

October 13, 2020



Good afternoon families,

It has been more than a month since the school year started and this week marks approximately one month since the students whose families chose the in-person instructional model have been at school full-time.

Over the first several weeks, we have received valuable feedback from both our virtual and in-person families, as well as our staff, and we continue to make adjustments based on that feedback. We believed going into this year that while we had high expectations, it would not be perfect. And we know that it hasn't been!

Through it all, even with the pandemic hanging over our heads, our students, staff and families have worked diligently to make the school year the best that it can be, and we continue to move forward with the goal of remaining open.

Below are a few important updates.

### **Social Emotional Support**

The changes brought about to our daily routines as a result of the pandemic have certainly added a layer of stress on our students. We want all students and families to know that our student services staff are available for conversations 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.

### **Tech Issues and Contacts**

We are aware of various technology issues, especially for our virtual learners. Our IT and teaching and learning departments are working collaboratively to address problems as they arise and proactively find solutions for issues before they come up. We encourage families to visit our [Technology Services web page](#) (check out the envelope icon at the top of the district homepage for a quick link) to find important information about software and device support, and more.

### **Positive Cases, the Dashboard and More**

The SDNB has procedures in place for when we are made aware of a positive COVID-19 case. These procedures were developed in consultation with Waukesha County Public Health (WCPH) and are consistent with what is in place for schools countywide.

When the SDNB is made aware of a positive COVID-19 case, we notify our designated WCPH liaison. Likewise, when WCPH is notified of a positive COVID-19 case, they notify the SDNB nurse. A case investigator from the health department contacts the positive individual or parent/guardian to conduct an interview. Through the interview process, the isolation period is



established and individuals who had a close contact exposure to the positive COVID-19 case during the contagious period are identified. The end of isolation date as well as the contagious time frame are shared with us. If the positive COVID-19 individual attended school or school-related functions during that time, we assist in identifying close contact exposures at the school.

To maintain confidentiality and respect privacy, the SDNB then communicates directly with the identified close contacts, without disclosing the name of the positive COVID-19 individual. WCPH will also communicate with the close contacts to establish a quarantine time frame and provide education. WCPH will also notify us in the event there is a change to the end of quarantine date due to a close contact developing symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19. Additionally, WCPH notifies us when an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 has completed their isolation and can return to in-person instruction.

We will NOT communicate individual cases to the entire school or district unless there is a suspected outbreak. We will NOT notify individuals who may have had casual contact with a positive COVID-19 case such as passing in the hallway or in the same classroom but seated more than 6 feet away. We will share information regarding COVID-related absences on our [District Dashboard](#) - which, starting this week, we will be updating daily - and the number of COVID-19 cases in school-age children within the district boundary can be found on the [Waukesha County Dashboard](#).

We continue to stress the importance of our mitigation efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Staff, students, and families all play important roles in keeping schools open. We ask that:

- you keep your child home if they are not feeling well
- contact your health care provider if your child has COVID-19 symptoms
- if you or your child are diagnosed with COVID-19 or are identified as a close contact to an individual who has tested positive, please follow ALL the guidance from your health provider and WCPH.

Our goal is to continue in-person instruction while taking the precautions necessary to provide safe learning environments for all our students. We can only do this with all of your help!

Sincerely,

Joe Garza, Superintendent