



Administrative Service Center

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Robert S. Monroe
Interim Superintendent

March 31, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last week, I met a group of UCS junior high school students demonstrating the values of resilience, leadership, service and living out the partnership that we have with the community. The Shelby Junior High School student council members created a “reverse fundraiser” to support local restaurants struggling during the pandemic. The students are giving the proceeds earned during designated school restaurant nights to the business owners that have supported them year after year.

Throughout the pandemic our district has implemented a planning process reflective of these same values of leadership, service, and resilience. In service to our community, we have taken gradual steps forward, evaluated our progress, and adjusted as necessary. We are committed to leading the region with educational excellence, while providing a healthy and resilient environment.

As we plan for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and into the future, we want to reduce uncertainty and increase stability as much as possible. Families may use the following schedule for planning:

- As previously communicated, K-12 schools will be fully remote the week of April 12. This approach reduces the potential spread of COVID-19 that may occur as families return from spring break.
- Secondary students will take state-mandated assessments in-person on Tuesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 14.
- On Monday, April 19 through the end of the school year, the district will continue in-person instruction four days per week, with select Wednesdays serving as remote learning days.
- There are five remote learning Wednesdays left this school year. These days allow teachers to provide both flexible and focused time for academic and social-emotional support. This is particularly helpful for students when quarantine occurs and they are unable to attend in-person classes. The remote learning dates are:
 - April 21
 - April 28
 - May 5
 - May 12
 - May 19

A calendar overview for elementary and secondary students is provided at this [link](#).

- Students who are quarantined for confirmed positive or mandated close contact relative to COVID-19 will be afforded opportunities for daily engagement with their teacher(s) to foster continuity of learning. Applicable students should monitor their Schoology account for specific and available times.

Utica Community Schools Board of Education

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- Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will continue to receive online instruction. Following spring vacation, we will share information with families interested in this option for the 2021-2022 school year. Interested parents are invited to join us at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 15 for an [informational program](#) regarding this option for the next school year.
- UCS will be providing K-12 students with opportunities for summer learning. Information on these initiatives and enrollment opportunities will be coming in the next several weeks.
- The district is actively planning for full-week, in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Our secondary schools are currently engaging parents in the scheduling process, and new and expanded opportunities for students are moving forward, including a *Bridge to Kindergarten*: Young Fives Program.

While the vaccination rate continues to increase and eligibility has expanded to anyone 16 years or older, COVID-19 remains unpredictable. There may be further challenges in the coming months. Over the past few weeks, there has been a statewide increase in COVID-19 and our communities have mirrored this trend. As transmission increases, the Macomb County Health Department continues to mandate that the district utilize quarantine to proactively mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As a result, I have made the difficult decision to temporarily return two schools to remote learning. For families with questions regarding the quarantine process, which is required by the Macomb County Health Department, please see the following [link](#).

We will continue to work closely with health agencies while maintaining protocols for safe in-person instruction. During these final weeks of school, we can mitigate the need for mandated quarantines by [following the self-screening protocols](#) each morning. Using healthy strategies, we can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and allow our community to emerge from the pandemic stronger.

Please be safe and enjoy your spring break. As we look to our final weeks of school, let's both celebrate and follow the example set by our Shelby Junior High School students as we collaborate to support and take care of each other!

Sincerely,



Robert S. Monroe
Interim Superintendent