



Springport Public Schools



Providing every student with a quality education is a priority and the focus of all we do.

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

All across our state and our county the number of people who are identified as positive for COVID-19 related symptoms is increasing. There are many reasons for this but that's not my focus. Nor is it my responsibility to decide what other superintendents do for their districts; we all have needs unique to our own communities that drive those decisions. My focus and responsibility as your superintendent is to provide safe and secure learning and work environments for our students and staff. So, just because another superintendent decides to suspend face to face instruction doesn't mean I will. My decisions are based on facts after it has been determined:

1. How widespread is the exposure to the coronavirus among the students and staff?
2. Who is at risk as a result of contact tracing?
3. Which classroom, department or building do the affected people work in?
4. Will there be enough teachers and support staff to operate?
5. Will quarantining individuals, a classroom or a building allow the rest of the district to remain open?
6. What does the health department recommend?

Many of you are asking why Springport Public Schools doesn't just transition to remote learning like so many other districts around the state. We work alongside the Jackson County Health Department which helps us with data tracking, contact tracing and providing the most recent and up to date information regarding the coronavirus. Right now their suggestion is that unless there are positive cases that make face to face instruction unsafe for students and staff districts should provide as much face to face instruction as possible. There are many reasons for this:

1. Students learn best through in-person instruction when they are with their peers and caring adults.
2. Students' physical and mental wellbeing and their emotional health is supported when in school.
3. Schools are a safe, controlled environment for students and staff. Medical experts believe that schools are not super spreaders
4. Students have regular and dependable access to nutritious meals when in school.
5. Parents are employed and dependable, appropriate, childcare is problematic.
6. Internet service in our community is not dependable or available for many families.

You should know that I am very determined to provide as much face to face instruction as we possibly can, as often as we can, for as long as we can. If you would like to discuss this please contact me.

Sincerely,

Bob Cassidy, Superintendent