

Update
From Your Superintendent
November 13, 2020

As cases continue to rise in Osceola County, I am sure you have noticed that many of our surrounding districts have had to close a classroom, a building, or the entire district. We are so thankful that we have been able to have face to face instruction since August 19th. However, we also know that we could find our district in the same situation as those around us. With this in mind, we have been meeting and planning what school would look like should this occur. We have worked hard to identify every student who would need a Chromebook and/or hotspot in order to participate in remote learning. I know many of you were asked about what would be needed when you participated in Parent Teacher Conferences. To be proactive and to be as efficient as possible, if your student has been identified as needing school technology, he/she will bring home the Technology Checkout Agreement document next Friday, November 20th. Please sign this agreement and return on Monday, November 23rd. By doing this if we do have to close, we will be able to provide the Chromebook/hotspot much sooner. Of course, I am hoping that we never have to close. However, if it is necessary we want to be able to provide ALL our students with the best remote learning experience possible. Thank you for helping us make this happen.

**STUDENTS SENT HOME FROM SCHOOL WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR NOT
COMING TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

We continue to be at a higher risk for community spread of COVID-19, according to the MI Safe Start Map (www.mistartmap.info), so extra precautions must remain in place. Last week, Osceola County was in the E risk category for cases per million. **Today our county continues to be in the E category. This means that for the week of November 16th, if your child is sent home from school because of any of the COVID symptoms, he/she is excluded from school for 10 days. As explained in my update last week, if your child is ill with any of the COVID symptoms, even though they do not come to school, he/she must also remain out of school for 10 days.** Please know that excluded students, due to symptoms, will be provided with virtual learning opportunities in order to stay on track with their peers as much as possible.

COVID symptoms include: temperature 100.4 or higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or new onset of severe headache. **In order for your child to return to school earlier than 10 days**, your child would need an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider or a negative COVID test. Your child is then able to return to school following the health department guidelines that are posted on the website. You must let the school know before sending your child back to school.

EARLY RELEASE FRIDAYS - DECEMBER

We will be continuing the early release days through December. There are only three Fridays in December - 4th, 11th and 18th before the holiday vacation begins. We continue to find them very valuable in helping us provide the best educational opportunity for both our face to face and virtual students. If you have a concern or even just a question about your child, Friday afternoon would be a great time to call your child's teacher. As we begin second semester in January, we will again look at the needs of both our students and teachers to decide if early release Fridays should be continued or discontinued. Your willingness to work with us has sincerely been appreciated.

THANKSGIVING

There will be no school on November 25-27 because of Thanksgiving. Although we are living in some very challenging times, we have much to be thankful for. Thank you for your support, patience and understanding as we continually look for ways to meet the needs of all our students.

Shirley