To: All MPS Staff
Fr: Dr. Marice Edouard-Vincent
Date: March 12, 2021

Re: Upcoming Transition to Increased In-Person Instruction

As we will be communicating to all students, staff, and families later today, the Medford Public Schools are preparing to welcome back more students to increased in-person instruction in the coming weeks. Our phased approach to increase in-person instruction will be grounded in the pillars of safety, consistency, and equity that have guided MPS throughout our return-to-school and is based on three factors:

1. An ongoing commitment to making as much in-person instruction available to all MPS students as possible due to the academic, social, and emotional benefits in-person learning yields.
2. The improving public health scenario as measured by external and internal metrics.
3. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s recent directive that all districts would soon be required to eliminate hybrid learning models and return to more traditional school schedules.

In light of these factors, tonight I will be announcing the following intended timeline for implementing increased in-person instruction. As you can see we will be implementing gradually by grade level, with most students first transitioning to four-days per week followed by five-day per week in-person instruction. There are, of course, additional operational details that need to be finalized, and we are working with all appropriate stakeholders, including our bargaining partners, to ensure that happens.

Timeline for implementation for increased in-person for Cohorts B and C:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Transition to Four-Days</th>
<th>Transition to Five-Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades K &amp; 1</td>
<td>March 22nd</td>
<td>April 5th (includes cohort A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>March 29th</td>
<td>April 5th (includes cohort A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>April 5th (includes cohort A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 6 - 8</td>
<td>April 12th</td>
<td>April 26th (includes cohort A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 9 - 12*</td>
<td>April 12th*</td>
<td>April 26th* (includes cohort A)</td>
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</tbody>
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*Secondary dates for transition to increased in-person instruction are tentative at this time.
MPS will continue to provide a full remote school option for the remainder of the 2020 - 2021 school year through Cohort D.

COVID-19 Protocols and Upcoming Modifications:

- COVID-19 testing available to students will increase to two days per week for all students upon implementation with ongoing reassessment of needs based on public health metrics.

- Some health and safety protocols will be adjusted to reflect evolving public health guidance, specifically with the six feet radius of physical distancing mandated between students being reduced to a three feet radius of physical distancing. This change is reflective of newly established and/or thoroughly reaffirmed positions of public health agencies and experts, including the WHO. Contact tracing will still be based on a six-feet radius.

- Where necessary MPS schools will establish meal rotations and other operational changes in order to ensure public safety guidelines are adhered to during all meal periods. This may include organizing students in groups in classrooms, cafeterias, outdoor spaces (weather permitting), and in other areas to ensure appropriate physical distancing and barriers are in place for all meal periods. Six feet physical distancing boundaries will be maintained during all meal periods.

In addition, starting today all MPS staff are welcome to avail themselves of this electronic reporting form for purposes of reporting any COVID-19 or other operational related needs. While all school principals, custodians, and health services personnel are always eager to assist, we are piloting this form for purposes of reporting building or classroom specific needs, particularly for requests to departments like Buildings & Grounds, Health Services, and Human Resources, due to the volume of requests made of these offices during the pandemic.

In closing I will say again that I know that this has been an incredibly challenging school year for all of our staff. Your continued dedication to MPS students amid circumstances none of us could have imagined one year ago today is inspiring. As a community, organization, and a team we have been through a lot together, and I look forward to working with you to complete these next steps in our march toward normalcy. You have my sincere appreciation and gratitude.