

March 4, 2021

Good Morning Slate Valley Families,

It has been nice to see the days getting longer and hear some of the good news regarding the pandemic. I know it has been challenging for all of us in different ways. Thank you for your support in the recent budget vote. We greatly appreciate it! I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few things:

1. **Bussing-** Again thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through a critical driver shortage due to COVID. Out of necessity we have had to combine runs and cancel runs all together as we do not have drivers if someone becomes ill. We are committed to trying to provide you with as much notice as possible when this happens and we appreciate your willingness to bring your children to and from school when necessary.
2. **Vaccines-** Staff will be offered the opportunity to receive the vaccine on-site in the coming weeks under the State Program. Under the Federal Program school staff are eligible now to receive the vaccine at Walgreens.
3. **April Vacation-** April vacation is right around the corner and with that we have received many questions regarding travel. While it may be okay for fully vaccinated adults to travel, students still will need to quarantine under the current guidelines, unless they are 16 to 18, and are eligible to receive the vaccine, and can receive it 2 weeks prior to the start of any travel. For students under 16 who travel, it may impact a student's ability to return to in person learning after April break, again, under the current guidelines. We will update you as new information becomes available.
4. **FHUHS Full Return to In-Person Learning-** We are tentatively planning on bringing all students back to in person learning at the High School after April break. This is contingent on conditions continuing to improve, staff who want the vaccine receive the vaccine, and the district figuring out our bussing and food service schedules. Students will still be maintaining 6ft social distancing in the classrooms. We will make a final decision in the next few weeks.

As spring approaches we are hoping we can inch our way back to some sort of normalcy. We want our students in school and to be able to have as normal an experience as possible without compromising safety. Again, we appreciate your partnership in all of this. As always, please reach out if you have any questions. We are all in this together and so appreciate all you and your families have adapted to making in person learning achievable.

All the best,

Brooke Farrell