



April 23, 2021

MBS Family,

The number of Mountain Brook Schools students enrolled in the full-time virtual learning option has declined steadily throughout the 2020-2021 school year. In fact, fewer than 150 students — or approximately 3% of the K-12 student population — remain in the elementary and secondary full-time virtual options. We attribute this trend to multiple factors, including the coronavirus case decline in our school system, expanded vaccine availability, and desire for in-person instruction and peer socialization.

In preparation for the 2021-2022 school year, MBS surveyed all elementary parents in March to help determine the viability of continuing the full-time virtual learning option. Very few respondents indicated they would enroll their student in the option post-pandemic.

Based on this data, along with the diminishing impact of the coronavirus, MBS at this time does not plan to offer a full-time elementary virtual option next school year. However, we are incredibly grateful to the individuals who have served as full-time elementary virtual teachers this school year and are proud of their service to our students. Truly, they have made a profound impact.

At the secondary level, MBS students in grades 8-12 interested in full-time virtual learning will have the opportunity to enroll next school year in the [Mountain Brook Virtual Program](#), which utilizes the Alabama State Department of Education's ACCESS curriculum. The Mountain Brook Virtual Program existed before the pandemic and does not include instruction from MBS teachers. Students interested in ACCESS should contact their school counselor to learn more and determine if it is a good option for them. The registration deadline for the 2021-2022 school year is July 1; limited seating is available.

Notably, Mountain Brook High School provided students the option to enroll in select online courses taught by MBHS teachers during the 2021-2022 course selection process. While no courses generated sufficient student interest, MBS will be working as a district to develop a series of online courses created and staffed by our teachers that we can offer in the future to our secondary students.

If you need to report a positive coronavirus case or possible exposure over one of the school year's remaining weekends, please contact your school nurse directly via email. The MBS COVID-19 Weekend Call Line is no longer operational due to a decrease in use. As always, thank you for your patience and support. We look forward to finishing this school year with as much normalcy as possible.