

SUPERINTENDENT Charlotte Seals

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Dear Parents,

All across MCS, school and district administrators are hard at work this summer preparing for the start of school in August. We are meeting, discussing, and strategizing to prepare for the upcoming school year and expect to release plans in early July. It is our hope that we will begin school in person on our campuses this fall. We are also making alternative plans so that we are prepared to respond appropriately to a range of possibilities. As always, health and safety considerations factor strongly into our decision-making process.

In preparation for the new school year, we are taking into consideration expert advice and guidance, as well as the thoughts and feelings of our MCS community. Each campus is establishing an advisory committee to assist in planning, and the district as a whole has set up an advisory committee of educators, community members, and health professionals, including mental health experts. We are conducting a district-wide survey of parents and of teachers. We are committed to working together to make the best decisions possible and are developing comprehensive guidelines for reentry to school this fall.

We are also taking concrete steps to prepare for the school year and the numerous possibilities it may bring. We have purchased appropriate cleaning supplies and are training maintenance staff on updated sanitizing protocols. We are also in the process of purchasing devices to expand the 1:1 technology initiative to all students in Kindergarten through second grade. As of this fall, every student K-12 will have access to a dedicated device. We are also exploring the possibility of placing Wi-Fi hotspots on some devices to increase accessibility for students who live in areas with limited internet availability.

This summer, professional development for teachers is focused on improving distance teaching and learning. These efforts are designed to make sure our standards of academic excellence are maintained if the need for distance schooling should arise again at any point in the future.

This month many students have enjoyed a safe return to extracurricular activities, following MHSAA, state, and district guidelines. Many students also continue to enjoy pick up meal packs at a number of district sites. The tireless efforts of MCS Child Nutrition and food service departments have helped ensure that all students have access to a nutritious lunch and breakfast, even during the summer months.

Thank you for entrusting the education of your children to Madison County Schools. We look forward to sharing more news and plans with you in early July.

Sincerely,

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Charlotte A. Seals Superintendent Madison County Schools

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