

**Iroquois County CUSD #9**  
**1411 W. Lafayette Street**  
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

While this school year has not been what anyone would wish for, I hope each of you can find gratitude and something you are thankful for this holiday season. I know I am personally grateful for the support of my family, our teachers' ability to adapt to incredibly difficult circumstances, our parents who have changed their schedules, our cafeteria workers for preparing meals, our bus drivers for being so flexible and our students who have demonstrated tremendous patience and understanding over these last months.

Our Thanksgiving break will officially begin Wednesday, November 25th. Looking at our increasing Covid-19 numbers in the county, we have made a proactive and preventative decision to move to teaching remotely for all students on **Monday, November 30th through Friday, December 4th**. Classes continue, but remotely. Students are expected to continue their class work and studies while safely at home. Work will be assigned and grades will continue to be collected. Teachers will be teaching and providing support from 7:45 am - 3:15 pm.

While we are extremely proud of how we have handled this pandemic so far, this strategic pause of in-person learning will serve to keep students and staff safe so that we can continue to provide the best possible education for our students the rest of the year. Although we have not been ordered to shut down or mandated to stay home, this is the best way to provide a safe working environment and avoid the incubation period connected to Covid-19.

As a reminder, we cannot differentiate between Covid-19 and Flu symptoms. When we return on December 7th, we are asking you to keep all students in the household home if you are keeping any of your children home due to symptoms. All family members within the household should stay home from school pending contact and direction from Unit 9.

We will re-evaluate our plan as we get closer to Christmas break for after the new year. At this time, no decision has been made about returning after Christmas break. Our immediate attention is focused on this time to December 7th.

Once again, **students will have one week of remote learning starting November 30th and resume in-person learning on December 7th**. Please look for more information coming from our website, Facebook page and each building principal. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we fight with what is best described as Warrior Pride! It's been a challenging year, but we will continue to get through this together. Please be safe this holiday season and have a Happy Thanksgiving from our Unit 9 family to yours.