

January 2, 2021

USD 345 Staff and Families:

I hope you all had a wonderful winter break! Gatherings with family and friends may have seemed different this year as we continue navigating our lives through the COVID-19 pandemic; yet, I hope you had opportunities to experience the importance of family and close friends in safe and unique ways. Our collective goal is for our students to resume regular on-site instruction as quickly and safely as possible and all of us play a critical role in helping us achieve that goal.

The Shawnee County Health Department has made several updates to symptoms, quarantines, and other information relating to COVID. [Click here to view the most recent exposure guidelines.](#) Symptom criteria for staying home due to illness has been reduced from two to one symptom from the list. If a staff member or student has one or more of the COVID symptoms listed, please stay home from school or work and discuss testing options with a health professional.

Student and staff positive COVID case reporting continued over break. Below you will find a list of the most recent positive cases and their locations. We continue to monitor positive cases so please report positive COVID tests to our nursing staff. This helps us have a better understanding of the impact COVID is having in our school district.

WI - Last in Building 12/18
WI - Last in Building 12/18
WI - Last in Building 12/18
WI - Last in Building 12/21
NF - Last in Building 12/21
NH - Last in Building 12/21
NH - Last in Building 12/21
SHS - Last School Activity 12/22
SHS - Last School Activity 12/22
SHS - Last School Activity 12/21
SHS - Last School Activity 12/22

On Monday, January 4, 2021, school will resume the same way we ended before winter break. All preschool and elementary students resume learning on-site and 7-12 grade students will remain in required remote learning unless your family is notified otherwise. 7-12 on-site learning is by invitation only. Your child(s) teacher(s) and/or principal(s) will notify you if your 7-12 grade child(ren) should attend on-site. Family Choice Remote Learning (FCRL) remains in effect for our families choosing this option. We continue to monitor the impact of COVID in our school community as we plan for 7-12 grade students to return to the hybrid learning environment Tuesday, January 19. [Click here to download updated calendars by grade level.](#)

Elementary schools will begin early release Fridays on January 8 and continue each Friday through February 5. This added measure will assist our elementary teachers in their planning and preparations to continue teaching on-site and quarantined students. Please note this early release day may be revised at the February 8 board meeting. If any revisions occur, we will keep you informed of changes as soon as possible to help accommodate family calendars.

Again, thank you all for working together to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our school community. Let's keep up our efforts to wear masks, socially distance, and wash hands regularly. We are excited to see the return of our students on Jan. 4 in whichever learning environment applies to them, and our goal is to get back to normal with all our students on-site everyday as quickly and safely as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Noble