



# Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

Montachusett Reg. Vocational Technical School  
 1050 Westminster Street  
 Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420-4696

978-345-9200 (Fitchburg Calling Area)  
 978-632-8889 (Gardner Calling Area)

Dear Monty Tech Community,

As always, it is with great hope that this correspondence finds all members of the Monty Tech family safe and healthy.

It is disappointing to acknowledge the difficult fact that this time of year, normally filled with joy and good spirit, has instead become quite trying for many of our community members. Fortunately, within the school building, the impact due to individuals who have been diagnosed positive for the virus and those who may have been identified as being in close contact is relatively small. That status has unequivocally benefitted from the fact that we are currently in a temporary remote learning model that was put in place as we watched the number of cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations around the region reach disturbing heights.

Thus, while we are pleased to know that it is unlikely that the school environment has resulted in any recent transmissions of the virus, we have to look ahead and be concerned with what lies in the future. As everyone is likely aware, officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Department of Public Health have warned all families of the potential increase in cases due to individuals not following the mitigation steps that have been recommended regarding not participating in gathering beyond your immediate household and avoiding any unnecessary out-of-state travel.

Clearly, the current state of the virus across the Commonwealth and nation indicates the failure of many to be mindful of this guidance. Regionally, it is certainly concerning that, as of last week, twelve of Monty Tech's eighteen communities were measured in red, the highest risk level, as indicated on the weekly COVID town-by-town data. Further, in conversations with our local Department of Public Health officials, it was suggested that an extension of remote learning would be helpful in limiting the overall transmission of the virus within our region.

Therefore, Monty Tech will be extending the period of remote learning following the holiday break. As of this moment, the goal would be to return to our hybrid-learning model by Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. We recognize that this decision will have an impact on the upcoming Week #7 of Freshmen Exploratory, but we feel that it is essential that we follow the direction and advice of our local health officials. Therefore, our post-holiday break schedule would be the following –

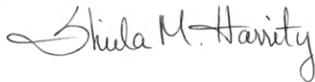
<b>JANUARY - 2021</b>						
<b><u>Sun.</u></b>	<b><u>Mon.</u></b>	<b><u>Tues.</u></b>	<b><u>Wed.</u></b>	<b><u>Thurs.</u></b>	<b><u>Fri.</u></b>	<b><u>Sat.</u></b>
B	4 Day B1 <b>Remote Learning Day</b>	5 Day B2 <b>Remote Learning Day</b>	6 Day B3 <b>Remote Learning Day</b>	7 Day B4 <b>Remote Learning Day</b>	8 Day B5 <b>Remote Learning Day</b>	B (Exp. #7)
A	11 Day A1	12 Day A2	13 Day A3	14 Day A4	15 Day A5	A

As with other remote learning weeks, all students should plan to participate in virtual classes throughout the school day. They should further prepare for the week by reviewing their various class platforms and email in order to identify instructors' meeting links. Freshmen should be sure to review their Aspen X2 portal in order to make sure that they are reaching out to the proper shop instructor. Any questions relative to exploratory assignment should be directed to the student's guidance counselor Mrs. Reyes (last name A-L – [reyes@montytech.net](mailto:reyes@montytech.net)) or Mrs. Quinn (last name M-Z – [Quinn-alicia@montytech.net](mailto:Quinn-alicia@montytech.net)).

While I am sure that many members of our community are disappointed that we will miss another week of in-person learning, we should all look ahead hopeful that necessary mitigation steps like this, as well as the implementation of the vaccination plan across the state, will allow us to decrease the number of full remote weeks in the upcoming months.

Finally, it is with this spirit of hope and goodwill that I wish everyone across the Monty Tech community best wishes for a joyful Christmas and fulfilling holiday season!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila M. Harrity".

Dr. Sheila Harrity  
Superintendent