

MES Family Update - July 15, 2020

Good morning MES Families,

We hope that your summer continues to go as smoothly as possible. Hopefully you are getting the chance to rest and relax at least a little bit in the midst of all of this uncertainty.

A few things for you today:

*The weekly Virtual Story Time is

tonight: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83652203295?pwd=VUNKR1oxbzBpYXVuTXY5bTRyNCtVZz09>. Please join us for a half hour or so of stories beginning at 6:30 p.m. We're hoping to meet each Wednesday evening throughout the summer.

*We are continuing to work on the MES Reopening Plan - which will be reviewed by the Board of Education next Thursday (7/23) evening and submitted to the CSDE (Connecticut State Department of Education) on Friday (7/24). We will make the plan available for everyone to review once completed. We'll send a link to the document and post it on the MES website. Here are a few pieces of the plan that have been addressed so far:

- In any model where students will be in school, we will continue to serve breakfast to those students who are interested, serve lunch -in classrooms, and provide the opportunity for students to purchase lunchtime snack.
- The current reopening plan allows for buses to run at full capacity. We anticipate due to survey results that our buses will run at approximately 50% capacity. Students, the bus driver and the bus monitor will all be required to wear masks.
- With an estimated 20% of families continuing to take part in distance learning to start the school year, we will have around 14-16 students per classroom - which allows us to create social distancing in the classroom of 6 feet between desks.

*We're looking for some additional thoughts on another MES Survey. Please use the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2CPX7Z6> to provide feedback on what a Hybrid School Model would look like if needed. The hybrid model would mean that the school is operating at a reduced capacity (approximately 50%). MES would move to the hybrid model if we were receiving that directive from the CSDE or the Department of Public Health.

****We are looking to gather information quickly - so please respond to the survey by the end of the day this Friday, 7/17. Sorry for the quick turnaround time - but thank you for your responses in advance.***

*We'll be sending out information concerning class placement in early August once we have additional information from staff and families regarding their decision about returning to in-person school.

*We are looking to hold a 'Virtual MES Town Hall Meeting' to review the reopening plan, answer questions and address concerns - to the best of our ability and based on the information that has been provided to us at this point in time. We will look to find a date/time after the MES Reopening Plan has been released and you've had an opportunity to review it.

We hope you have a terrific rest of the week and a nice weekend.

Dan & Kim