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Superintendent

KELLY ROTH
Director of Student Services

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Director of Support Services

MARY ANN BAINES
Director of Financial Services

December 16, 2020

Dear Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation Parents:

On Monday, November 16th, we began two weeks of Remote Learning for our middle school and high schools students. This decision was due to an increased number of COVID-19 positive students in grades 6-12. The week of November 9th, we had eleven (11) COVID-19 positive students at the high school alone which resulted in over 300 students identified as close-contacts and excluded from school for fourteen (14) calendar days.

On Monday, November 30th, we began three weeks of Hybrid Learning for our middle school and high school students, where all students participated in Remote Learning on Monday, then half of the students report to school on Tuesday/Thursday, and half report on Wednesday/Friday. The purpose of Hybrid Learning is to drastically reduce the number of close contacts in our middle school and high school when a student is COVID-19 positive. During traditional school, when all students are in school at the middle school and high school, a COVID-19 positive student would have 30-40 close contacts. Over the past three weeks during Hybrid Learning, a COVID-19 positive student has only had 4-6 close contacts.

As we approach our winter break, we have met to determine the best course of action for return to school in January. We anticipate an increase in COVID-19 cases in our community following the upcoming holidays. In anticipation of the increase in cases and to better prepare for the upcoming semester will return on Monday, January 4, 2021, with the following plan:

Elementary Schools - Due to limited COVID-19 positive students and close contacts in our elementary schools, students in grades K-5, including our preschool program will return on Monday, January 4, 2021 with traditional school.

Middle School and High School - Students in grades 6-12 will participate in Remote Learning beginning Monday, January 4, 2021. The current plan is to then return to Hybrid Learning on Monday, January 11, 2021. We will continue in Hybrid Learning until there is less community spread.

As with anything COVID-19 related, this plan can change quickly. We continue to balance providing parents with as much notice as possible, while at the same time remaining flexible and agile to an extremely fluid situation.

School Breakfast/Lunch Program

As a reminder, the USDA has extended the free breakfast and lunch program until the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The extension includes breakfast and lunch. Extra milk, second meals, extra entrees, and smart snacks are not covered under the extensions. Students can continue to purchase these items.

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for our teachers, administrators and staff. They continue to go above and beyond this school year. In addition, I would like to thank our parents and students. You continue to make the best of this difficult situation. Your support and understanding is appreciated as well. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard a teacher, staff member, board member, or administrator say, "We have great kids."

As we approach the break, I would like to wish you and yours Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Jackson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Andrew Jackson
Superintendent