

"Bridge to the Past, Branch to the Future."



Mesquite Elementary School



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September 10th, 2020

Dear Mesquite Parents,

Good afternoon. This letter is following the video that was emailed earlier this week. The purpose of this letter is to provide more detailed information regarding the choices that are available in this next phase of learning.

The two choices that are being presented are to have students continue to conduct their learning from home in the Brick to Click model (which is still connected to Mesquite Elementary), or for students to return to school in person to conduct their learning in a Hybrid model. The details of both options are listed below; please note that both models that are presented are based on the staffing and spacing available at Mesquite Elementary and may be different than other Vail elementary school sites.

Brick to Click (Off Campus) Model

The Brick to Click model is designed for students to continue to conduct their learning from home. However, there are some changes from what students and families are currently seeing in remote learning.

- Students will continue to use Schoology Monday through Friday to access their daily work in ELA, Math, and alternating Social Studies/Science.
- Monday - Thursday Schedule: A Brick to Click teacher will connect with students twice per week in conferences for questions.
- Friday Schedule: Teachers will connect with their Brick to Click students through two 45-minute live instruction sessions in ELA and Math.
- Formatives (1st-5th grade) through Performance Matters will be given on Fridays so teachers can gauge where their Brick to Click students are with the current week's content.
- Teachers will continue to answer questions by email or by phone in a timely manner.

- The resources found on Schoology for this next phase are created by teachers across the district and may look different than they currently do. While we are making adjustments as they are needed, we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.

Hybrid (On Campus) Learning Model

If parents choose to send their student(s) to campus, please note that there are some changes to the school day.

Change in School Times:

- School will be held in person, Monday through Thursday, from 7:45am to 1:15pm (note that the physical school day is shortened by one hour).
- Students will complete independent practice activities based on the content from the school day for the last hour at home.
- On Fridays, all students will take formatives through Performance Matters and learn from home. This is still a required school day in which students are required to complete work.
- When arriving on campus, all students will be temperature checked when they enter their classroom. For the first few days, there will not be any before school recess, so all students will be directed to go to their classroom. We are trying to limit how many people enter our school campus for the safety of our students and staff, so we are highly encouraging that students are dropped off at the gate, not at their classroom door except for our kindergartners. Staff members will be available to assist students as needed.
- Our gates will be unlocked at 7:30am; there will not be any supervision before that time. Students should not be on campus before 7:30am.

Classrooms:

- We will make every attempt to make classroom sizes small. **This may mean that students will be placed with a different teacher in order for this to occur.**
- Student desks will be arranged in rows instead of groups; however, this does not indicate that students cannot interact with each other.
- Students and staff will be wearing masks inside the classroom when around each other for long periods of time and when they cannot properly socially distance. Breaks have been built in throughout the day to allow students time to go outside so they can take off their masks and distance themselves.
- Because social distancing between all children at all times of the day are not necessarily possible, we are tightly grouping students together so they only stay

with their classmates; as such, recess and lunch will be held only with their class so the groupings of students do not mix.

- Door handles, bathrooms, and other high touch areas will be sanitized frequently. The most amount of students who are allowed in the bathrooms are limited to the number of stalls in the bathroom (example: three stalls in a bathroom = three students at a time).

Breakfast, Lunch and Recesses

- Students will pick up their breakfast in the MPR and will eat in their classroom.
- All students will be required to sanitize their hands before eating lunch or a snack.
- For the safety of our students, we will not be heating up any food. Please either send a cold lunch that does not need to be heated or have your student get a hot lunch from Aramark.
- A schedule has been developed to have students on a rotation to be able to eat in the cafeteria; again, all students will be kept within their classroom grouping and remain socially distant.
- As stated, breaks have been built into the master schedule for students to be able to go outside and take their masks off where they are better able to socially distance.
- There will be assigned zones for all recesses. These play zones are assigned by class: on the field, basketball courts, and playground equipment. Zones will be on a rotating schedule.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle; outside water fountains will not be in use.

Dismissal

- The new dismissal time during the hybrid learning phase is 1:15pm. However, we will be staggering grade levels within a 10 - 15 minute block to help maintain social distancing as much as possible.
- Kindergartners and first graders will be dismissed at 1:00pm. Parent pick-up for kindergarten and first graders will be in the back dirt parking lot.
- Walkers, bikers, Aftercare and Kidco students will be dismissed at 1:10pm.
- 2nd - 5th graders, parent pick-ups, and bussers will be dismissed at 1:15pm.
- If an older sibling needs to pick up a younger sibling, they must go to the younger sibling's designated area. Please inform their teacher.

Transportation

- Please visit the following link for information, <https://vailschooldistrict.org/school-opening-and-covid-19-information/#1597700786549-a303d66d-980d>
- For bus route information, please visit, <http://www.infofinder.com/tfi/>
- For additional information, please contact Mary St. John at 879-2056 or Leslie Incontrera at 879-2479.

Miscellaneous

- If your child will be attending school in person during this next phase, you will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form that will be sent from the District Office next week.
- If you choose the Brick to Click model, you are asked to remain in the Brick to Click model until we move to the next phase of learning.
- If you have not yet filled out the form or would like to make a change in your decision about the Brick to Click Off Campus model or the Hybrid On Campus model, please [click here](#). This form should be filled out by Sunday, September 13th.
- **In both choices, Hybrid and Brick to Click, there will be restructuring of classes to make classroom sizes small. This may mean that students will be put with a different teacher.** While it is understandable that some students may have made connections with their teachers already, we are working hard to promote and maintain as safe of an environment as possible with our students and staff.

I recognize that this letter is an incredibly long one, so I appreciate the time it has taken to not only read through the details of the next phase, but also to use this information to make the best decision for your child and your family. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Your Partner in Education,

Diane Vargo
Principal
(520) 879-2104

