



September 3, 2020

Dear MBS Family,

This year has begun with high levels of excitement and uncertainty. As I'm sure you are aware, our administration, teachers, and staff have been working around the clock to make school as productive and normal as it can be in the COVID-19 world. We knew this year was going to be full of challenges and difficulties; however, as I have walked through the halls of every school, I see our teachers and staff loving your children and working to create an effective learning environment that is thoughtful and caring. If you have a moment, please take time to thank these wonderful people who work with your children every day.

On July 30, we announced our plan to reopen schools and put this plan in place for a minimum of four weeks. We have been working closely with the Jefferson County Department of Health to establish metrics that will help us determine our next steps. While there is no magic number or variable that tells us when all is safe, we will be looking at areas such as percent positive rate in Jefferson County, the number of COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County, the number of cases and quarantines in our local school family, and other measures over a consistent time period. After Labor Day weekend, we hope to communicate more specifically about the metrics that will inform our decision-making regarding a return to school full time. I look forward to sharing that information late next week, but please know we will continually revisit aspects of our plan as we learn from our actual day-to-day experiences and as our healthcare experts learn more and more about the spread of COVID-19.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we walk through this pandemic together. After listening and reading many thoughts and opinions from community members, I think I can say with certainty that we all desire our students to have the opportunity to return safely to school. We will continue to work with the ADPH, JCDH, and State Department of Education to develop a thoughtful, data-supported plan to keep our students, teachers, and staff safely in school. This has been our approach from the beginning of this pandemic and will continue to be until the end.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding during this season. Yes, we do believe this is a season that will come to an end. I hope you and your family have a safe and restful Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Dicky Barlow