

March 16, 2021

Dear Fayette County Public Schools families:

Just like our clocks, our return to in-person learning leapt forward this week with the arrival of our students in preschool, and grades 7, 8, 10, and 11 at school on Monday. With students at every grade level now back on campus, we feel reconnected and reenergized about the days ahead.

Our community continues to harness the spread of COVID-19, and today's 7-day average of new cases has fallen to 41! Each Tuesday, we review multiple data points as part of our FCPS In-Person Matrix, and we are pleased to report that all other indicators continue to support our return to campus.

Utilizing hubs, shuttles, vans, and schedule adjustments, our transportation team has worked diligently to find a solution that will enable us to bring back the middle and high school students whose families have chosen in-person learning for the remainder of our special programs on Monday, March 22. Families whose children are impacted have already begun to receive communication with specifics from Carter G. Woodson Academy, Eastside Technical Center, Family Care Center, Locust Trace AgriScience Center, Martin Luther King Academy, Opportunity Middle College, Southside Technical Center, STEAM Academy, Success Academy, The Learning Center, and The Stables.

As we pass the one-year mark of the pandemic, I believe we all recognize that our lives have been forever changed in some way by COVID-19. My hope is that the challenges of the past 12 months inspire us to all to make the necessary individual decisions in order to collectively keep the virus at bay so our schools can stay open.

With spring break on the horizon, we will need everyone's help to avoid another surge of cases like the one we saw in January after winter break. Just this afternoon, the governor announced that a new variant of COVID-19 has been found in the Commonwealth. Now is not the time to let our guard down.

Unlike a year ago, we now know how to beat COVID-19. Together we can, and together we will!

Sincerely,

Marlene Helm

Acting Superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools