

Dear RMS Families,

This is just an update to keep everyone aware of how things are evolving as we move forward with our full transition to hybrid next week. This is a rather lengthy message, but it contains answers to many of the questions we have been asked.

First of all, our 6th graders did an amazing job and it was a delight to have more students in the building! Our 6th grade remote teachers were very happy to welcome new students. We are all looking forward to seeing our 7th and 8th graders next week - both in person and remote!

Second, we would like to answer a few questions that have come up.

1. **Waiting Lists** - We understand the issues surrounding the district survey and the lack of clarity. After our Parent Information Night on September 30, we received many requests for changes. Some requests were to move a child from remote to hybrid; some requests were for a move from hybrid to remote. Each request requires several steps to make sure that numbers are correct/balanced and schedules are changed accordingly. We are also staying firm to the 6 foot social distancing guidelines which requires us to determine the square footage of each room. Despite our plan to work throughout the weekend, we knew that we could not complete all requests. That is why we let families know that they were on a waiting list. As of 5:00 today, we believe that we have been able to accommodate all requests. If you made a request, you should have received an email late this afternoon.

If you made a request and you have not received an email, please reach out to:

- Grade 8 - Mrs. Mercier [pmercier@sau8.org](mailto:pmercier@sau8.org)
- Grade 7 - Mrs. Finnegan [kfinnegan@sau8.org](mailto:kfinnegan@sau8.org)
- Grade 6 - either Mrs. Mercier or Mrs. Finnegan

We apologize for any confusion around this matter.

**Please Note:**

***We can no longer accommodate any requests to be moved from remote to hybrid that were received after noon today.***

2. **Cohorts** - All students, whether they are hybrid or remote, are placed in a cohort. This was the best way to, logistically, schedule all of our students.
  - Cohort 1 Students
    - Hybrid Cohort 1 Students attend school on Mondays and Thursdays

- Remote Cohort 1 Students receive synchronous instruction on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Cohort 2 Students
  - Hybrid Cohort 2 Students attend school on Tuesdays and Fridays.
  - Remote Cohort 2 Students receive synchronous instruction on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- 3. **Student Schedules** - There have been many questions about students who are remaining remote and students who are hybrid. This is truly about the number of students and teachers who are remote and the number of students and teachers who are hybrid. Here is how we have been able to coordinate schedules for our remote and hybrid students:
  - Grade 6 - This grade level has one cluster that is all remote. We have two remote teachers who are teaching these students. These classes have been scheduled.
  - Grade 7 - This grade level will have one section per subject per cluster during which teachers will teach both remote students and hybrid students simultaneously. The number of hybrid students is smaller so that the teacher can focus on both groups. Here is an example: Mr. O'Connor will teach three classes of social studies to students who are hybrid (in the building). His fourth class will be a combo class of hybrid and remote. 7th grade schedules should be available early next week.
  - Grade 8 - This grade level will have one section per subject per cluster during which teachers will teach remote students only. We also have two teachers who are remote. They will be teaching students in the classroom from their remote location. There will be a monitor in the classroom who is assigned to monitor student behavior and assist students who may have any trouble during class. 8th grade schedules should be available early next week.
  - World Languages - 7th Grade exploratory languages will remain remote for the rest of the quarter. Both hybrid and remote students will log in during WIN time. Hybrid students will log in from their WIN classroom and remote students will log in remotely. We are still working on 8th grade world languages, but students should be able to remain in their current world language, though perhaps at a different time.
  - Exploratory Classes - This has been a puzzle that we think we have solved. Starting on October 15th, all remote students will have their exploratory classes during WIN block. Hybrid students will have their class at the usual time in their schedule.
  - Performing Groups - Due to state guidelines, we are not allowed to hold performing groups in the building. These groups are offered remotely to students on an A/B schedule.
- 4. **Week of October 12, 2020** Monday, October 12 - Indigenous Peoples Day - No School
  - Tuesday, October 13 - FULL REMOTE for ALL students.

- Wednesday, October 14 - Flex Day
- Thursday, October 15 - Hybrid and Remote Cohort 1. 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who are Hybrid Cohort 1 will come to school.
- Friday, October 16 - Hybrid and Remote Cohort 2. 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who are Hybrid Cohort 2 will come to school.

We understand that this is a LOT of information. We will keep you updated as things evolve.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

On behalf of RMS Administration and Staff,

Paulette