



March 18, 2021

MBS Family,

What a difference a year makes. Last March at this time, we were about to enter the most unusual spring break in memory. Trips and events were canceled, groceries were in short supply, and social distancing became a staple of our daily lives. Little did we know that was just the beginning of a challenging pandemic year. Mountain Brook Schools has created an interactive timeline chronicling the school system's journey through the pandemic since it began last March. You can view the [Mountain Brook Schools Coronavirus Timeline here](#) to see how we have navigated the past 12 months.

Thankfully, we appear to be headed to a much more normal spring break this year due to the coronavirus vaccine. I hope that you and your family are able to enjoy a time of rest, either here or elsewhere, over the next week and return ready to finish the school year as strongly as ever. Let me encourage you to continue masking, distancing, and practicing good hygiene even as we step away from school. We would love to come back from the break with as little coronavirus impact as possible.

As a reminder, students at Mountain Brook Junior High and Mountain Brook High School will resume a regular weekly schedule upon returning from spring break on Monday, March 29. All students enrolled in the traditional learning option will attend school Monday through Friday as they would in a normal school year. Even with this transition, MBS remains committed to creating a safe and healthy environment for all students and employees. Our teachers are continuing to reinforce masking, distancing, and good hygiene practices, while our custodians are cleaning our buildings thoroughly on a daily basis.

Furthermore, we are asking for your continued assistance in observing the following:

- Use the [MBS Symptom Check Tool](#) daily.
- Keep your student at home if they are sick.
- Contact your school nurse if your student tests positive for the coronavirus or has been exposed to a positive case.
- Talk to your student about the importance of the Big 3: masking, distancing, and good hygiene.
- Avoid large group social gatherings.

If you need to get tested for the coronavirus, [Interim Healthcare](#) is offering testing on Monday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This testing opportunity will not extend past April 1. If you need to report a positive case or possible exposure over the break, you can text or call the MBS COVID-19 Weekend Call Line at **205-703-1298** from the evening of Friday, March 26, through Sunday, March 28, to connect with a school nurse who can provide guidance. It is very important that you report coronavirus activity so that we have reliable data to aid our decision-making. If you are traveling during the upcoming spring break, you can refer to these [CDC guidelines](#) to help inform your planning.

MBS is continuing to 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 again for your grace, understanding, and flexibility during these difficult times this school year. I hope that you have a wonderful spring break.

Sincerely,

Dicky Barlow, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Mountain Brook Schools