



Dear Minnewaska Area Students and Families:

The Minnewaska Area School Board held a workshop at 5 p.m. Monday, August 10. The purpose of the workshop provided the MAS leadership team an opportunity to present the 2020-21 Return to School plans. Throughout the workshop, the school board was assured the MAS leadership team has developed all plans around Governor Walz [Executive Order 20-82](#) and [Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan](#) as required by law.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the school board gave its approval to move forward with plans for all three educational scenarios--On-site Learning, Distance Learning and Hybrid Learning (a combination of the first two). *Also, please know that regardless of the learning model we decide upon, school districts are required to offer "Distance Learning Choice" to families who may be medically vulnerable or otherwise unable or uncomfortable about returning to school throughout the year.*

Based on the latest COVID-19 infection rate data in Pope County, (information generated by Horizon Public Health) and other information we will review daily, we have selected a plan to start out the year. Minnewaska Area Schools plans to begin the 2020-21 school year on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 as follows:

- **K-6 elementary students will be attending school in person, unless you have informed us your child will be participating in our "Distance Learning Choice" plan.**
- **7-12<sup>th</sup> grade secondary students will begin school in the hybrid learning plan, unless you have informed us your child will be participating in our "Distance Learning Choice" plan.**
- **Details related to each of these plans are found on our [Quick Reference Guide](#) and in this [Detailed Plan Information Guide](#). These links are on our website in the news section, COVID-19 communication page, and in the resources section of each school page.**
- **Back to school supply lists may be found on the district's website in the news or in the resources section of each school page or here for [K-3](#), [4-6](#), and [7-8th](#) grade.**
- **The school board also emphasized the importance of advising you that decisions on how to begin the school year, and how to continue the school year may change weekly and you should be ready to adapt to those changes if/as they occur**

A team of district leaders will continuously review Public Health data and consider guidance from the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education to determine which of the three scenarios identified above the district should be in during the year. If a learning plan change is determined appropriate, you will be notified immediately (if possible up to 5 days notice will be given).

Each of the MAS Principals will be reaching out to you soon via email with additional details about starting school in each school building. Details linked above are also found on our website at <https://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/>

Your commitment to enroll your children in MAS keeps the Laker family strong and together. We genuinely appreciate your support. Feel free to reach out to your child's respective school office should you have any questions.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Ellingworth".

**Rick Ellingworth**

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