

Dear Clinton Public Schools Parents and Staff,

Since the return from the winter break, I have been carefully monitoring the public health metrics including the transmission rates in our county and town, as well as reviewing the positive cases and required quarantines within our school community. In making decisions about our district learning model, our state and local public health officials have emphasized the need to evaluate health metrics along with the strong implementation of mitigation strategies in our schools. Our students and staff have been diligent in adhering to the protocols in place in our schools which include cohorting, hand hygiene, cleaning, distancing, and mask wearing. With this in mind, it has been our goal to return our students to our full, In-person Learning Model when we saw a decline in transmission and positivity rates. In addition, we needed to ensure that we have the appropriate staff levels available to safely transition models and ensure our mitigation strategies were not compromised. We have now observed two weeks of significant decline in the positive case rates and in the confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 reported among members of our entire school community. This data can be viewed on our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

After careful review of the data and each school's mitigation strategies with our local health professionals, we have made the decision to **transition Joel Elementary and Eliot Middle School to the In-Person Learning Model on Monday, February 8, 2021. The Morgan School will remain in the Hybrid Model due to the uniqueness of the high school structures which prevent strict cohorting of students.** We hope to be able to transition Morgan in the near future but it will depend on a continued downward trending in the public health metrics. Next week, our staff and administrators will prepare for the transition and communicate all necessary information to families regarding school procedures. Parents considering a change in the selected learning plan for their student should notify the appropriate school office of that intent so that we have the time to adjust schedules or placements related to the parent request.

While I am pleased that the positive case rates of COVID-19 in our town and schools are decreasing, I know that it is due to the decisions of all stakeholders to minimize risk of transmission by wearing masks, social distancing, and practicing hand hygiene. It is only by working together that we can make these transitions and sustain in-person learning for our students. We will continue to carefully monitor and respond to the data and guidance provided by our health officials, and adjust as necessary.

We know the uncertainty and transitions that we have experienced this year are impactful for students, parents, and our staff. This pandemic has required all of us to adapt, adjust, and be flexible in a very uncertain time. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the safety and well-being of our staff and students, and in providing a supportive and engaging learning experience. Thank you for your support and commitment to working together to ensure the well-being of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Maryann O'Donnell
Superintendent of Schools