



Script of Dr. Block's April 16, 2021 Video Message

Hello Livingston Public Schools Community. This is Matt Block, Superintendent of Schools.

As I remember where we were a year ago, in April 2020, I recall needing to take my car out for a ride around the neighborhood simply because it hadn't been used in more than two weeks. We rarely left home except to go for walks. A year ago, I, along with all of our faculty and staff, were working from home, and our schools were eerily dark and quiet with no students or teachers in them. While we still have a journey ahead of us, I could not be prouder of our community and our entire LPS team working tirelessly to provide the best for our students and families through all of the pivots, adjustments, phase-ins, phase-outs, transitions, and changes that have brought us so far since last April. This year has certainly been a rollercoaster ride, and our team has done outstanding work navigating its many twists and turns.

On March 3rd, we announced our Spring Forward at LPS Plan. I wanted to update all of you on the status of that plan:

- On March 15th all K-2 Hybrid Elementary School Students began attending school in-person in one cohort five days per week.
- On April 5th we added our grade 3-5 students to the five day schedule, and more than doubled the number of students attending our secondary schools in person. All of our schools feel so much livelier with more students in our hallways and classes.
- We have seen numbers of in-person students across the district increase between April 5th and today, which indicates that families adhered to the quarantine guidelines after traveling over spring break. Thank you to all of the students and families who put the safety of the community first, and followed the guidelines.

We are currently working on the next phase of the Spring Forward at LPS plan; as outlined in the plan:

- On May 10th we intend to move to full days with lunch at Elementary Schools.
- On May 17th we intend to move to 1 cohort for 5 day-per-week in-person instruction at the secondary level on our current ½ day schedule.
- On May 24th we intend to begin instituting lunch and full day instruction at the secondary level as well.
- We are excited to end the school year with students at our elementary and secondary schools in school for full days, and for five days per week.

Details on all of these “next steps” will be sent to families in the coming weeks by their building principals.

Finally, I wanted to let everyone know that we still have one snow day left on our snow day bank. We will be utilizing that snow day on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. There will be no school that day creating a four day weekend for Memorial Day. We selected Tuesday, because there will be some Advanced Placement testing happening at the high school on the Friday before that weekend. We hope everyone gets an extra chance to relax and recharge on Tuesday, June 1st.

We have much to look forward to as we head into the final quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. In the meantime, I want to wish everyone a safe and restful weekend.

Thank you.