



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

From the Office of the Principal

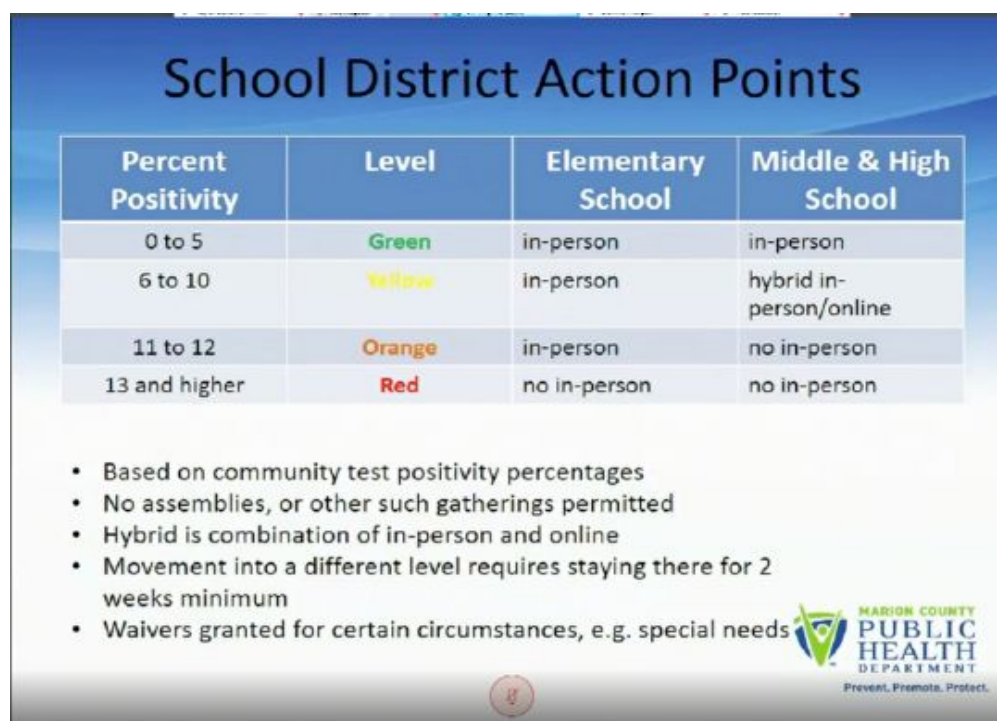
Dear Bishop Chatard Parents:

Bishop Chatard High School has made the decision to continue operating under its hybrid Blue/White class schedule through October 16. This will carry us through the first quarter, which ends on October 9, and cover the first week of the second quarter.

Making this decision to remain on a hybrid schedule keeps us safe and gives our students, teachers and parents much-needed stability leading into our weeklong fall break. We are hopeful that we will return to full-time, in-person instruction when we return after fall break and we appreciate your support as we continue to discern our next steps.

On numerous occasions parents have asked about our decision-making process as it pertains to the hybrid model. Well before school started, we decided to adopt the hybrid model. What drove this decision was our desire to keep our students and staff properly socially distanced and to eliminate the possibility of quarantining students and staff. We knew, like all schools, we would eventually have positive cases. If a person tests positive, anybody within six feet of that person for more than 15 minutes would have to do a minimum 14-day quarantine, and in some cases longer. The hybrid model essentially cuts our school in half and gives us the ability to function six feet apart in all areas of our school thus eliminating situations where we would lose large chunks of students to close contact exposures.

In late July, MCPHD Director Dr. Virginia Caine came out with a Percent Positivity Chart where the 7-day average of percent positivity dictated what model your school had to operate under.



When we opened school we were in the 9% range and, as you can see, the chart required us to operate using a hybrid model. The good news is that the positivity rate continues to drop. As of today, the [7-day average](#) is 5.59, which gets us ever so close to the 5% needed to operate in person.

While the 5% threshold would allow us to operate in person, it still does not eliminate the potential to lose students to close contact exposure. As stated earlier, our goal is to return to full-time, in-person instruction, but we will always have our focus on student safety and the potential negative effects of close contact quarantining on students' in-school time and extracurricular participation. Given the positivity rate and close contact rules, remaining on the hybrid model through October 16 seems like the best choice for right now. I am pleased to report that with our last three positive cases we have not lost any students to close contact exposure, and all of our sports teams are fully operational. We can give credit to the hybrid model and the great leadership of our teachers, staff moderators and coaches for that success.

Thank you for your unwavering support during this first quarter of school. Our success is due to the students, teachers and families who have continued to stay united in the face of adversity. May God continue to bless the Bishop Chatard community.

Sincerely,



Principal, Bishop Chatard High School