



January 7, 2021

MBS Family,

We look forward to welcoming our students back to campus when in-person instruction resumes Monday, Jan. 11. To prepare for their return, we have spoken with our faculty and staff about the importance of the three coronavirus mitigation strategies that have carried us through this difficult school year: wearing a mask, watching your distance, and washing your hands.

It is no secret that cases are higher than ever before. With increased hospitalizations and limited hospital capacity, we need to begin the new year by practicing the above measures with renewed vigilance. Our commitment to masking, distancing, and hand-washing will be vital in creating a successful second semester. Before sending your student to school next week, please speak with them about the importance of taking these simple steps.

Additionally, we ask that you exercise caution and adhere to mitigation strategies when interacting with individuals from other families. One of our biggest concerns is activities that occur outside of school. To protect our school system and community, we must take preventive measures seriously both within and beyond our school buildings.

We also remind you to use the [Mountain Brook Schools Symptom Check Tool](#) each day before school. It will help you determine whether your student should attend school or stay home. If you need to get tested, [Interim Healthcare](#) is offering testing on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please contact your school nurse if you test positive or have been in close contact with a positive case. While we know that some individuals are hesitant to report, it is critical that you do report so that we have reliable data upon which to base our decision-making.

Our instructional schedule next week will remain as it was during the first semester. Elementary students will report to school Monday through Friday, while secondary students will report to school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, with a virtual day on Wednesday. As soon as it is feasible, secondary students will return to school on Wednesday with a two-hour delayed start (10 a.m.). We will consider this shift in the coming weeks as we assess our coronavirus numbers.

Mountain Brook Schools is continuing to closely monitor coronavirus data for our school system and county, and will continue to follow guidance from our public health and government officials throughout the second semester. Our chief priority is to make informed decisions that prioritize the health and safety of our school community while ensuring the continued provision of an effective, challenging, and engaging education.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Sincerely,

Dicky Barlow, Ed. D.  
Superintendent  
Mountain Brook Schools