



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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January 6, 2021

Dear Marauder Families,

As we draw closer to the end of our remote learning experience for all students, it is important that we look ahead to our return to in-person learning and what that means for our students, staff and families.

Over the past few months we have monitored our situation at Ovid-Elsie Area Schools very closely. We have been in constant communication with our local health department and state officials. While community spread was increasing in our area and throughout Michigan, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools experienced minimal positive COVID-19 cases. In consultation with the health department, it has been determined that schools have been diligent in applying COVID-19 protocols and that schools are not contributing to the spread of the virus.

At this point, we feel that a safe return to school is possible for all students and we are encouraging families to weigh the pros and cons of returning students to in-person instruction.

Understandably, as the number of students who return to in-person learning increases, social distancing will be less likely to occur. Given this variable, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools will continue to require all stakeholders to wear masks and we will continue to encourage social distancing when possible. Our rigorous cleaning routine, which will include the continuation of remote Wednesdays, will continue until further notice.

Again, the health department continues to state that schools are not the cause of community spread and insists that the benefits of being in school outweigh the risks. Those benefits include, but are not limited to: face-to-face instruction, increased engagement, individualized attention and instruction, opportunities for social interaction, and the improvement of social and emotional health for all of our school community.

Understanding the variables and that there are a variety of needs for different families, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools will continue to provide remote learning options for those students who prefer to continue their learning remotely. Please be advised that remote learning will look very

different from the last few weeks when everyone was learning remotely. Further communication will be coming from your building principal in the near future that will address changes and expectations for the next few weeks and for the second semester. The second semester begins on January 25, 2021.

I wish you and your family a very safe and prosperous 2021!

Yours In Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan L. Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

#MaskUp #MarauderUp