McDowell Families,

Enclosed you will find your student’s schedule. Please know that there will not be any change requests. Everyone takes the same classes except one elective and those were already chosen by the student. There was a great deal of effort put into making class sizes appropriate and balanced for social distancing. We also worked with household names and trying to balance the groups in classes.

The last letter I sent had all of the plans laid out for information sake. Per Mr. Williams’ letter, we are starting the year on Plan B.

I again want to reiterate, the current order from the governor states that face masks are required in school. Students will need to wear them on the bus and when they enter the building. We have scheduled two times during the day to go outside for a “mask break”.

If your student has PE this year they will not be changing for class or using the locker rooms. They will however, need to have tennis shoes to wear during PE class.

The following are some of the things we have done at McDowell over the summer to prepare for the safest return to school for students.

* Automatic faucets, paper towel dispensers and hand sanitizing stations.
* Worked class sizes to allow for student desks to be spaced 6 feet apart.
* Created 4 lunches to allow for fewer students in the cafeteria.
* Removed the locker bays to create more space for Art and Technology classes for social distancing.
* Each student will have their own chrome book, personal white board, marker and eraser.
* Art students will have their own supplies to use.
* Drinking fountains are shut off. We do have two bottle fillers that can be used. Students may carry an insulated water bottle with them.
* One-way traffic in hallways where possible.
* Barriers on cafeteria tables to separate students while eating lunch.
* Created a staggered schedule so that only one grade is switching classes and in the hallways at a time.

On the “first” day (August 20th and 21st) students will find their first period teacher outside of the building. Teachers will then take their classes directly to first period.

Our goals on the student’s first day:

* First and foremost – Welcome them back after 5 long months!!
* Help them navigate the building, especially for 7th graders
* Handout chrome books, white boards and other supplies
* Go over expectations, policies and procedures

Thank you and we look forward to seeing all of you!!

Bret King

Principal, McDowell Middle School