Dear McGinn Families,

We are thrilled to welcome back our kindergarten and first grade students in the “A” cohort on Monday and our “B” cohort on Thursday for the hybrid model and to transition our virtual learners to this new experience. This letter addresses specific information for kindergarten and first grade parents/guardians but is relevant to all families, as the procedures will be similar for grades 2 - 4. This letter addresses:

1. Changes Associated with the Transition from Virtual to Hybrid Learning
2. The Schedule for our A, B and virtual cohorts
3. Specific Entrance and Dismissal Procedures
4. Restrictions on School Grounds

Changes Associated with the Transition from Virtual to Hybrid Learning

The transition to the hybrid model will require changes in our delivery of instruction, particularly in the first few weeks, as we establish routines and as our teachers adjust to more new technology and wearing masks while they teach.

We understand this will have an impact on all of our learners, and we will be focused on supporting the well-being of our students first and foremost. This pandemic has impacted all of our lives, but it has negatively impacted our families of color more. The CDC explains some of the reasons behind this inequality, and the statistics are jarring. Not surprisingly, the very real impact within McGinn community is that a majority of our families of color have opted to remain virtual. It is our imperative to ensure we prioritize connection among our cohort A, cohort B and virtual learners to maximize learning for all. Please share your thoughts with me throughout our hybrid learning journey about whether your child feels included and celebrated.

Some specific changes in our transition to hybrid are as follows. Our kindergarten and first grade teachers will need to familiarize their students in person to the classroom routines. As this always takes time at the beginning of the school year, students in K and 1 who are virtual will not need to log on until 9:15 AM for the first week, unless your teachers have indicated otherwise. (This will be the case for Grades 2 - 4 the week they begin hybrid - November 9th.) Announcements will thus take place at 9:30 AM this week and the week on November 9th.
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Teachers and students will be wearing masks for longer periods than they have before. Teachers will also be teaching with masks on, which could require repetition of items and slowing the pace. Speaking through the mask will require more water drinking for the teacher. As a result, your child’s teacher may give five minute impromptu breaks to take their class outside for a mask break or take a break themself.

The Schedule for our A, B and Virtual Cohorts

The first day of school in person for our hybrid learners will be Monday, October 26th (Blue Cohort - A) and Thursday, October 29th (Red Cohort - B). For the full calendar of the hybrid schedule, click here.

The week of October 26th will be three days of blue, two days of red.

Specific Entrance and Dismissal Procedures

All families must complete a health screening form for their child before they come to school. See the directions here. For full information about our health and safety procedures, see the Hybrid Letter of 10-20-20.

All parents/guardians, students and staff must wear masks on McGinn property. When you arrive at school with your students, you will go directly to your child’s entrance door:

- Kindergarten (Mrs. George, Ms. Cecchini, Mrs. DiAndrea) - Door #20
- Kindergarten (Mrs. Toriello, Ms. Fuerst) - Door # 15
- First Grade - Door #9

You will see McGinn staff members at the door welcoming you and your child and checking to make sure you completed your child’s health screening. You will be asked to state your last name to ensure you have completed the health screening. Please keep a six foot distance from our staff and other families and wait patiently while we work through the entrance procedures. The white dots will help you spread out safely.

If you have completed your child's screening form, your child will enter the building and see their teacher at their door inside. If you have not completed the screening, you will be asked to step aside to complete the form. *Reminder: You are able to complete the screening form on your phone, however, it works through a browser on the Powerschool website, not on the phone app.

At Dismissal, your child’s teacher will walk the students out to designated spots outlined below. Please stand in the areas designated for parents/guardians of each specific teacher.
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

KINDERGARTEN

Ms. Cecchini - When facing Door #20, you will see Ms. Cecchini’s class IN FRONT of you. Please stand on the sidewalk and grass in front of her class at least six feet away, and wait until Ms. Cecchini dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:

Mrs. DiAndrea - When facing Door #1, you will see Mrs. DiAndrea’s class IN FRONT of you. Please stand on the sidewalk and grass in front of her class at least six feet away, and wait until Mrs. DiAndrea dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:

Mrs. George - When facing Door #20, you will see Mrs. George’s class to the RIGHT of you by the K blacktop. Please stand on the grass and sidewalk in front of her class at least six feet away, and wait until Mrs. George dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Mrs. Toriello - Mrs. Toriello’s class will be located on the path leading to Door #15. Please stand on either side of the path on the grass to wait for your child to be dismissed. Here is where she will be located:

Buses - Kindergarten parents/guardians, please note, some of our kindergarteners take the bus. They will need to stand on the sidewalk to wait for their buses at dismissal. Please do not stand on their spots. They are labeled with pink squares:

FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Bradley - When looking at Door #9, you will see Mrs. Bradley’s class to the **RIGHT** of the door, slightly around the corner of the school. Please stand on the grass in front of her. Maintain six feet distance, and wait until Mrs. Bradley dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:
Mrs. Gregory - When looking at Door #9, you will see Mrs. Gregory’s class to the **LEFT** of the door. Please stand on the blacktop from where the line of dots starts back towards the back path. Maintain six feet distance, and wait until Mrs. Gregory dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:

![Adults wait here](image1)

Miss Horvath - When looking at Door #9, you will see Miss Horvath’s class to the **RIGHT** of the door. Please stand on the blacktop from where the line of dots starts back towards the back path. Maintain six feet distance, and wait until Miss Horvath dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:

![Adults wait here](image2)

Ms. Riff: When looking at Door #9, you will walk to the **RIGHT** of the building. Ms. Riff’s class will be around the corner of the building. Please stand on the grass in front of Ms. Riff, maintain six feet distance, and wait until Ms. Riff dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:

![Adults wait here](image3)
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Mrs. Testa - When looking at Door #9, you will walk to the LEFT of the building. Mrs. Testa’s class will be around the corner of the building. Please stand on the grass that starts by the back path. Maintain six feet distance, and wait until Mrs. Testa dismisses your child to you. Here is where she will be located:

![Adults wait here]

Weather Advisories: The entrance and dismissal procedures will likely take more time the first week of their implementation than they will moving forward. Please dress warmly and appropriately for waiting, e.g. bring an umbrella in the rain. You may pack a small umbrella for your child in rainy weather for breaks outside.

Restrictions on School Grounds

Until now, there have been people on the school grounds during the day due to the virtual learning model. Now that we are returning to hybrid, people are not permitted on the grounds during the school day. We have students and staff who will be taking frequent breaks and learning outside, weather permitting. For their safety and security, all visitors are prohibited on the property during school hours. Playsets are closed before and after school.

Just as we worked together as a community to deliver a successful virtual learning model, we look forward to partnering with you to make hybrid learning a rewarding and successful experience for our students. Have a great first week!

Sincerely,

Sasha Slocum
Principal