



Superintendent's Office
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we head into the summer months, I wanted to provide you with a few relevant updates. First, THANK YOU for your continued support throughout this prolonged school closure. I realize that many aspects of this circumstance have contributed to a great deal of stress and worry for our families, and I truly appreciate that through all of this we have been able to hold it together for our kids. Although difficult, circumstances such as these have a way of shaping the future for communities; after this, I am convinced that we as a community can get through just about anything.

The biggest question we are currently faced with has to do with the start of school this coming fall... To that end, we are developing a "Reopening Committee" that will be composed of multiple school staff representatives as well as local public health officials and medical professionals (many of which are parents of students in the District). This committee will meet several times this summer to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. Although I do not know what the future holds, I do know that we will work through this planning and preparation utilizing a rational, pragmatic, and common sense approach that will focus on student and staff health and safety. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in conjunction with the Department of Health Services (DHS), have developed guidelines and recommendations for the safe reopening of schools; some of the recommendations are plausible for us, while others may not be. Much of what our approach will entail will be based on what is occurring in the community and region with respect to the spread of COVID-19 at that time; again, our decisions will be made collaboratively with both public health and the medical community. One way that you can help in our planning is to participate in an electronic "Off-Campus Learning Survey" being sent out by your school office (many of you may have seen it come through a school newsletter or Skylert message already, and some may be seeing it come through very soon). Your feedback and response to the survey will help us gain a better understanding about what went well during the off-campus learning experience, as well as help us consider and address any identified challenges moving forward.

In addition to taking the steps described above, I will be meeting with other school districts in the Wisconsin Valley Conference and Wood County area throughout the summer to ensure continuity and collaboration on a local level. If our schools can open and conduct business as close to "normal" as possible in the fall while still protecting student and staff health and safety, we will do so; however, please note that as parents the ultimate decision on whether or not to send your child(ren) to school will rest with you. The District will be prepared to work with individual families and students to meet their needs to the best of our ability while paying deference to the choices parents have regarding their child(ren)'s health and safety.

I know that there are a number of rumors circulating regarding what the fall may hold; you can rest assured that we will be providing relevant updates as they become known. As with other things, timing during the pandemic is important and as indicated above, local conditions regarding COVID-19 and its spread will dictate our future actions; to that end, I will be providing relevant updates when they become available. In short, as soon as we feel we know what the start of next school year will look like, we will communicate that information widely.

I too am uncomfortable with the unknown- I would much prefer to have (or to provide) clear direction on how we will proceed; however, future circumstances will dictate our actions. Even if we are able to start school "normally" and conduct business as "usual" to a degree, there will be some students who cannot attend due to being immunocompromised or multiple other factors. One thing is clear- regardless of what happens over the summer,

things will be different next year and into the future. Our primary objective will continue to be meeting our students "where they are"; however, in the wake of the pandemic, we have to do this both figuratively and literally. Meaning, we will be prepared to meet our diverse student needs via diverse approaches as circumstances dictate.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Rest assured that relevant updates and information will be released by the District as soon as details become clear.

I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming summer break – stay safe, stay healthy, and as always, feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Broeren', written in a cursive style.

Craig G. Broeren
Superintendent