

March 2, 2021

I hope this message finds you and your family well and enjoying the New England weather these past few weeks. I write to you today to share an update on our transportation practices. As we continue to navigate through the 2020-2021 school year and review our COVID-19 mitigation plans, we have periodically made changes based on our experiences.

At this time, we will be working in partnership with Specialty Transportation to improve our assigned seating charts on each bus. This will allow us to complete the most accurate contact tracing possible when a positive exposure to COVID-19 has been confirmed on a school bus.

Beginning Thursday March 4th, students who ride the bus will begin to be assigned a seating 'zone' to sit in each day. These zones are color coded by grade level, school, and sibling. Students will receive a card in their period 1 class on Wednesday, March 3rd, with their color "zone" assignment and a graphic so they can identify what rows and answer any questions they may have. The entire process will likely take a few days to complete as there are several buses to address.

Thompson Brook School and Avon Middle School

- Students at TBS will sit in the first two colored zones of the school bus. AMS students will sit in the last two colored zones of the school bus. The middle zone will be used for siblings to sit together, and in some cases as overflow for one school that has significantly more students than the other. Specific assigned seats may be required for buses with higher ridership.
- TBS = **Pink** and **Yellow** AMS = **Orange** and **Green** AMS/TBS Siblings = **Blue**

While our staff will work directly with students next week, I do ask for your assistance in speaking with your child(ren) at home this weekend. Periodic reminders to sit in your assigned zone is the best way families can help support this effort.

Please feel free to reach out to any member of our office staff with questions.

Regards,

Dave Kimball & Kristina Wallace