

December 18, 2020



Good afternoon families and staff,

We made it to winter break! While at times it has not been easy, I cannot say enough how proud I am of our students, staff and families for the incredible amount of hard work and dedication that has gone into this school year thus far. Our collective efforts have allowed the School District of New Berlin to provide all students their choice of two robust educational models and a sense of normalcy during what has certainly been an abnormal time.

I thank each and every one of you for your efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, for your patience as we have worked through these new and challenging situations, and for your understanding as we navigate this pandemic together.

While vaccines are here for some and on the horizon for others, many unanswered questions still remain. How long will the pandemic last? When will it be OK to shed masks, shake hands or share meals? When will we be able to get back to “normal”?

As we search for those answers together, we continue to make pandemic-related adjustments and decisions as we move toward second semester. Some of them, and other information, are outlined below:

School Calendar Changes

In an effort to ease the transition into second semester for students and staff, there will be no school for students Thursday, Jan. 28, and Friday, Jan. 29. Staff will use the days to collaborate with peers and for professional learning, as well as to adjust for new students who have chosen to switch from the virtual to in-person educational model, or vice versa. Students will have no new learning on either day.

Masking Into Second Semester

As of today, the SDNB plans to continue to require masks for all students, staff and visitors in our buildings and on our school buses into second semester. This is the current recommendation from the Waukesha County Health Department and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and as such, we will continue following their guidance until further notice.

Reporting COVID-19 Over Break

Repeating a request from earlier this month, we again ask that families report any student and family cases of COVID-19 to your child(ren)'s respective school(s) during winter break so that our staff can continue to conduct contact tracing. Our goal is to maintain the most accurate district-specific data possible and we will be relying on families to provide the most up-to-date information when we return from the break.



Changes to Google Hangouts Availability

Due to increasing concerns over non-instructional use and the availability of alternate solutions (Gmail, Meet, Zoom, etc.), general student access to Google Hangouts will be removed at the end of the day today.

Please note that this change will not affect some students in virtual-only classes at this time.

County's Holiday Letter

As was the case around Halloween and Thanksgiving, Waukesha County has an important message about holiday gatherings and how to celebrate safely this winter. You can read the entire letter [HERE](#).

Thank you once again for your continued support of the SDNB.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Joe Garza, Superintendent