

Jan. 12, 2021



Good afternoon families and staff,

Last night, I gave the School Board an update related to the COVID-19 pandemic and our efforts in the School District of New Berlin. Below is a summary of key points from the presentation, which can be viewed in its entirety [HERE](#).

Possible Teacher Changes for Second Semester

As we have stated previously, elementary students whose families have chosen to change educational models for second semester should expect a teacher change. Likewise, some students may experience a teacher change as a result of other families' choices and the repurposing and/or adding of teacher resources to maintain class sizes.

We anticipate communicating any teacher changes to families **Friday, Jan. 22**, in advance of second semester.

Please note that we expect changes to the educational model chosen by parents at the secondary level to have minimal impact on staffing.

Mental Health Resources

The changes brought about to our daily routines as a result of the pandemic have certainly added a layer of stress on our students and families. We want all students and families to know that our student services staff are available for conversations and support throughout the school year. Our team of counselors, school psychologists and the district social worker are here to help our students with academic support, social / emotional support and academic and career planning. We encourage students and families to use [this helpful resource guide](#) as a starting point to get your student the help they need.

Vaccination Updates

The state recently began its rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations. According to Waukesha County Health Department officials, there is no definitive timeline as to when the vaccination will be available to our students, staff and families. The state will determine the priority order of essential workers, and at this time, K-12 educators are in the third "wave" of vaccine recipients. It is possible that K-12 educators could be moved to the second wave, but that has not yet been determined.

At this time, the SDNB will not require staff members to get vaccinated, and we will survey staff members to determine who wants to or plans to receive the vaccine.

Students and families are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider and to watch the [County Health Department's website](#) for facts about the vaccine and its availability.



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Please Keep Children Home When They Are Sick

While the availability of vaccines is great news, as is the current low number of cases in New Berlin and in our schools, we, as a district, cannot become complacent. County health officials are anticipating a spike in cases as a result of the holidays. In order to keep our schools open, we continue to rely on families to keep children home when necessary: when they are sick, when they are showing even mild COVID-19 symptoms and when they have come into close contact with a COVID-positive person.

Since returning from break, we have had to send sick students home. If we are to remain open, we must keep our students healthy and safe, and we need your help to do so.

Professional Learning Day - Monday, Jan. 18

As a reminder, there is no school for students Monday, Jan. 18. It is a professional learning day for staff.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the School District of New Berlin.

Sincerely,

Joe Garza, Superintendent