



January 3, 2021

Good Evening,

All Mountain Brook Schools will be moving to the virtual platform for the first three days of the second semester: Wednesday, Jan. 6, to Friday, Jan. 8.

As we concluded the first semester, we experienced positive coronavirus cases and quarantine numbers that were four times higher than what we had previously recorded. We asked our community to keep reporting positive and quarantine cases over winter break, and the numbers continued to trend upward.

As we return from the holidays, we are actively working to establish the number of students and staff affected during the break. By preventatively moving to a virtual instructional format until Jan. 11, we are allowing a 10-day window from the last major gathering holiday before returning to 100% capacity in our schools. We experienced network issues during our time away from school and were unable to receive updates or use email until today.

The shift will allow time for any student or staff member who has been exposed during a holiday gathering to be tested and seek the necessary medical guidance, if needed. It will also allow our staff to restore certain facets of our network within our school system.

We still believe that our schools are among the safest places for our students and staff, and we want to take steps to ensure they stay that way. By going to the virtual platform for the first three days of the semester, we will be able to assess the number of positive cases and quarantines more effectively, evaluate our ability to staff our schools under this present state, and revive our network capabilities to the fullest potential. Our hope is that taking this step will allow us to reduce potential virus transmission as we begin the second semester. As always, please contact your school nurse if you test positive or have been in close contact with a positive case.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during this increasingly difficult time due to the coronavirus. Let me encourage you to mask, distance, and wash your hands to prevent further virus spread and continue to keep our students in school.

Sincerely,

Dicky Barlow, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Mountain Brook Schools