



Mount Sinai Union Free School District

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Maureen Poerio
District Clerk/Executive Assistant

Gordon Brosdal
Superintendent of Schools

Lynne Kirchenko
District Treasurer

October 13, 2020

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Weeks ago, I had announced that Phase Two of the Reopening Plan included rotating Wednesdays into the grades 7-12 secondary schedule. Each cohort would attend school on every other Wednesday. Due to the recent COVID cases, among staff and students, and discussions with the Department of Health, Phase Two will be postponed until the beginning of the second quarter, four weeks from the original start date. Wednesday, November 18th. The reasons for this delay are:

- We need to see if the number of cases continue to increase. The Department of Health has now included the quarantining of students in their determinations.
- Currently Wednesday provides a break between the two cohorts and the opportunity to perform an additional scrubbing of the building. The Department of Health has specifically addressed this in each of our Reopening Plans when we had instances of COVID within our schools.
- To accommodate a transition, beginning Wednesday, October 21, remote learning will be provided for all students, not just those deemed as remote. This instruction will be provided according to the teachers' schedules. Students will attend remotely according to their class schedule. Attendance will be taken each day. Failure to attend may result in failing the class and loss of credit. Wednesdays will be considered day three of instruction. The expectation is that five days of instruction will be provided for all.

This is a difficult decision but we are concerned with the consistent increases seen around our community and occurring in our schools. The District realizes that we must get our secondary students back into school as often as possible for in-person instruction. Nothing can replace the interaction between a student and teacher. Please realize that the Wednesday student in-person rotation is temporarily delayed and not eliminated. The increase in cases that we have been experiencing makes us take pause and prompts us to move slower towards this plan.

Unfortunately, we are not seeing a downward trend in COVID-19 cases in New York State. The Governor has already begun closing districts. In order for our schools to remain open, we must prevent any COVID-19 positive trends from occurring.

The social distancing guidelines ordered by the Governor and the Department of Health make it impossible to bring all students back into the high school in person five days per week. We would be in violation of the Governor's Executive Orders. The hybrid schedule allows us the opportunity to bring in half our students two days per week for in-person instruction. The community's cooperation and adherence to existing health restrictions is an important part of our ability to progress in our transition plans.

Stephen Koepper, Vice President
Anne Marie Henninger, Trustee
Edward Law, Trustee

Board of Education
Robert P. Sweeney, President

Lisa Pfeffer, Trustee
Robert Pignatello, Trustee
Peter Van Middelam, Trustee

Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to keep staff and students safe. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Brosdal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gordon" being more prominent than the last name "Brosdal".

Gordon Brosdal
Superintendent of Schools