

February 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Maine Central Institute, under guidance of the CDC and Maine DOE, will be moving to 4-day in-person instruction beginning as early as March 15, 2021, depending upon the number of families who choose this option for their students. At the end of this letter, there is a survey link for parents to choose which learning model they would like their student(s) to attend. We will continue to offer fully remote learning; however, there are some changes about which parents must be made aware to make an informed decision.

As we have done all year, MCI will continue to enforce all COVID-19 mitigation protocols as outlined by the CDC and Maine DOE. These include:

1. Proper mask-wearing that covers the nose and mouth
2. Hand hygiene
3. Social distancing of 3 feet among students in classrooms, 6 feet in band/choir classes
4. Cleaning and ventilation
5. Contact tracing

Parents/guardians who choose **in-person learning** should be aware that there is a potential that some classes may be moved to different locations to accommodate students, some larger classes may utilize staffed and monitored satellite locations for instruction, and/or some students may have class schedule changes to balance class sizes. These accommodations will be determined by class numbers and with student and faculty social distancing requirements in mind. Classes will be held in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesdays will remain an at-home, independent learning day for 4-day students.

We will continue to offer a **Cohort C and D fully remote learning** option for families who choose to keep their student(s) at home for health reasons. However, Cohort C remote learning will be modified for students joining classes from home. These important changes include:

1. Students are required to log in at the beginning of Advisory and each class for attendance purposes. Cameras will be required to be turned on for attendance. Students who do not log in to class will receive an unexcused absence.
2. The time spent online for each class may vary by content area with some classes operating asynchronously (without live instruction) and other classes operating synchronously (live instruction).
3. Remote students will be required to attend **mandatory virtual classes on Wednesdays** for dedicated assistance and instruction. A schedule for remote Wednesday classes will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.
4. Remote students will have study halls removed from their course schedule. No new classes will be assigned; rather students will simply not have a period reflected in their schedule for that time frame.

Cohort D (international) will continue to operate fully asynchronously with students required to check in with their teachers each week.

As a reminder to parents, students who attend Cohort C or Cohort D will NOT be allowed to participate in spring sports or on-campus, co-curricular activities. In addition, students who attend Cohort C or Cohort D are not eligible to take specific courses in PE, lab sciences, hands on science, and certain fine arts classes. These classes include:

1. PE 1, PE 2, PE 3
2. Chemistry CP
3. Introduction to Design
4. Introduction to Engineering
5. Robotics
6. Ceramics
7. Technical Theatre I, Technical Theatre II
8. Costume Design
9. Actor's Studio
10. Piano
11. Digital Music

Should parents choose remote learning for their student, your student's schedule will be adjusted to reflect these course changes. You may contact your student's academic counselor to discuss course options and schedule changes.

As always, if your student will be absent from in-person OR online classes, parents must contact Mr. Dean to excuse the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence for the student and possible zeroes (0) earned on assignments for that day.

We would like to remind families that complete risk elimination is not possible; however, with your assistance in keeping your student home when he/she is feeling unwell combined with the mitigation protocols we have in place at school, we are confident that we can manage this risk to provide a safe learning environment for your student.

Click to complete the [Parent 4-Day In-Person Learning Survey](#). Please complete the survey by March 5, 2021.

Sincerely,

Eveline M. Bailey