

March 30, 2021



Dear Chardon Schools Parents/Guardians:

As we enter the final grading period of the school year, our attention is turning increasingly to what next year will look like for our students, staff and community. There are a number of factors that we continue to weigh as we evaluate the instructional delivery models for students, including possible resurgence of COVID-19 in the fall, requirements for social distancing, options for virtual learning, and others. This communication is provided to offer an update of where we are as a school district as we look toward next year.

EXTENDED LEARNING

Governor DeWine called on school districts to develop an extended learning plan for this summer to help minimize learning gaps that may exist for students as a result of the pandemic. Our team has been working to develop a model that targets gaps in learning standards and supports social-emotional development for our students. More information will be posted on the district's website and sent out to parents concerning how students can access this extended learning opportunity.

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

We are anticipating that in-person instruction will be the primary mode of instruction for next year. In order to ensure that we have sufficient space to accommodate possible modifications to in-person learning, we recommended the following building/grade configuration to the Board of Education on Monday, March 15, 2021:

CHARDON SCHOOLS 2021-22 GRADE/BUILDING CONFIGURATION

SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS SERVED
Maple ES	PK and Kindergarten
Munson ES	Grades 1-3
Park ES	Grades 1-3
CMS	Grades 4-7
CHS	Grades 8-12

We believe that having this information now carries a number of benefits. Specifically, students, parents and staff will have stability in knowing early-on the instructional plan for the district; Maple staff will be able to capitalize on planning for true early learning instruction in key foundation grades; the summer activities of the district will be streamlined with less reassignment of staff and materials to other schools; and, most important, this approach provides the greatest flexibility to meet changing instructional demands.

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Virtual learning played an important role this year in helping the district meet health guidelines related to the pandemic. We understand that there may be interest in a continuation of some form of virtual learning for students in 2021-22. Currently, a full virtual instructional model is not available to school districts under Ohio law. However, the Ohio Legislature may consider action to extend full virtual instruction as an option for next year. Blended Learning (a combination of virtual and some in-person instruction) is available to interested districts for next year.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending a survey to all parents to assess interest in continuing some form of virtual instruction in 2021-22. Responses to the survey will be used to evaluate continued interest in full virtual (if it becomes available to us) and Blended Learning for students.

We appreciate the level of support and flexibility demonstrated by parents, staff and most certainly our students throughout this school year. You made it possible to maintain a very high level of instruction in the midst of a global pandemic. It is our goal to provide a level of certainty for what the upcoming school year will look like in Chardon Schools in an effort to aid your planning as we move forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have questions concerning any aspect of this plan for 2021-22.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent