

October 16, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I want to take this opportunity to commend our staff, students and parents for their continued cooperation, commitment, and flexibility in making this school year a great one. As we look around our county, state, and country, we are seeing a rise in the number of cases of the virus. However, we are encouraged by the numbers being reported in relation to COVID-19 and the limited amount of spread within K-12 school districts everywhere. We knew coming into the school year we would have positive cases but unsure to what level they would be. We also know this may change and that we will be challenged as we head into flu season due to the mere fact that flu symptoms can be similar in nature to COVID-19. We will continue to have our Wellness Checks in place to help us in protecting our staff and students. We encourage you to continue to talk with your child(ren) about any symptoms they may have and to continue to take their temperature prior to coming to school each day. Please keep them at home if they are exhibiting symptoms or have a fever.

Yesterday, in Governor DeWine's press conference, he alluded to record cases being reported throughout the state and that almost 65% of our population are in Red counties. Allen county remains at Orange but with a high incident rate currently. If our numbers continue to rise as they have in the past couple of weeks, we assuredly will move to Red. A reminder that if we would go to Red, we will want to continue to operate school as normal. If we would rise to the next level (Purple), then we would consider moving to remote learning and this would only happen if our numbers in our buildings would dictate such a change or the governor mandates that we close again. Recently, we have seen districts in our area move to a hybrid model where different grade levels come on different days limiting the total number of students in a building trying to curtail the spread of the virus. We have also seen athletic teams have to cancel contests and even end their seasons due to the spread within their team. Moreover, we have seen districts having to go remote as they cannot find enough subs to supervise classes. These are just a few examples of how things can change very quickly in a district from one week to the next as this is an extremely fluid time. Please be sure to continue to monitor our COVID-19 dashboard on the main page of our website. This information is updated at the end of every school day. It displays our current number of positive cases in each building and the number of students and/or staff under quarantine as a direct result of a positive case in each building. Finally, in adherence with the Ohio Department of Health's order, each time a positive case arises, we will continue to send parent letters through OneView as well as post on our website.

There are many schools in NW Ohio that have begun consolidating information in relation to the quarantining of students and/or staff when a positive case occurs and how this translates into a positive result for any student and/or staff member who was mandated to quarantine. Currently, our numbers from approximately 30 schools in NW Ohio show a .262% positivity rate for a student and/or staff member that was mandated to quarantine who then became positive with the virus. We are sharing this information with our county health departments as well as with the governor's office. The Ohio Department of Health has begun to track this information across the state. Our stance has been to follow the health order, but we will continue to have conversations with the health departments regarding the benefits as well as the detriments in quarantining students and/or staff members when the positivity rate of those having to quarantine are so low.

Finally, I cannot thank our staff, parents, and students enough for adhering to our protocols and procedures we have put in place to help keep everyone safe. Our entire staff has stepped up to the challenge in meeting the everyday needs in keeping our district open and moving in the right direction. There are so many added duties and roles that our staff has had to fulfill to continue to make this happen daily. Ultimately, we have great people in this district who continue to serve others and put our kids needs first and will do everything in their power to ensure the needs of every family are being met every day. Kids need us and we need them. There has never been a more accurate statement for the current situation we are all experiencing.

Sincerely,

Rich Dackin

Bath Superintendent