

RICHARD M. DELMORO
Superintendent of Schools
richard.delmoro@ecsdm.org

Our people making the difference.
A National *Race to the Top* District.
Member of "League of Innovative Schools"



223 Wisner Avenue
Middletown, NY 10940-3298
Phone (845) 326-1158
Fax (845) 326-1225
www.middletowncityschools.org

October 9, 2020

Dear Middletown School Families,

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to respond to the shifts the COVID-19 health pandemic is requiring our district to make. We closed out the month of September proud of our September success. The start of the 2020-2021 school year was impressive and we successfully moved into Phase 1 of our re-entry plan. As you know, this included bringing some students on campus for in-person instruction. It was wonderful to have our students back. Their smiles and excitement were infectious. We are proud of the way our students, families, educators and staff handled the demands of this unusual school year start.

As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how schools plan to bring more students back to in-person learning. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety and security of our students, families and our employees. We believe our re-entry plan is comprehensive and provides, with as much certainty as possible, safe, healthy environments where on-campus, in-person learning can thrive. Our priority is to keep everyone safe, while not making life more difficult for our families. Each family situation is uniquely different. We fully understand the varied concerns about health and safety, and the stress placed on our families with the recent spike of COVID-19 positive cases in our County. For these reasons, our district has thoughtfully decided it is time for a pivot in our re-entry plan.

If you would like to request an extended remote learning environment for your student(s), the district will open the window for this change. **Beginning today, through October 23, all families can choose long-term remote learning. This means, the day following your completion of the [Google Form](#), enrollment for your child(ren) would reflect a long-term virtual placement.** This change does not impact their current classroom placement(s). It does mean, they will not phase into hybrid instruction. Instead, they will learn 100% of the time in a virtual (all online, from home) environment. Virtual learning includes live interaction with educators every day, and every class includes live instruction.

When making this request, please know your decision will be honored for the entire 2020-2021 school year, regardless of changes to public health conditions. If for any reason you need to make a change, you must contact Amy Creeden at the District Office (Amy.creedon@ecsdm.org). Families choosing this model recognize and accept their children will not have live, face-to-face, in-person interactions with teachers and peers. Rather, students will engage in interactive lessons online.

With a request for long-term remote learning, our district will deliver instruction through a virtual learning environment. In most cases, there would be no need for a student to

change to an alternate teacher. However, there could be some circumstances where classroom placements may need to be adjusted. If an adjustment is needed, you will be consulted.

What you can expect from our educators:

- Students will receive instruction through Google Classroom.
- Students are expected to login each day for instruction, to check for assignments and instructions from the teacher(s).
- Educators will post relevant supplemental materials to support students with instructional delivery of content such as annotated notes, Google slides presentations, articles, videos, website links, etc.

What you can expect from your student:

- Students are expected to login to each of their Google Classrooms on a daily basis.
- Cameras are expected to be on so there is face-to-face interaction between the classroom educator and the student.
- Students will participate in the learning of new material, continued standard pacing, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments. All through a virtual classroom setting.
- Students will need to complete all required assignments and submit these as instructed by their teacher(s).

How can you help?

- Ensure that your learner is checking their Google Classroom on a daily basis.
- Ensure that your learner is completing all required assignments and submitting these to their teacher in a timely manner/on the assigned due date.
- Encourage your learner to reach out to their teacher if they have any questions or concerns or need any extra help!

As we continue to make decisions for our school community based on the health and safety of all, we will keep you updated. Please know, we will continue to move through our phases of re-entry. This includes our steadfast commitment to bringing more students back to our campus locations with each phase for on-campus, in-person instruction in a hybrid model. Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for our entire school community.

Respectfully serving you,

Richard Del Moro, Superintendent of Schools