



Administrative Service Center

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Robert S. Monroe
Interim Superintendent

January 8, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we start a new calendar year, I hope your holidays were relaxing and enjoyable. The safe return to face-to-face learning remains an important goal across our school community. Over the next few weeks, Utica Community Schools students currently enrolled in the remote learning/in-person learning option will transition to face-to-face instruction with their classroom teacher.

As we focus on a safe transition, here are several important items for you to review:

- **All students currently enrolled in the remote/in-person learning option will return to the classroom on Tuesday, January 19 using a hybrid model.** School principals will soon be sharing further information regarding how the hybrid model and transition back to in-person learning will impact your school and child.
- Safety remains our top priority.
 - Students will return using a hybrid approach. This approach affords fewer students to be in-person at the same time to promote distancing and reduce interaction among different groups.
 - Our school personnel will continue to follow the important safety protocols that are in place to reduce the spread of this disease. This includes encouraging frequent hand washing, providing distancing and the wearing of face coverings.
 - Your partnership is essential for this to be a safe and successful transition. If your student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please have them stay home. Together we can reduce the spread of this virus in our community and create a safe learning environment at school.
- Students enrolled in the UCS Virtual Academy will continue on-line instruction until the end of the school year.
- Prior to break, 500 families chose to change their student learning plans to best meet their families' needs.
 - The new 2020-2021 schedule has the staffing and resources in place to accommodate the changes through the remainder of the school year.
 - With the schedule and staffing finalized, we will no longer be able to take further requests.
- It is our goal to continue moving forward from the hybrid model to additional face-to-face instruction as safety allows.
 - We will evaluate prior to the two scheduled breaks in our school calendar – mid-winter break (February 15-19) and spring break (April 5-9).
 - We will continue to update [our dashboard](#) so that you have the latest information regarding your child's school and the COVID-19 trends in our community.

Utica Community Schools Board of Education

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Thank you for helping to make face-to-face learning a reality. The resilience and tireless commitment of our staff and parents continues to make a difference. Together we will meet the academic and emotional needs of the 26,000 students in Utica Community Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert S. Monroe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robert S. Monroe
Interim Superintendent