GARY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
132 BOBCAT TRAIL GARY, TEXAS, 75643
(903) 685-2291

Dear Bobcat Family,

As we are finding our way in another school year that began with COVID we understand that you have many questions regarding the everyday school operations for the 2021-2022 school year. We have been monitoring TEA guidance, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and attempting to follow protocols from Governor Greg Abbott's office and it can often be confusing and contradictory. I am asking for your patience and understanding as we continuously work through the ever-changing processes. This week students will be bringing home Gary ISD COVID-19 information packets. Please, take time to look over and return the necessary information.

We ask that parents closely monitor their students' symptoms. **If your child is sick please do not send them to school.** Parents picking up a sick child being sent home by the school nurse will need to sign students out at the campus office or location stated by the campus nurse. **Please make sure to arrange transportation for your child ahead of time to prevent students from waiting extended periods of time for pickup.**

*COVID case reporting communication will be made through our ROBO calls and or text alert system. It is very important that parents/guardians keep their contact information up-to-date in order to receive this information. Contact campus secretaries to update your contact information.

If your student is confirmed positive for COVID-19:
1. May return after 10 days have passed since symptoms first occurred or, if asymptomatic, since receiving a positive test.
2. A student participating in UIL who tests positive for COVID-19 **must** have clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in UIL athletic activities. Email physician clearance to hritter@garyisd.net or fax 903-685-2639.

Please visit our website at www.garyisd.org for updated information on COVID-19.
*At this time students will be counted absent if they are not at school unless in quarantine for a positive COVID case.

Gary ISD offers **free** rapid BinaxNow COVID-19 testing for staff and students. At this time GISD will only accept COVID-19 test results from an accredited testing location that also includes PCR test. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are trying to keep our students and staff healthy.

This is our current COVID information as of 8-31-21:
162 COVID tests performed by Gary ISD since 8-8-21
30   Total students have tested positive
1   Total staff member has tested positive
19   Currently out of school with COVID

THE BIG PICTURE:
 6% of our students have tested positive since school started. Currently, 3.8% of our students are out with COVID, which means, **we are over 96% healthy!!**
We are committed to the overall health and safety of our students and staff. We are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe and keep our school open.

Sincerely,

Todd Greer
Superintendent