



# UNION TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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January 5, 2021

Dear Tiger Family,

Happy new year! I hope you had a restful winter break. I am writing to remind the community that additional students will return for in-person instruction on Monday, January 11th. This has been part of the ongoing Board of Education discussion on our [restart and recovery plan](#).

Since October 2020, K-4 students have attended school in-person on a daily basis. Discussions on how to provide the same opportunity for our middle school students have been ongoing. During the last few Board meetings, I shared that social distancing requirements would make it necessary for us to hire additional staff to bring our middle school students back for daily in-person instruction.

Related, and prior to the pandemic in March 2020, we planned to hire additional staff to facilitate a new block schedule at the middle school. The need for additional staff due to COVID-19, coupled with the original plan to hire them for block scheduling, resulted in the hiring of two new staff members. These new staff members will allow us to potentially return all middle school students to in-person instruction this school year.

The drawback to this plan is that students in grades 5-7 will have new math teachers for the remainder of the school year. While this isn't ideal, we felt the benefit of providing daily in-person instruction for all students far outweighed the drawback of a new teacher.

Mr. Carfley will be sending out a helpful explanation to the new schedule. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either one of us. Have a great week.

Yours in education,

Nicholas A. Diaz