



September 2, 2020

Good evening Methuen Families:

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the last days of summer. We had a fantastic opening of school with our teachers yesterday and look forward to opening the school year with our students. I have a few pieces of information for families today as we get ready for our first day of school.

- 1) The district has developed the [Methuen Public School COVID Protocols](#) to respond to COVID related matters within the school and district. These protocols combine information from the guidelines set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Public Health and were written by our Nurse Leader in collaboration with the city health department and other area nurse leaders. Please take a moment to review this information.
- 2) In collaboration with Mayor Perry, the city health department, and the school department, the district created the [Methuen Public School Phase Determination](#) document. This document outlines the set of metrics we will use to determine whether school buildings will be open for in-person learning each week. I encourage you to read through this document so you are aware of how and when those determinations will be made and how they will be communicated with families.
- 3) There is a new state immunization requirement for ***ALL*** K-12 students to get the flu vaccine ***no later than December 31, 2020***. This includes all enrolled students - both students who are on a fully remote schedule and those on a hybrid schedule. There are religious and some medical exemptions to this requirement, which can be discussed with your school nurse. Families can fax confirmation of vaccine, scan and email confirmation of vaccine, or have students bring the confirmation to the school nurse when they are in person.
- 4) Homeroom assignments and student schedules will be disseminated through Infinite Campus (IC) on **Friday September 4, 2020 at 3:00pm**. If you need IC support please contact your school directly. Families and students will be able to view their teachers, schedules, and for students on a hybrid schedule, their cohort (A or B). I am requesting

that parents not contact the schools to change the assignments at this time as the amount of time and effort that went into balancing lists and cohorts was remarkable and we will not be able to honor requests that will change these balanced courses and homeroom lists. The district has done everything we can to keep families in the same cohort at this time, balance service delivery for our students, allow broad course selections for our high school students, and honor the changes that came in last week once we reverted back to the October 5th start date for the hybrid model. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding in this matter. The principals will be sending out notification on Thursday evening with detailed school information about open house dates and the "Meet and Beep" times for grades PK through 8.

Sincerely,

Brandi Kwong
Superintendent