March 26, 2021

Dear Parents and Staff,

We are four quarters into the school year and along with the warmer weather, spring break has arrived. It’s not uncommon for students and educators to look forward to spring break. A week away from the regular classroom routine is always welcomed. Whether it means visiting a favorite beach or just staying home and catching up on sleep.

Over the past months, I have seen incredible leadership from our administration, teachers and staff while partnering with parents on behalf of students. We all should be very proud of the nurturing environment that exists in Staunton while seeking to meet the academic, social, emotional and physical needs for our students.

Most recently, I have been fortunate to attend a wide variety of school events and activities that represent the multiple ways students are able to find their niche as learners. It’s been exciting to see fans pour into the gym and football stadium to cheer on our Staunton athletes. Currently, plans are being made to hold a high school musical, a band concert, homecoming activities and more. We are on the path of getting back to normalcy and it is a great site to see.

Due to the global pandemic, Staunton CUSD #6 will be receiving federal Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant dollars. Our top priority with these federal dollars is to help support students academic needs, support student’s social and emotional needs and provide students and staff with a safe and secure learning environment.

I want to share our Junior High promotion and High School graduation tentative plans. Please mark your calendars with these dates and times.

**Junior High Promotion: *(Tentative Plans Below--Pending Health Department Guidance)***

* We are planning on having our promotion, for the class of 2025, on May 14th, @ 10:00 am.  This will take place outside on the track/football field.  We will have a rain date set for May 15th and a Rain Date of May 16th.

(More on Back)

* **High School Graduation *(Tentative Plans Below--Pending Health Department Guidance)***

One of our goals at SHS is to provide our graduates with as close to a traditional graduation experience as possible. As of Tuesday, March 9, the IDPH announced new guidance for outdoor events. With the new 20% capacity guidance, we are planning to host graduation at the stadium on May 14, at 7:00 PM (Rain Date #1-May 15 & Rain Date #2-May 16).  Each SHS graduate will receive 4-6 tickets (the number will be determined in mid-April).

Students return from spring break on Monday, April 5th. When students and staff return to school there will be a small change due to the recent updated Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidance. Beginning Monday, April 5th, *students’ temperatures will no longer be taken before students load the school bus, or be taken before students enter the school buildings.*  IDPH continues to require all students and staff to wear their face mask and social distance at all times.

I hope that during this Spring Break you are able to take the time to reflect, relax, and be with family and friends. Once we return, we will be in the home stretch making that final push to the end of the school year while providing guidance for students daily in order for them to be in position to chase their dreams.

Wishing you and your family the very best,

Cynthia Tolbert
Superintendent of Schools