their choice of remote or in-person schooling for the remainder of the school year.

Families submitted over 200 questions ahead of last night's Q&A session and an additional 100 questions during the session. This is a testament to the thought and care that we know families are putting into this important decision. For those who weren't able to attend the Q&A session, some FAQs can be found [here](#). Additional information may also be found in [last night's presentation](#) and Tuesday's [presentation to the School Committee](#). Belmont Media Center has also posted a link to the full School Committee meeting [here](#).

We were unable to answer every question during our allotted time last night and appreciate that you may still seek additional information. Please feel free to reach out to any of the following individuals.

- For questions related to specific schools and daily educational routines, elementary school principals [Danielle Betancourt](#), [Seeley Okie](#), [Anita Mecklenburg](#), and [Heidi Paisner-Roffman](#)
- For questions related to lunch, [Dustin O'Brien](#)
- For questions about English learners, [Lindsay Rinder](#)
- For questions about special education, [Ken Kramer](#)
- For general or district-wide questions, [John Phelan](#)

Additionally, families considering the remote school option are invited to meet with me and other members of our team on Monday, March 15th from 9-10am in order to discuss their particular concerns and questions- [Superintendent's Coffee Hour](#).

Principals, teachers, and administrators all appreciate that while this may be an easy decision for some families, it will be very difficult for others. None of us expected to be in this position and all of us are trying to make the best possible choices for our children. I am committed to doing everything I can to ease the difficulty of this transition and to have a successful conclusion to this unprecedented school year. I am grateful to you for your partnership in supporting and educating Belmont children.

Respectfully,



John P. Phelan
Superintendent of Schools
Town of Belmont