



# Monday Memo

From Supt. Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams

Jan. 11, 2020

**Based on the most current metrics, we will remain in remote learning next week, Jan. 19-22, with the exception of students in the Resource Room and Special Education learning labs.**

## Important links:

- Our website page with [COVID-19 updates](#)
- [New COVID-19 dashboard](#)
- [Complete semester 2 hybrid learning plan](#)
- [FAQ](#) about hybrid learning

## Music teacher Mr. Svejda and freshman Cat Nickles among 2020 Villagers of the Year!

Happy new year, and welcome to the start of second semester! We have some great news to kick off the year: For its 36th annual Villager of the Year Awards, the Wednesday Journal has selected 16 local “helpers and heroes,” who have been “doing good, taking risks, watching out during the COVID-19 pandemic.” Among the 16 honorees are Oak Park and River Forest High School freshman, cookbook author, and youth philanthropist Cat Nickles and music teacher Anthony Svejda. To see the article featuring them and their accomplishments, [click here](#). Congratulations Cat and Mr. Svejda!

## Date to launch hybrid still to be determined

We are hopeful that we will soon be able to announce a launch date for hybrid learning. Unfortunately, the current local and county COVID-19 metrics do not allow us to begin on-site classes next week. You can track the metrics we’re using for decision-making by [clicking here](#) to visit our new COVID-19 dashboard. This dashboard will be updated weekly, and in my Monday Memo, I will let you know whether we will launch our hybrid learning plan the following week. (Separate and more detailed communications will follow once we have a launch date.) As shared previously, our first week of hybrid learning will begin with rotations of only freshmen on site, to help them acclimate as they would have on our annual back-to-school Huskie Kickoff Day.

## Saliva screening contract up for approval

To help identify potential cases of COVID-19 and reduce the chances of transmission in the building, the district is planning to implement a saliva screening process for on-site students and staff. Administration will ask the Board to approve a contract with Safeguard Surveillance at the special Board meeting this Thursday, Jan. 14.

The Safeguard test is what’s known as a *surveillance screener*, which means it does not diagnose COVID-19. However, with a 99% accuracy rate, a positive result on the screener makes it highly likely the person is positive for COVID, and anyone testing positive on the screener will be considered a *presumptive positive* case. The person will need to follow up with a diagnostic test, and they will not be permitted to return to the building until the school has received a “release from isolation” notification from the local health department.

Saliva screening will provide us with additional, very specific metrics about the level of COVID-19 among our on-site students and staff, and will be key to decision-making about holding on-site classes. Our goal is to

implement a pilot testing program prior to the beginning of on-site classes, so that we can determine a baseline for presumptive positive cases. We will publish the data each week on our COVID-19 dashboard, which you can find by [clicking here](#).

### **On-site student cohorts assigned next week**

Students who have opted into on-site classes are being assigned to one of four cohorts that will rotate through on-site classes. Each cohort will be on site for two days, followed by six days of remote learning. The process of assigning students to cohorts is nearly complete and will be finalized next week, after the deadline for making changes to second-semester schedules, which is this Friday, Jan. 15. Look for an email next week with on-site students' cohort assignments.

### **Now hiring classroom monitors**

The district is seeking classroom monitors to assist teachers who have been approved for work accommodation and will continue to teach remotely during hybrid learning. The classroom monitor has no teaching responsibilities, but is responsible for ensuring the students remain on task during the instructional period. The classroom monitor will also provide direction and assistance to students in the event of an emergency, and may also be responsible for basic tasks to support the teacher's daily instruction needs.

Classroom monitors need to be available to work four periods a day, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. during the hybrid instruction in the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year. The rate of pay is \$18/hour. If interested, please [click here](#) to apply.

### **Why 8:00 a.m.?**

We've received a number of questions about why we are returning to an 8:00 a.m. start once we launch hybrid learning. A key goal when creating the hybrid schedule was to dismiss students in time for lunch at a reasonable hour. We also wanted to provide adequate time in the afternoon for students to receive content tutoring, participate in assigned counseling or social work activities, and meet with teachers, as well as for teachers to have collaboration time. In order to meet these goals while providing the same amount of instruction as we currently do, plus accommodate a 15-minute Advisory period, we need to go back to our traditional start time of 8:00 a.m. in order to clear the building by 12:35 p.m.

### **Follow the 3W's**

We need *everyone* in our community to adhere to the 3 W's if we are going to be able to launch hybrid learning as soon as possible. Remember:

- **Wear a mask.** Make sure your nose and mouth are covered.
- **Watch your distance.** Stay 6 feet apart.
- **Wash up.** Practice good hand hygiene by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.