

Iroquois County CUSD #9
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of all of Unit 9, we would first like to wish you a Happy New Year. Since March, we have been battling this pandemic together, and I believe we are all ready to put 2020 into the past. Here's to making 2021 a better year for all of us!

As we turn to beginning the second semester of the year, I am hopeful. We are seeing signs and a light at the end of the tunnel that we will overcome this pandemic. While the timetable is still an uncertainty, the vaccine will assist in helping education return to a more normal routine. Through it all, we have been facing some very difficult decisions within Unit 9.

I would like to take a moment to highlight some of these decisions. First and foremost, we are doing everything we can to keep our students in school. We know this is what is best not only for educational stages, but for social and emotional development also. We will remain focused on keeping our students and staff safe and continue to be committed to following the state mandated guidelines.

Second, declining enrollment and deferred maintenance costs have led us to make a decision to close Nettie Davis School for the next school year. Doing so will require restructuring which grade levels are housed in each of the remaining three buildings. While all of the details of restructuring are not complete, we are committed to making decisions best for our students yet maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Through the process of exploring the closing of Nettie Davis, we have discovered grant opportunities that would help fund the restructuring and relocation process. This has brought us to what I believe an extremely fortunate opportunity for our community and allows needed structural improvements within our grasp through a referendum. If we can generate 25% of the cost for relocation, these grants will fund the remaining 75% of the cost. The goal is that one day the entire district will be relocated on the high school property footprint and out of the floodplain. We will be seeking input from parents and community members throughout this process. Please reach out to your building principal if you would like to volunteer or have any other questions. I will be providing up-to-date factual information along the way.

Unit 9 is committed to bringing out the best in each and every student and recognizes that strong schools are the foundation of a strong community. We invite you to help in solidifying this commitment!

Dr. David Andriano