

February 18, 2022

Highland CUSD No. 5 Parents and Staff,

The last couple of weeks have been difficult with the weather and it appears another blast of winter weather will be coming this way during the latter half of next week. There are many factors that are taken into consideration when decisions are made regarding school cancellations and early dismissals. We do our best to ensure students and staff safety, but sometimes things get messy. I appreciate the cooperation that we receive from students, parents and staff when things get difficult. This update will be brief and to the point. Due to the craziness of yesterday, I do not have numbers to report this week and anticipate catching up next week.

The most pressing news I want to share with you is regarding the appeal in the lawsuit regarding masks, quarantines, and vaccinations. The Appellate Court for the 4th District ruled just prior to midnight on February 17, 2022, on the appeal of the Temporary Restraining Order issued by Judge Grischow on February 4, 2022, in both the student and employment cases before the Sangamon County Circuit Court. The Court dismissed the appeal as moot because the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules ("JCAR") did not extend the emergency rule implementing Executive Order 24. In short, this means the rules we have been following for the last couple of weeks will continue into the future.

Tonight is senior night at the HHS Bulldogs basketball game. We get to honor several student groups, so if you are looking for something to do, come out and root for your BULLDOGS. Otherwise, have a great long weekend and enjoy the up and down temperatures.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Sutton, Superintendent