



North Little Rock School District

2400 Willow Street • North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114 • (501) 771-8000 • www.nlrzd.org

January 4, 2021

Dear North Little Rock School District Community,

Happy New Year, and I hope that you enjoyed a unique holiday season. As expected and recommended by health officials, many families chose to celebrate the holiday a bit differently this year to ensure everyone's safety. I am confident that after an unprecedented year dominated by a global pandemic, many looked forward to usher in 2021.

While the year has changed, COVID-19 is still present. We continue to see a spike in positive cases across the state of Arkansas, and just like you, we are concerned. As a school district, educating our students is our primary purpose, although we cannot do that effectively if our students and staff are not safe and well. We are committed to going above and beyond for the health and well being of our students and staff. In fact, district and school-level administrators have monitored the numbers of positive cases and those identified as being in close contact throughout the winter break, and they continue to do so on a daily basis. Any decision to adjust to a different instructional delivery option will be based upon when our data indicates that we need to make adjustments, as we have done consistently in the past.

Table 1.0 below represents the total number of employee and student positive cases and quarantines for our school district as of today, January 4, 2021. Our data remains relatively low considering the size of our school district. As such, we will continue with our normal instructional delivery models that include both face-to-face and virtual instruction with Virtual Learning Fridays while continuing to monitor the situation each day.

Table 1.0 NLRSD Employee and Student Positive Cases and Quarantines

Number of employees testing positive for COVID-19	8
Number of students testing positive for COVID-19	14
Number of employees identified as a close contact and in quarantine	26
Number of students identified as a close contact and in quarantine	25

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Furthermore, we understand that some families may want to rescind their decision when it comes to their students who participate in face-to-face instruction. Parents may communicate their concern and request virtual learning on a case-by-case basis with a documented reason to Dr. Brouke Reynolds, the Interim Virtual Academy Director, by email at reynoldsb@nlrsd.org. Dr. Reynolds has been charged to address such concerns immediately and will accommodate our students and families as needed.

As we move forward with instruction after the winter break, we must continue to plan and prepare for any sudden changes in our data and be able to adjust and adapt accordingly as positive cases and quarantines may increase. With that said, we recognize and understand the fear and frustration that this pandemic has created. We have heard from many of our students, staff, and parents throughout the year, and we appreciate and value the feedback as we make decisions based upon the information and data available in real time. In some cases, we may send out an official NLRSD survey or poll for input from stakeholders through the Office of the Superintendent or district-approved communication channels. Thus, there have been no recent official surveys or polls approved at this time for district-wide dissemination.

As we do our part to continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we ask that you join us in implementing the following procedures:

- Wear a mask that covers the mouth and the nose.
- Wash hands frequently and vigorously. In the absence of soap, use an alcohol-based solution to wash hands.
- Group gatherings need to be limited, and social distancing measures should be followed.

If a staff member or student gets tested for COVID-19 for any reason, please notify the district's point of contact immediately should the results return positive. The number to reach the school district point of contact is **(501) 240-1753**. Please make sure to check your email 24 hours after taking the COVID-19 test, as your results will be sent to that account.

If you notice a symptom, even if it feels like allergies or the common cold, get tested or go see a physician immediately.

Thank you for being a part of the North Little Rock School District. Please be safe.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Pilewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent