

December 18, 2020

Dear Lake Villa Parent and Guardians,

As we continue to review Lake County health metrics ([which can be accessed here](#)), we have thankfully not yet seen a significant spike in infection rates following the Thanksgiving holiday. That's a great sign, although we would certainly like to see a further downturn in daily new cases and the county positivity rate between now and January.

We know that remote learning is challenging for families and that children belong in school with their peers and teachers. We all miss being in physical school! The Lake County Health Department has been working with the county school superintendents toward a model to bring more students back to school. We have found that even with substantial community spread of the virus, well-known mitigation strategies have significantly improved schools' ability to stay open for increased in-person learning.

These strategies are:

- Consistent and correct use of masks and other PPE
- Social distancing to the largest extent possible
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department

When schools implement these mitigation measures with fidelity, the risk of transmission has shown to be significantly reduced, and schools may be able to open even given higher levels of community spread. We are confident in our ability to implement these measures, and our hybrid model was designed to minimize interactions and thus further minimize the risk of infection.

With that said, we are planning to return to on-site learning using our hybrid model at Lake Villa 41. Please know that this is subject to change if transmission rates skyrocket after the holidays. This timeline and our hybrid plan will be discussed further at the January 11th Board of Education meeting. Please understand there is also the strong possibility that we might have to pivot between hybrid and full remote learning if one of the schools experiences an outbreak or we are unable to staff the buildings due the substitute teacher shortage all districts are facing.

TRANSITION TIMELINE

WHO	ON-SITE STARTING DATE
Full Staff	January 21 and 22, 2021
Phase 1: Early Childhood, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, Cross-Categorical, all Bi-Lingual classes, Palombi Red Group	January 25, 2021
Phase 2: 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Palombi Black Group	February 1, 2021
Phase 3: 5th, 6th, and Palombi White Group	February 8, 2021

Parents can always choose full remote learning if they are uncomfortable returning to school. **Parents are encouraged to contact their child's principal by January 8th if their learning preference (remote or hybrid) has changed** since the fall. Please understand this may result in a change in your child's teacher. Remote learning will take place in unison and mirror the on-site classrooms. This means that all students, regardless of the platform, will need to follow the on-site start times for their specific school. Beginning on January 25th we will follow our regular school hour schedules - I am especially sorry, Palombi students - no more late start to your school day.

On January 25th, school hours will be as follows:

Palombi School

7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Martin School

8:15 a.m. to 1:55 p.m.

8:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. – AM Session

12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – PM Session

Thompson School

8:15 a.m. to 1:55 p.m.

8:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. – AM Session

12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – PM Session

Hooper School

9:00 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

In January, parents will receive an updated version of our Hybrid Learning Plan for all the details. Right now, I felt it was important to let you all know our general plan and timelines so parents can begin their own preparation.

I hope all of our families stay safe during this challenging holiday season and that you find ways to bring comfort to those who are in need. This is a difficult time for our entire

community and each day I am thankful for our families and staff who are doing their best each day until we reach that vaccine. There is a light shining at the end of this very dark tunnel. We will get there!

Happy Holidays,

Lynette Zimmer

Dr. Lynette Zimmer, Superintendent