



# School Reopening Update

October 7, 2020



# Key Messages

- 1) The health & well-being of students, families, & staff is priority #1.
- 2) Our focus for this school year is to develop a safe school environment for our students and staff that prioritizes everyone's well-being and enables high levels of learning for all.
- 3) We are operating based on guidance from the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education while closely monitoring the latest information from medical experts and the evolving data regarding the pandemic both in Massachusetts and in Shrewsbury.



# Reasons to be proud

- 1) Our staff has gone above and beyond to make the reopening of schools happen successfully
- 2) Our families have been very supportive of the work we have had to do to reshape how our schools work in order to adapt to the pandemic
- 3) Our students have been terrific in meeting the new expectations we have set out for them



**It is great to have our students  
back in our schools!**

**Let's keep it that way!**

- Mask up!
- Keep your distance
- Wash/sanitize your hands frequently
- Use common sense outside of school  
(socializing, travel, etc.)





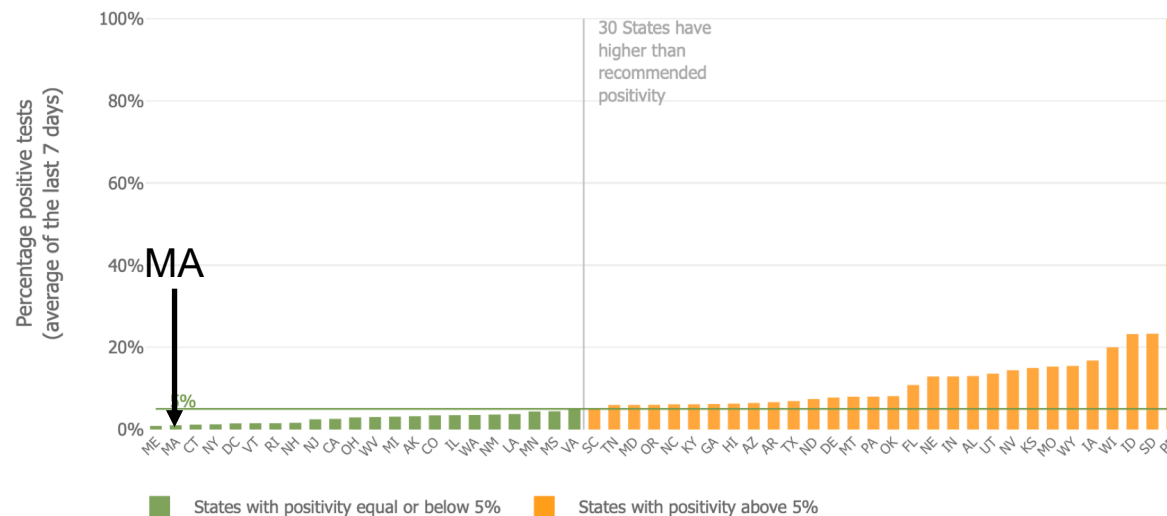
# Current Public Health Data

## MA 7-Day Positivity Rate = **1.02%**

(Up from **0.64%** two weeks ago)

Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center

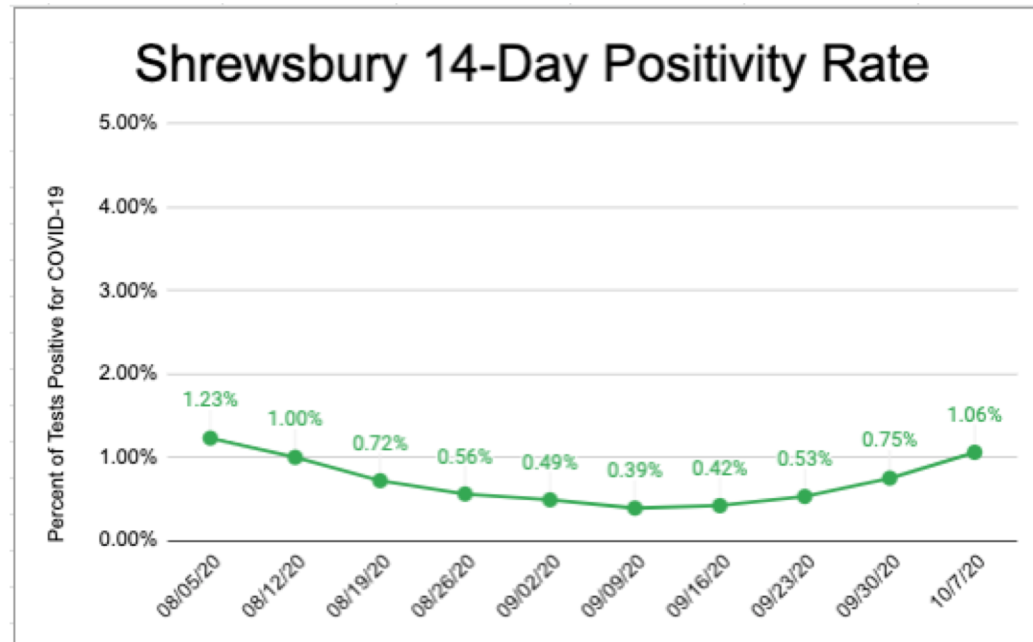
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/testing-positivity>





# Current Public Health Data

## Shrewsbury 14-Day Positive Test Rate (vs. 5.0% Benchmark) As of October 7



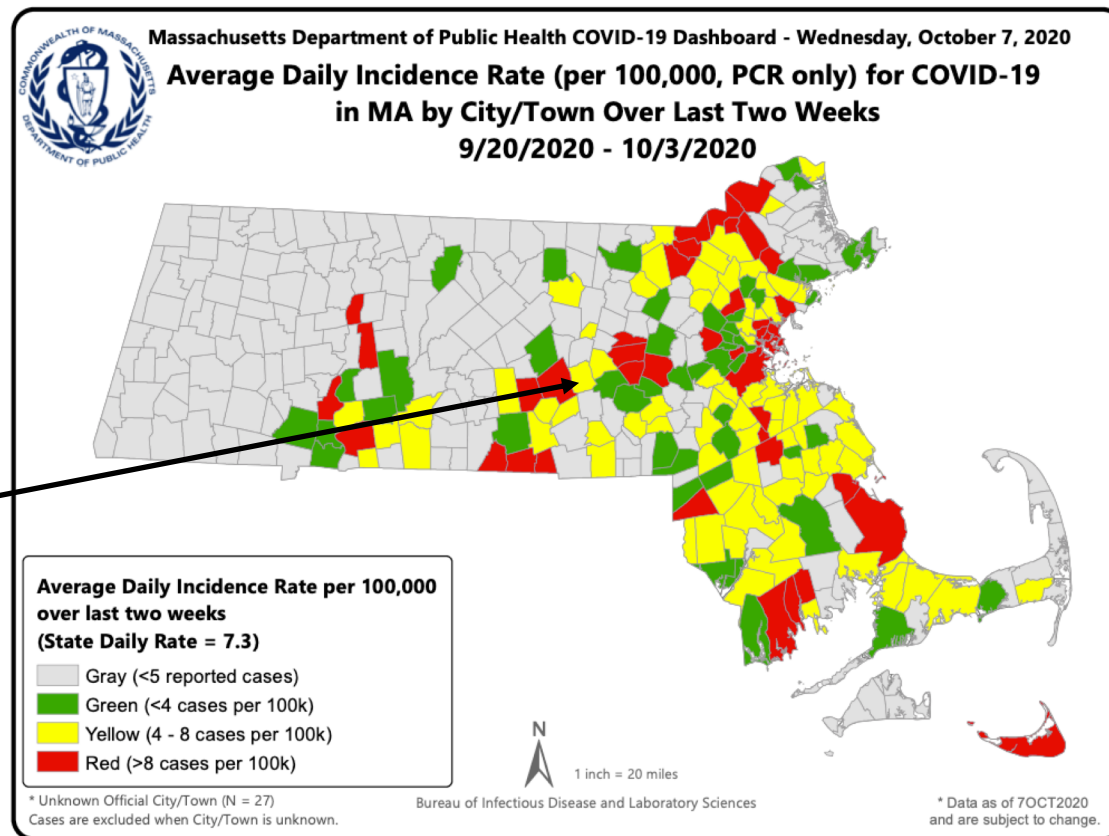
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-covid-19-public-health-report-october-7-2020/download>



# Current Public Health Data

## Shrewsbury 14-Day Cases per 100,000 = 5.6 (As of October 7)

Shrewsbury  
Case Count  
Last 14 Days =  
31 Cases  
(2.21  
Cases/Day)



# Update to Decision-Making Process for Determining Change in Educational Program (i.e., Potential for Moving to Remote Learning): Observing Trends in Data

With new color-coded metric from DPH / COVID-19 Command, DESE is issuing additional guidance for selecting a learning model

New color-coded metric*		DESE expectation for learning model
<b>RED</b>	Average daily cases per 100,000 is <b>greater than 8</b>	Remote
<b>YELLOW</b>	Average daily cases per 100,000 is <b>between 4 - 8</b>	
<b>GREEN</b>	Average daily cases per 100,000 is <b>less than 4</b>	Full-time in-person OR Hybrid (if extenuating circumstances)
<b>UNSHADED</b>	Fewer than 5 total cases over the past 14 days. Generally, this is for communities with small populations and very few cases.	

*\*Measured as a 14-day rolling average and will be reported weekly as part of the online DPH dashboard*

# **Update to Decision-Making Process for Determining Change in Educational Program (i.e., Potential for Moving to Remote Learning): Observing Trends in Data**

From the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (October 2, 2020):

“The Department of Public Health (DPH) releases [weekly, color-coded health metric](#) for all municipalities in the Commonwealth. With each weekly update of the color-coded health metrics, we have seen municipalities falling in and out of the “red” and/or “yellow” designations. For this reason, we are reminding that you that **it is critically important that school districts do not make decisions based on a single report from DPH. Instead, we recommend that school districts wait for color changes in either direction in three consecutive weekly reports before considering a change to an instructional model (remote, hybrid, in-person).**”

# **Update to Decision-Making Process for Determining Change in Educational Program (i.e., Potential for Moving to Remote Learning): Observing Trends in Data**

From the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (October 2, 2020):

“This three-week time period of reports will represent four weeks of data and will be more reflective of a trend than one report. Furthermore, please remember that these color-coded designations are based on a single indicator (number of cases per 100,000 residents). In addition to this color-coded metric, we encourage districts and schools to work with their local boards of health to use all available information regarding COVID-19 trends in making these decisions. This could also include local test positivity rates and whether cases are increasing or decreasing in a municipality.”



# Department of School Nursing Update

10/7/2020

# COVID-19 related occurrences

as of 10/7/2020

	Total students & staff
Positive cases	<b>10</b>
Close contacts	<b>21</b>

Contact tracing to date has shown no evidence of in-school transmission of COVID-19





# How can we protect ourselves and others?

## A combination of strategies

- A combination of mitigation strategies is required; one will not work on its own
  - All students and staff must wear face masks consistently and in the proper manner
  - Everyone should do their best to avoid “close contact” by not being within 6 feet distance of others for 15 minutes at a time
  - Students and staff should wash/sanitize their hands frequently
  - Students and staff must stay home if they are sick
- We are all in this together and ask that staff and families partner in maintaining a safe school environment

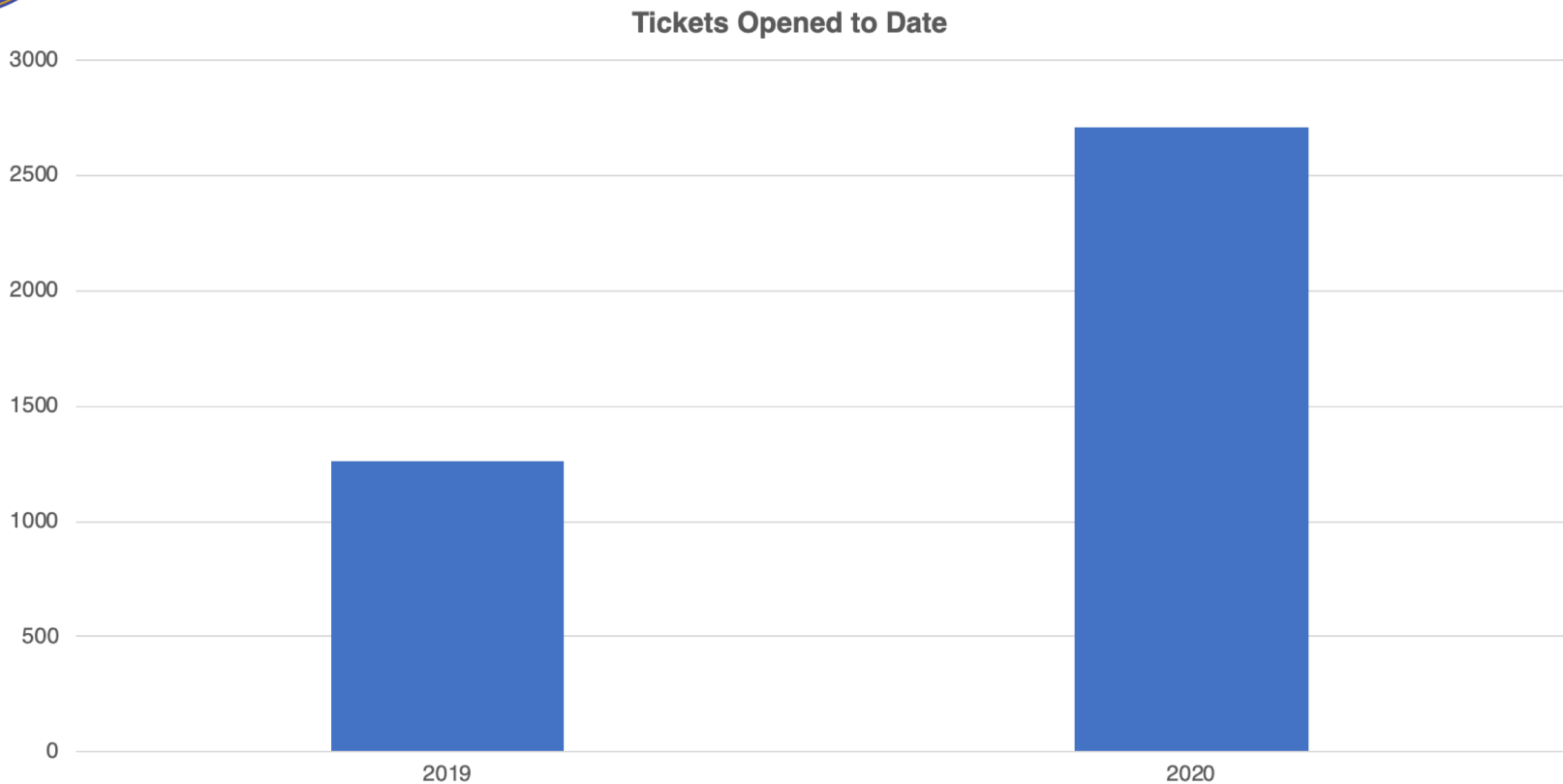


# Information Technology Department Update

10/7/2020



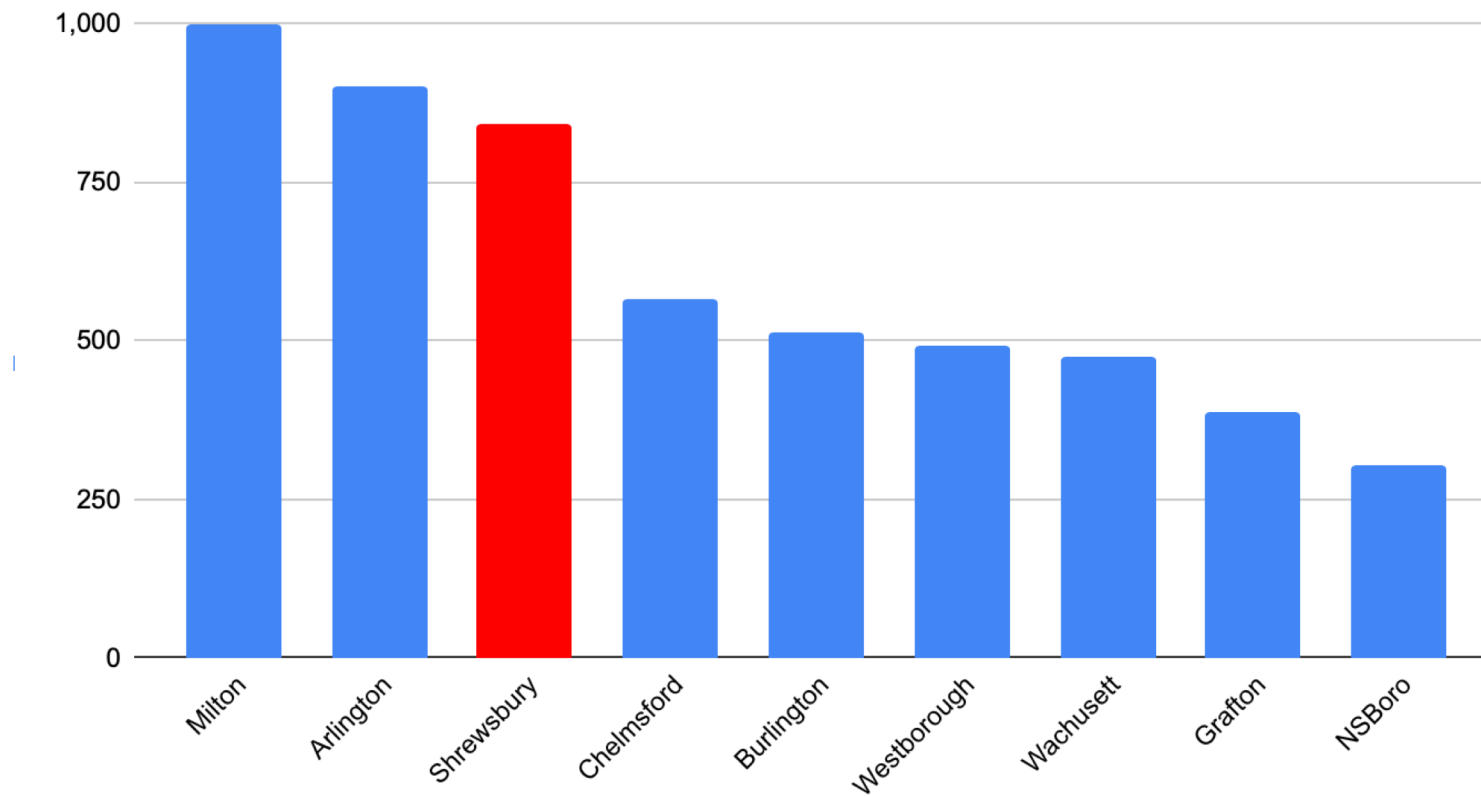
# IT – Tickets Since Start of Year





# IT – 1:1 Device Ratios

1:1 Devices per Tier 1 Technician or ITS





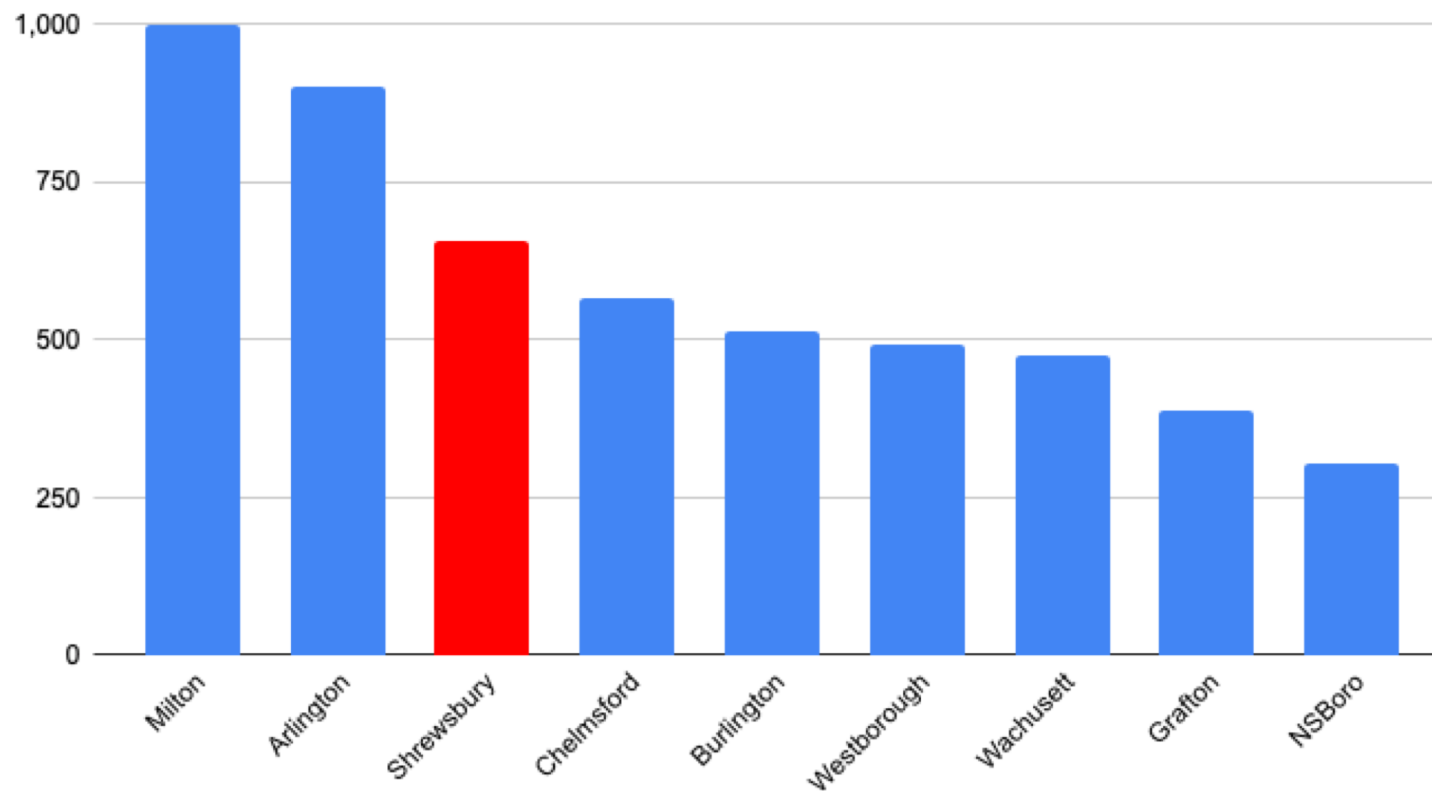
# IT – Staffing

- Adding 2 IT Support Specialists
- One IT Support Specialist per school
  - Except Parker Road (shared with Coolidge)
  - 2 at High School



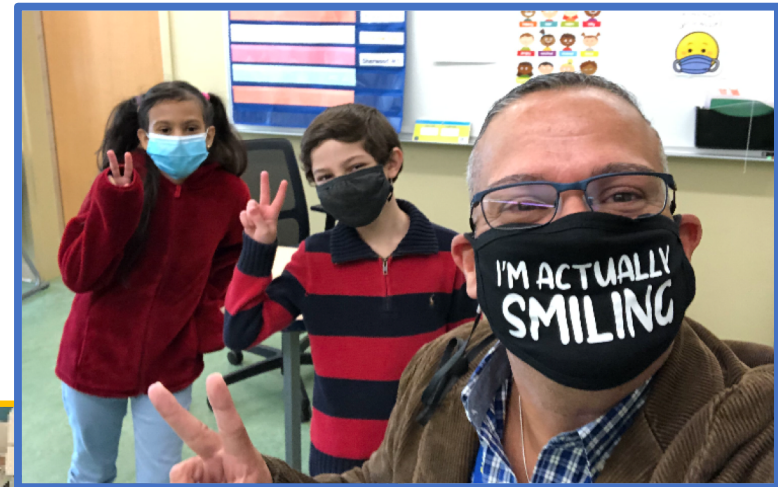
# IT – With Additional Staff

1:1 Devices per Tier 1 Technician or ITS



# Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Update

*October 7, 2020*



# Imperfect **AND** Improving

- We've done a lot of work preparing for managing multiple cohorts- and we need to continue that work.
- Students need support managing time and tasks.
- Families and educators need support managing student workflow.

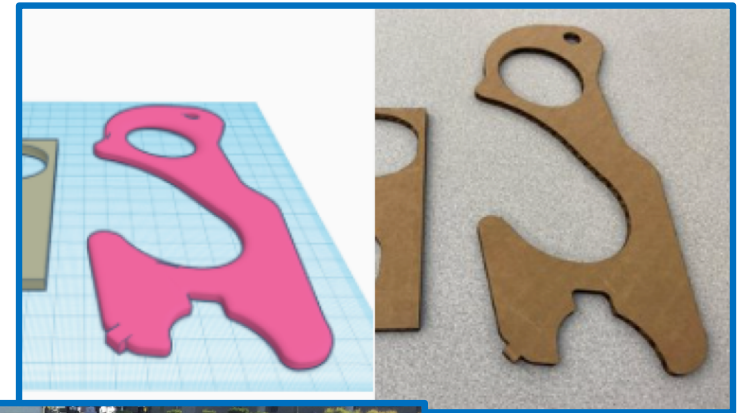




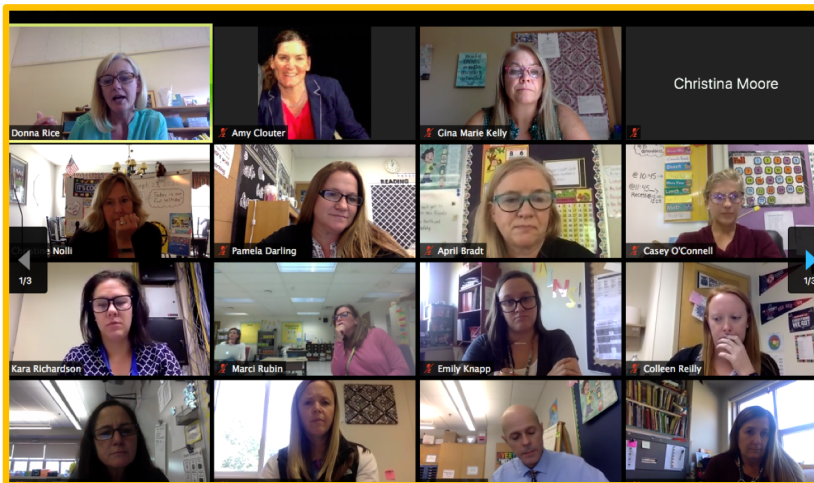
# Clarifying & Communicating Expectations

## **Calibrating is Key:**

We're working together to balance independent practice, timely feedback and accountability.



## Teachers continue to learn, too.



- Teachers are still balancing the diverse needs of students within and across Cohorts A and B/C.
- At the Elementary level we've had challenges with some aspects of learning platforms- not functionality but flow.

# Professional Learning

- This Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> we're looking forward to professional development and planning.
- Keynotes will address strategic goals:

***Why is equity important now?***

***Why is equity connected to student support?***

***How do we foster inclusive and diverse school communities?***

- This work will move our efforts to become an anti-racist district forward.



**Dr. Irvin Leon Scott**



**Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson**



# Reasons to be proud

- 1) Our staff has gone above and beyond to make the reopening of schools happen successfully
- 2) Our families have been very supportive of the work we have had to do to reshape how our schools work in order to adapt to the pandemic
- 3) Our students have been terrific in meeting the new expectations we have set out for them