



January 26, 2021

Dear Minnewaska Families and Staff:

Yesterday, January 25, 2021, the Minnewaska Area School (MAS) Command Team and the MAS School Board met in regularly scheduled sessions and both groups approved changes in our Learning Scenario plans. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of those upcoming changes.

**Kindergarten-6th grades--There will be NO CHANGE in our current IN PERSON LEARNING Scenario.**

- We feel very fortunate to have had our K-6 grade students IN PERSON Learning Scenario since the beginning of the school year and we will continue with that plan! However, to remain IN PERSON through the remainder of the year, it is very important our staff remain healthy and the three simple steps--wearing masks, washing hands and social distancing--continue to be followed.

**MAS 7th, 8th and 9th grades--Beginning Tuesday, February 2, 2021, MAS 7th, 8th and 9th grades will return to IN PERSON LEARNING. Please note the following:**

- As previously scheduled, Monday, Feb 1, will continue to be a DISTANCE LEARNING day for grades 7-12. Grades K-6 will continue as an IN PERSON LEARNING day.

**MAS 10th, 11th & 12th grades will remain in HYBRID LEARNING Feb. 2 through Friday, Feb. 5. Beginning Monday, February 8, MAS 10th, 11th and 12th grades will return to IN PERSON Learning.**

- Our school calendar beginning Feb 1, 2021 is as follows:

Monday, Feb. 1	--K-6 grades will continue IN PERSON. 7-12 grades will be Distance Learning for BOTH "A" & "B"
Tuesday, Feb. 2	--All K-9 graders will be IN PERSON LEARNING; 10th-12th grades will be HYBRID LEARNING --"B" Day
Wed, Feb. 3	--All K-9 graders will be IN PERSON LEARNING; 10th-12th grades will be HYBRID LEARNING --"A" Day
Thursday, Feb. 4	--All K-9 graders will be IN PERSON LEARNING; 10th-12th grades will be HYBRID LEARNING --"B" Day
Friday, Feb. 5	--All K-9 graders will be IN PERSON LEARNING; 10th-12th grades will be HYBRID LEARNING --"A" Day

**Monday, Feb. 8 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE-- All K-12 graders will be IN PERSON LEARNING.**

**Kindergarten-12th grade DISTANCE LEARNING BY CHOICE STUDENTS--There will be NO CHANGE in our current Distance Learning "CHOICE" plans. Families who have enrolled children in the DISTANCE LEARNING CHOICE plan will continue to have this option available throughout the remainder of the school year.**

Please check the MAS calendar located on the MAS website for all other calendar updates.

The changes communicated above are good news! In addition, we continue to collaborate with the regional health communities to find vaccines for MAS staff. At this point, approximately half of our staff have been vaccinated (1st shot) and those numbers increase daily.

The MAS School Board and Command Teams asked me to remind everyone it is very important to remain flexible as we move forward with our "return to school plans". We will continue to monitor all of the data available to us and should our data suggest another change in Learning Scenario is warranted, be assured we will communicate that action to you immediately.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire MAS School District, I extend appreciation to you for your patience and continued support as we navigate the 2020-2021 school year.

Most Respectfully,

**Rick Ellingworth, Interim Superintendent of Schools**