

Friday, November 20, 2020



Dear Turkey Valley Family,

Let's all stop. Take a nice, slow, deep breath. That always makes me feel better and I hope it did the same for you.

Clearly, this is a year that will go down in history! When Iowa schools closed last year, I think we were all hopeful that life would return to normal sooner than later. Fast forward eight months later, and Turkey Valley is still in session! Our students, families, and staff all deserve an extraordinarily large high five for doing what it takes for all of us to achieve!

Over this past summer, much time was devoted by our staff coming up with a Return to Learn plan to allow our students and staff to safely re-enter the building. The goal was to be able to return **safely** to full time, in person learning. We looked at every process in our building, every classroom, and thought of *each and every one* of your children.

These decisions were not easy. Each of these decisions would personally affect each and every one of our staff and students. We did not take that lightly. The school began attempting to secure hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, plastic barriers, and more. We had to come up with a plan that would work for all.

Unfortunately, there is no plan that will work for *all*. We worked with and took guidance from outside resources such as the Iowa Department of Public Health and our local county agencies to ensure that what we were doing would ultimately be safe for our families. We know that not all agree. We know that some love the plan. We know that some disagree with the plan. We understand both sides. We all want to go back to "what once was."

The original plan was to have students wear masks whenever social distancing was not allowed. Regardless of whether masks were on, students were required to quarantine anytime an exposure occurred within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes. Now, ***new guidance has been developed*** that if masks are worn appropriately and an exposure occurs, quarantine is not necessary unless symptoms develop. *Positive Covid-19 students and their family members would still be required to isolate/quarantine.*

We re-evaluated our plan. Quarantine and virtual learning is not easy for students and families. Thus, we took this new guidance to heart. We want what is best for our students AND their parents and families. We reminded teachers and students of our initial plan - if we are within 6 feet of someone, we must wear a mask. When students are eating, they are ***at least*** 6 feet away from the person next to them. We truly want to keep our students healthy and at this point, with the information we have, we feel this is the best way to do that.

Is this ideal? Nope. Do we all hope it goes back to "what once was?" We sure do! But for now we will do the best with what we know. We appreciate all of your support,

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even if you don't agree. We ensure you that we will provide your students with mask breaks and give them a spot to go if they need an extended mask break. We understand their discomfort. Wearing masks all day is not easy. BUT, they amaze each of us every day in their ability to not only wear the mask, but with limited complaints.

Let's face it, your children are ROCKSTARS! 🤘

Our Governor, Kim Reynolds, has proclaimed that masks are mandated in public areas. Therefore, we are reiterating that masks are required for the entire time you are in our building. All spectators (two per athlete) at our indoor events will be required to wear an appropriate face covering and maintain 6 ft social distancing. Additionally, when staffed, concessions consisting of limited items will be available at our indoor events. Concession items are to be consumed in the cafeteria area. Beverages purchased from the concession stand will be allowed in the gym. As we go forward we must remember that these rules and regulations are subject to change as the year progresses. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

A couple of housekeeping items: please wash your children's masks each night. They do get wet and occasionally dirty throughout the day. It is important that our children are breathing in fresh air and a dirty mask inhibits that. In addition, please send your child in a mask that appropriately fits them. A second mask in their bag is very much appreciated. If you or your student is in need of an additional mask, please notify the school.

Lastly, there has been some confusion on quarantine vs. isolation. Quarantine is asked of someone who is exposed. The exposed person should *stay home, away from others*, and monitor their health. Isolation is asked of someone who has COVID symptoms or has tested positive for covid. The ill person should *seperate themselves away from others*, ideally in a "sick room" with a seperate bathroom. Best judgement should be used depending on the age and condition of the child. Additionally, **only** those students who are under quarantine will be required to participate in online learning.

This is a great deal of important information. It's time for another deep breath. As I tell the students, I am **always** willing to listen to you. Your concerns, your questions, needing to vent, share something positive, ***I'm here for you.***

Thank you for your continued support of all of us at Turkey Valley!

Your Biggest Fan,
and With Trojan Pride,



Mrs. Renée Cuvelier
Principal