

November 6, 2020

Dear Yinghua families:

The State of Minnesota recommends that Middle Schools move to a distance-only model if the number of people in the county whose Covid-19 test results were positive in the last two weeks reaches 30-50 per 10,000. Hennepin County has reached this threshold.

Dr. Lien, Nurse Hao, and I and many others on staff have been working around the clock and exerting great effort to discern the best way forward for Yinghua students, staff, and families. It's not easy. We are balancing safety and learning needs, and, when you combine this with the intricacies of a K-8 Chinese immersion schedule, you have a lot of moving parts to consider!

Today, in a Zoom meeting with our MDE health and epidemiology liaison, Yinghua received high praise for the safety measures we have implemented and for the plan I will share with you now which carries us through January 19, 2021.

The Yinghua Middle School has switched to a distance-learning-only model. However, our advisors confirmed that at the current time there is not a need to make a change to our Lower School model.

After Thanksgiving, our plan is for all students to move to the distance learning model.

Here are the specific dates to note as we look ahead:

- 11/30/2020-12/18/2020 Term II distance learning for all students
- 12/21/2020-1/1/2021 Winter Break, no school
- 1/4/2021-1/15/2021 Term II distance learning resumes
- 1/19/2021 School will resume with both hybrid and distance models

Thanksgiving Break has been extended. It will last one full week, from November 23 to November 27. During Thanksgiving week, there are no classes and no Virtual Classroom meetings. However, school will be open as teachers work on Term I grades and Term II preparations, and there will be a Term II materials pickup on Monday and Tuesday. Everyone except Lower School hybrid learners should plan to come to school to pick up Term II learning materials between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Monday, November 23 for Group A or Tuesday, November 24 for Group B.

If you have been hybrid, here's what you need to know:

Lower School: Now through November 20, the hybrid learning plan remains unchanged for hybrid learners in Lower School (K-4th) Groups A and B. On Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 19, your children will bring home their locker, cubby, and classroom belongings and Term II learning materials. ***Watch for updated schedules for full distance learning that will involve minor changes.***

Middle School: Now through November 20, MS hybrid model students (5th-8th) will continue the switch to distance learning. Hybrid MS students will follow the same Group A and Group B schedules they are accustomed to. What changes? Instead of coming to school two days per week,

hybrid students will meet the same teachers online in live-Zoom classes. Come to school to pick up learning materials for Term II during Thanksgiving week: Materials will be ready for Group A on Monday, November 23, and materials will be ready for Group B on Tuesday, November 24. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Watch for updated schedules for full distance learning that will involve minor changes.**

If you have been distance, here's what you need to know:

Lower School Distance Learners: No changes. Pick up learning materials for Term II at Yinghua during Thanksgiving week. Materials will be ready for Group A on Monday, November 23, and materials will be ready for Group B on Tuesday, November 24. Hours for pickup are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Watch for updated schedules for full distance learning that will involve minor changes.**

Middle School Distance Learners: No changes. Pick up Term II learning materials on Monday, November 23 (Group A) and Tuesday, November 24 (Group B). Hours for pickup are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Watch for updated schedules for full distance learning that will involve minor changes.**

Tier 1: Children of critical workers who have been involved in Yinghua's Tier 1 school-age childcare may continue to attend. Please coordinate with Sherry Edwards at sherry.edwards@yinghuaacademy.org if you have changes or questions.

Fridays: Friday programming for hybrid kindergartners and older students new to Yinghua continues as usual on Friday, November 13, and Friday, November 20. However, once full distance learning begins on Monday, November 30, students will not be involved in a full day of "live" classes, rather they will receive scheduled small group instruction via Zoom.

MDE has created a guide to give families a quick overview of the education and health planning guidance that schools are using to plan for the 2020-21 school year. This document is intended to help families know what information they should expect from their child's school. The guide is available in [English](#), [Hmong](#), [Karen](#), [Somali](#) and [Spanish](#) on the [Supporting Students and Families COVID-19 Resources page](#).

Finally, thank you, in advance, for your support and understanding. Together we are better!

Yours sincerely,



Sue Berg
Executive Director
susan.berg@yinghuaacademy.org