

# South Lewis Central School District

Mr. Douglas Premo, Superintendent

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Dear South Lewis School Community:

Happy New Year! I truly hope this message finds you healthy and safe. As you are aware, we closed our schools to in-person instruction in mid-December due to COVID-19. Since that time COVID-19 continues to be of great concern to our school and surrounding community. In fact, since my last communication and over the holiday break from December 23<sup>rd</sup> until this morning, we have had nine students and six staff test positive for COVID-19. We also have been notified of an even larger number placed into quarantine during this time period. I am confident there will be more students and staff, either test positive or be placed into quarantine, over the next few days and into the foreseeable future.

While COVID-19 remains a real and daily concern, we have learned over the past several months that schools have not been a location of significant spread. Rather, schools have proven to be relatively safe places due to the many protective measures and protocols that have been established and followed (mask wearing, social distancing, hand-hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting, etc.). We also strongly believe that the best learning environment is in-person instruction. Therefore, we will be returning to in-person instruction per the following schedule that has been established/resumed:

- **Students will return to in-person instruction beginning on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.**
- **In-person instruction will revert back to the Cohort A (Day 1-3-5) and Cohort B (Day 2-4-6) model that was in place through the closure.**
  - *Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> is a Day 5 (Cohort A/1-3-5 students will attend in-person)*
  - *Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> is a Day 6 (Cohort B/2-4-6 students will attend in-person)*

The success of and opportunity to continue in-person instruction will be highly dependent upon both the availability of our staff to provide services and our students' ability to be present on-campus. Positive COVID-19 cases often can directly, or indirectly through quarantine orders, jeopardize this *highly fragile* in-person instructional model. Often situations and circumstances change rapidly. Therefore, as we return to in-person instruction we will closely monitor COVID-19 in our community. We will continue to work with our partners at Lewis County Public Health, the Lewis County Health System and in Lewis County government. We will also continue to communicate with our school community any relevant information or important developments.

Please be assured that we are doing everything in our power to continue to provide academic opportunities and minimize disruption to our students, families and staff during this unprecedented situation. As always, thank you for your patience, understanding and flexibility. On behalf of our entire school community, please continue to be safe, smart and supportive of each other.

We are greatly looking forward to the return of our students to campus. They have been missed.

Sincerely,



Douglas Premo  
Superintendent of Schools