



Monte Vista School District
Inspiring Excellence One Student at a Time

“Home of the Pirates”

August 4, 2021

Parents, Teachers and Community Members

I hope this letter finds you all enjoying your summer. MVSD would like to give you a quick update to the start of the 2021-22 school year. We understand the last year was very difficult for all of you. We hope that the summer allowed you to regroup and are excited for a new year. Below is our School opening recovery plan. I would also like to notify you that there has been a change in the district calendar. **Friday, August 20th has become a teacher collaboration day and not a student contact day.**

2021-22 School Opening in Recovery Phase:

We plan to open school in a way that supports the whole child's needs for academics, social connection, and overall well being. This means a much more balanced approach to responding to public health concerns. We will continue several effective mitigation practices, number one being staying home when sick – this is the most important strategy we all can do together. We will disinfect regularly and have retained daytime custodians to support this. We will continue to have a regular response team meet (last year this happened DAILY) to monitor if there is a pattern of illness that might warrant a series of remote learning days to provide distance and time to disinfect.

As you might be aware, Governor Polis ended the state public health emergency, which means there are no longer state orders governing activities. However, Rio Grande has upheld its local public health orders through September at this time. The last local public health order excluded schools in any guidance at our district's request, so as a district, we are able to plan forward using the experiences from last year. I continue to monitor state and local guidance, meet with our public health regularly, and have recently begun meeting again with our local

medical providers as well. We have good strategies to respond should transmission surge again, but we will open the school year with plans that treat and respond to COVID as we do other viral diseases. Any mandated requirements from local state or federal agencies will be followed.

To be proactive in supporting our leadership team, staff, and families prepare for opening school in recovery, our Board of Education approved a Resolution on Wednesday, August 4, declaring “Unrestricted In-Person Learning” for 2021-22. Resolution can be seen here: [Resolution](#)

While we were all thankful to be in-person last year, it was disruptive. The Board is outlining a call to “unrestricted in person learning” as the path forward to meet our organizations goals. We should all offer our gratitude to our Board of Education who, as public volunteers, have a shared vision to ensure the mission of the district is achieved at a time when it is especially needed

- Monte Vista School District will only provide in-person learning (No Hybrid classrooms) for the 2021-22 school year. We do have an on-line school (OLA), but numbers are limited.
- We will ask families and students to monitor symptoms daily and to stay home until 24 hours after symptoms begin improving (and no fever). We will not be doing symptom checks as we did last year. It will be up to the parent/guardian to do these at home.
- We will have remote learning ready for individuals who must remain home due to illness for longer than 3 days.
- We will not discriminate against access/participation to in-person learning or activities or have different protocols (such as mask wearing) based on vaccination status of either students or staff. We will not collect vaccination information.
- We will not have a mandatory mask requirement for staff or students. However, masks are federally mandated on all public transportation. School vehicles are public transportation and will be required.
- Any person may voluntarily wear a mask and we will fully protect and honor this person’s choice as a school community. It will be our responsibility to ensure this is protected.
- We will redefine a close contact to a known exposure to COVID. At this time, the definition is: someone who was within 3 feet or less for over 15 minutes within 48 hours of the person’s symptoms. The exposure must be to a person who exhibits symptoms.

- We will notify families if we know their student has been exposed as a close contact.
- We will use testing on a very limited basis and will make these decisions of use as we better understand how this recovery phase will actually unfold in schools. We are prepared and have tests, but as we learned, the response may need to be different than what we actually anticipate.
- We will have “pull back” procedures in place. If we have a percentage (% TBD with our medical community) of students/staff out of school recovering from COVID (or other contagious illness), or there is other data indicating significant community spread, the district will implement remote learning strategies as needed. “Pull back” could also mean re-implementing some of the more disruptive mitigation practices used last year (masking and quarantines) if these actions are necessary.

May you enjoy the last few days of the summer you have left!!

Thank You,

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Mission: "To inspire the pursuit of excellence, one student at a time"