

# MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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**Superintendent of Schools**

**Jonathan Ponds, Ed.D.**

November 13, 2020

Dear Families, Caregivers and Staff,

Please do not take the postponement of hybrid learning as an indicator that we do not want to get students back to the classroom. All of our work is on pace to achieve our goal of providing a hybrid in-person option. While this decision to postpone hybrid learning may be frustrating, our primary concern is for the health and safety of our students, staff and greater community.

As noted in Wednesday's email, we will reevaluate this very fluid situation on December 1 and our decisions will be based on relevant infection trends and expert guidance.

In the meantime:

- We continue to work with the Montclair Education Association to best meet the needs of our most at-risk children.
- We continue to maintain the readiness and safety of our buildings for whenever in-person learning can resume.
- You can now view your Mounties and Bulldogs assignments in Parent Access. These assignments are critical for district operations in order to commence hybrid learning as soon as it is safe to do so. We also understand that families need this information for their own scheduling purposes.
- Fall sports will continue as long as circumstances permit, following all safety and health procedures.

As always, we appreciate your patience and understanding. In these challenging times we will do everything in our power to provide your children with the best possible remote learning until those who choose to return to classrooms can.

On another note, I am happy to announce that 11 Montclair High School athletes signed *National Letters of Intent* to play a sport in college. We are so proud of our student-athletes and wish them the best! I also want to extend a special thank you to Montclair's Judy Newman, The Book Lady, who generously treated our K-5 students to more than 1100 bags of books for Halloween and our PTA volunteers who helped distribute them at drive-through pick-ups at our schools.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jonathan Ponds  
Superintendent