



USD 330 Mission Valley School District

Home of the Vikings

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November 15, 2020

Viking Family---I hope that you have had a great weekend and that you and your family are doing well. The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance, update you on our current situation as it relates to COVID-19 and education, and to thank you for your awesome support you have provided to USD 330 Mission Valley.

As you are aware the past couple weeks there has been a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases in Wabaunsee County. As of Friday there were 98 positive cases reported in the county. The increase of positive cases in our Viking communities has also impacted the district. As of today we currently have a total of 9 students who are listed as active positive cases and 85 students who have been identified as close contacts. Also, we have 4 staff members who are listed as active cases and 15 staff members who have been identified as close contacts. Please note that not all close contacts are the result of contact with positive cases at school as there are several who are close contacts due to exposure to a positive case in their household/family. Many of the positive cases and close contacts will also fall off our list this week as they will have met their isolation or quarantine requirements from the county.

The goal of USD 330 Mission Valley is to move all students back to an in-person learning environment and to resume activities and other school events. One of the key items that will be used as a gauge to determine when this will occur is the number of cases that we have in and around our Viking communities and school district. To allow school to continue as normal as possible we need to work together to support our Vikings. We urge everyone to follow the advice of our medical professionals to help control the spread of this virus. We fully understand that as part of your daily lives we risk exposure each day, however, we need to make sure that we are not taking unnecessary risks and we are protecting ourselves and others by doing the simple things:

- *Wearing your mask when in public places and when you can not social distance
- *Washing/Sanitizing your hands frequently
- *Avoiding large gatherings
- *Monitoring your health daily and staying home when sick

Help support the students of USD 330 Mission Valley and the entire Viking Community by doing your part to curb the spread of COVID-19.

At the upcoming USD 330 Board of Education Special Board Meeting on Monday, November 23, 2020 @ 7 p.m. the board will meet to discuss whether or not to continue with the Distance Learning that has been initiated for the 7th-12th grade students, to remove or not remove some of the safety precautions (ie...limited access), and to discuss and decide whether or not to resume activities, athletics, and other events. There has not been any decision made at this time regarding these topics. We will continue to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on our district and then determine the direction that the district will take

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moving forward. If you have a question or concern please feel free to contact myself or one of the other building administrators. Please use caution when reading school information from social media unless it has been released directly by the school district through its communication platforms.

USD 330 Mission Valley will continue with the approved actions taken by the Board of Education at the November 9th meeting. These actions include:

- *Distance Learning for 7th-12th graders until Thanksgiving Break
- *No activities/meetings/practices/games/etc.. will be permitted.
- *School will not be made available to outside groups or organizations.
- *Only individuals conducting official school business will be permitted inside the facilities.
- *Parents/Guardians picking or dropping off students during the school day will not be permitted in the building. They will need to notify their child's office. A situation may warrant a parent entering the building which will be decided upon by the administration.
- *Classroom parties will not be open to parents or outside individuals.
- *Any activity that involves bringing in outside people will be cancelled or postponed until a later date.
- *Outside service providers working with students may continue to do so.
- *Face-to-face meetings with people (parents, service providers, etc...) may occur when needed but only with administrative approval.

The complete Distant Learning Plan and modifications to daily school operations can be found on the USD 330 Mission Valley website in the Documents section under Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please contact USD 330 Mission Valley administration if you have any questions regarding this current plan.

Thank you for your support that you have provided to USD 330 Mission Valley. Over the past couple weeks as we have had to call parents informing them that their child has been identified as a close contact. During these unfortunate phone conversations everyone has been understanding and cooperative. We recognize the stress and burden that is placed on parents when their child(ren) are excluded from school for 14-days, and we also know the challenges that have been placed on families and students by moving to Distance Learning. These are not decisions that we want to make but ones that must be made to comply with local and state guidelines, and to provide the most effective education that we can using the staff and resources available.

Again, our goal is to have our Viking students fully participating in face-to-face education on a daily basis, as well as allow them to have a full educational experience through their participation in extracurricular activities and other school activities. This goal also includes being able to provide their family members and other Viking patrons the opportunity to watch and be a part of the student's experiences. To achieve this goal we must continue to work to mitigate the spread of the virus in our local communities which will lessen the impact that the virus has on our school, which in turn will allow us to reach our goal of bringing the students back to school and allowing them to experience all that they deserve.

Respectfully,

William J. Clark
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