



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Out of an abundance of caution for the potential of holiday gatherings and travel and the current levels of positive cases of COVID-19 and quarantines in our community affecting our students and staff, the Tyrone Area School District will implement the following changes to its instructional model **beginning Tuesday, December 1, 2020 through Friday, December 11, 2020.**

TASD Daycare

The TASD Daycare will remain open and operating as normally scheduled. The daycare will be closed from Thursday, November 26, 2020 through Monday, November 30, 2020 for the Thanksgiving holiday and will reopen on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

TASD PreK

The TASD PreK (K3 and K4) will return to the hybrid model that was in place at the beginning of the school year. This will be in effect beginning Tuesday, December 1, 2020 through Friday, December 11, 2020. Children will attend school in person on the days that they are assigned (Group A or Group B). The PreK Hybrid calendar is posted to the district website. PreK will resume full-time, in-person instruction on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Tyrone Area Elementary School

From December 1, 2020 through December 11, 2020, Tyrone Area Elementary students will participate in a hybrid model of instruction. At the beginning of the school year, all families were assigned to either Group A or Group B. With this model, the number of students in the building on any given day is reduced, allowing for increased physical distancing. Students in each group will attend school in person several days per week on their designated group's day and on the off days, students will work on assignments at home prepared by their teachers. Differently than the virtual day that we practiced last week, students will not engage in live instruction by a teacher on the days that they are working at home. Students are expected to complete the work provided to them during their "at home days," as it will be a necessary part of progressing the students' learning. Students with special circumstances may be assigned to attend more often. Your family's group assignment can be found on the Sapphire Community Web Portal or by calling the elementary school office. The Hybrid calendar is posted on the district website. Elementary students will resume full-time, in-person instruction on Monday, December 14, 2020.

A calendar for this time period, including days on which each group will attend, is posted on the district website. Normal bus transportation will continue for students on their days to attend school in-person.

Tyrone Area Middle School

Students in the Tyrone Area Middle School will participate in *virtual learning* modeled after the practice day last week. Students will follow the bell schedule used on the virtual learning practice day (posted on the district website) from home and engage in live learning with their teachers 3-4 days per week and one day per week will be designated as a school day, but with no live instruction. This calendar has been

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posted on the district website. TAMS students will follow this model from Tuesday, December 1, 2020 through Friday, December 11, 2020. Students will return to the building for in-person instruction beginning on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Tyrone Area High School

Students in the Tyrone Area High School, who are already scheduled to participate in virtual learning through Friday December 4, 2020, will *continue with virtual learning* through Friday, December 11, 2020. Students will follow the bell schedule used on the virtual learning practice day (posted on the district website) from home and engage in live learning with their teachers 3-4 days per week and one day per week will be designated as a school day, but with no live instruction. This calendar has been posted on the district website. Students will return to the building for in-person instruction beginning on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Students who attend the GACTC will continue in the CTC's virtual model through Friday, December 4th. A determination about the week of December 11th will be communicated at a later time.

School sponsored extra-curricular activities for students may resume on Monday, December 14th. Winter sports practices will begin on Tuesday December 1, 2020, unless determined otherwise.

General Information

Information regarding school meals will be provided at a later date.

Our current, in-person instructional model continues to be our preferred instructional option. However, we cannot ignore the reality that as positive cases of COVID-19 continue to grow in our area, it is our responsibility to adjust our models to protect the health and safety of our staff and students. When staffing becomes an issue in our district, our students are not receiving the best education possible. In addition, we recognize that virtual learning poses many challenges to our families. We will continue to work with all families to address those concerns and obstacles.

We will continue to monitor the risk levels systems and local case numbers and consult with local health professionals as we evaluate our next steps. We understand that this continues to be a very stressful time, particularly as the holidays are approaching. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work to implement these plans and to return students to a safe school environment.

Student and staff health and safety continue to be a concern for the School Board and the Administration, and we will work together to balance that with the best educational models possible. Everyone's adherence to the public safety guidelines is a way for us to work together. We all have the same goal – to return all students to full-time, in-person instruction.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school building office.

We would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Leslie Estep
Superintendent of Schools