

March 18, 2021

Highland CUSD No. 5 Parents and Staff,

The weeks are flying by and the seasons are surely about to change. I will be completely up front that this weekly message is being written on Thursday (note the date above) so all of the following thoughts are already a day old. The data being provided is also up to Thursday afternoon. Though the sun is supposed to be out as this message comes to you, right now the rain is falling and the skies are dark.

The last couple of weeks have been full of new information and guidance. This week has been relatively calm as it pertains to big news items. We continue to discuss things like Honor's Night at HHS, Baccalaureate, Graduation, athletics, etc. We are also starting to look at next year with plans for remote learning options and furthering our work towards meeting the goals of our strategic plan created two years ago. We anticipate next school year is going to look much more like pre-COVID as far as schedules and activities.

We briefly covered the new guidance on remote learning in the update last week. As it currently stands, remote learning is only required to be provided to students who have a high health risk from exposure to COVID or resides with a person who has a high health risk due to exposure from COVID. It is likely that the remote learning program will look much different than this year. We hope to allocate all of our current staff for in-person instruction. Remote learning will utilize online curriculum and/or resources for all remote instruction.

COVID Numbers through Thursday afternoon: Highland Primary reported 2 new presumptive positives from an outside exposure resulting in 18 quarantined students and 3 quarantined staff members. Alhambra Primary reported zero new positive cases or quarantines. Highland Elementary reported zero new positive cases and 1 student quarantined due to an outside exposure. Grantfork Elementary reported one staff positive due to outside exposure and zero new quarantines. Highland Middle School reported 1 staff positive and zero new quarantines. Highland High School reported zero new quarantines and zero new positive cases.

As I am typing this update, I just received an updated guidance that looks to increase spectator limits on indoor and outdoor activities. We will be reviewing the new guidance and immediately making adjustments. It appears that the limit on indoor activities is increasing to 25% capacity so that will have a direct impact on some of the athletic activities being contested as soon as tonight. More great news as we see things slowly improve towards opening things up. The fact that the first couple of paragraphs of this update are going to remain unchanged demonstrates the pace that things can change in our new COVID environment😊

We have a Highland CUSD No. 5 school board meeting on Monday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m. If you wish to view the live stream, please use the following link: <https://youtu.be/N31cC20yu6o> That concludes another week, please have a wonderful, safe and healthy weekend!

Sincerely,

Michael S. Sutton, Superintendent