

Parents/Guardians,

The past few months have been very challenging for all of us. We want you to know that we have been working diligently to ensure that your child(ren) have a good educational experience this upcoming school year. We also know that school may not go back to normal as quickly as we would all like. With that in mind, teachers and administrators have worked hard to create plans that will meet the needs of all students. The following plan will outline the various stages of reopening school in the safest way that we know. We have consulted with other school districts in our area and across the state, the county health department, the Colorado Department of Education as well as community and state leaders in order to create this plan. Our plan has several levels and attempts to address every situation and every plan will eventually ease restrictions with time and with successful implementation.

#### Level 1: (In-person)

This level is the least restrictive plan. It is the plan we hope to employ. We would have students and teachers together in the classroom with restrictions in place. In level one, students will be kept in their “cohorts” as much as possible to reduce risk to other students in different grades.

#### Level 2: (In-Person/Remote Learning Hybrid)

This level will allow us to be in school but is more restrictive than level 1. In this plan, we follow the same restrictions that are in level 1 but, we would limit the number of students allowed in the school at any given time. Level 2 has students split into two sections in each class with each section being allowed to come to the building 2 days per week and being online the other two days of the week. The fifth day would be all students at home with teachers having consultation time and online time with students to answer questions.

#### Level 3: (Remote Learning)

This level would be used if we ever have to close the school. This is the remote learning level. Attached to this message are the elementary and secondary remote learning handbook. This is our worst-case scenario. But this is the scenario if we are shut down and not allowed to have in-person teaching and learning.

## Online Learning Plan

The fourth option is that if you or your child does not want to come into the school due to the risk, we have partnered with Edmentum, Colorado Online Learning System as well as Edgenuity. You would need to work with your building principal to design a plan that works for your child(ren).

Links to all plans are at the bottom of this message.

## Transportation:

The current recommendations allow for 10 students at a time to ride the bus. If we followed that recommendation it would take 16 routes in order to get students to school and home each night. We spoke to county health and asked for a variance. All bus drivers will have to wear face-covering and take the temperature of each student every day as they enter the bus. If the student has a fever of 100.4 or higher he or she will not be allowed to ride nor come to school that day. In order to get more students on the bus, each student will be required to wear face-covering. They will be seated one to a seat in assigned seats. Only family members will be allowed to sit together in the same seat.

## Athletics/activities:

We will continue to have athletics/activities with the current restrictions in place. In level 1 we will follow all restrictions that have been established this summer. The variance for athletics is attached to this document. Activities will follow the same guidelines. Level two we will have to limit the number of athletes and participants of activities allowed to be together according to recommendations from the Colorado High School Activities Association. We will follow the same restrictions for athletics in all activities. Level 3 we will not have athletics or activities.

## Current Athletic Restrictions:

Volleyball

1. Keep practicing the current precautions and health guidelines with the athletes and coaches.
2. Conducting intrasquad scrimmage with 14-15 players and coaches in the gym at the same time.
3. Recommend wearing masks.

#### Boys and girls basketball

1. Keep practicing the current precaution and health guidelines with athletes and coaches.
2. Conduction intrasquad scrimmage (3 on 3) with 15 or less players and coaches in the gym.
3. Recommend wearing masks.

#### Football

1. Keep practicing the current precaution and health guidelines with athletes and coaches.
2. Begin practicing with blocking pads and tackling dummies in pods of 5 players.
3. Sanitizing the equipment following each pod.
4. Recommend wearing masks.

Please keep in mind that we are simply trying to minimize the risk of exposure to Covid-19. We are given certain guidelines to follow that have changed on an almost daily basis. We know that some are ok with facial coverings while others are not. We will follow the recommendations from the state as well as from the health department.

In order to help us prepare for the school year, we are requesting that if you wish to take the online learning plan or if you choose to go on a completely different path (such as another on-line opportunity) to please let us know ASAP so we may plan accordingly.

If you have any questions or if you would like to explore on-line options please contact Mrs. Courtney Rank at [rankc@merinok12.com](mailto:rankc@merinok12.com). Mr. Lonnie Brungardt at [brungardtl@merinok12.com](mailto:brungardtl@merinok12.com) or myself at [sandersr@merinok12.com](mailto:sandersr@merinok12.com).

Thanks,

Rob Sanders

Links to Plans:

[Merino Elementary Reconvening School Plan](#)

[Merino Elementary Remote Learning Handbook](#)

[Merino Jr/Sr High School Reconvening Plan](#)

[Merino Jr/Sr High School Remote Learning Handbook](#)