



November 16, 2021

Dear Galesburg-Augusta Community Members:

The result of the ongoing Covid pandemic, the cold and flu season, as well as the shortage of staff available for hire, have made this a challenging school year. Not only are we short staffed (open/unfilled positions), but we have also had a high number of staff sickness. On most days in the recent few weeks, we have not been able to fill all classrooms with certified teachers, and often have had to combine classes to get through the day. Additionally, the number of students absent due to illness is rising.

Therefore, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will be closed on Monday, November 22 and Tuesday, November 23 prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We believe that this longer break from the classroom, a total of nine days, will provide an opportunity to do a thorough cleanse of our school buildings and give time for staff and students to get well. Our goal is that come Monday, Nov 29, 2021, when we return to the classrooms, we will be fully staffed, students' attendance will be closer to 100%, and we can focus on teaching and learning.

Childcare will be available and athletics will continue both Monday and Tuesday of next week.

We may continue to see Covid cases rise even after the Thanksgiving break, but the good news is that Kalamazoo County is doing much better than our surrounding counties. I do want to encourage staff and families, if they have not already done so, to consider using the additional time off to get their vaccinations or booster shot. Our common goal is to keep children in school. With the loss of learning time last year, we have lots of catching up to do. Whatever each family can do to support this goal, I am grateful for.

Sincerely,

Wendy Maynard-Somers

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Complaints or inquiries should be forwarded to:

1076 N. 37th St.

Galesburg, MI 49053

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