

Benton Community Consolidated School District No. 47

K-8 Principal
Mrs. Ellen Gibbs

Dr. Stephen C. Smith, Superintendent
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K-4 Assistant Principal
Director of Learning
Mrs. Debra Blakey

5-8 Assistant Principal
Athletic Director
Mr. Doug Jones

Dear Benton #47 Parents/Guardians:

As you know, Benton #47 faculty and staff, school board, and administration, started the school year committed to the plan of delivering instruction to our in-person learners Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. However, over the last two weeks, we have had an increasing number of students move from in-person learning to remote learning. As a result, teacher prep time increased significantly. Teachers are now planning and providing instruction to their in-person learners, to those choosing remote learning, combined with those who are home sick and/or on quarantine. These changing dynamics, along with the limitations of our daily schedule, have prompted us to update our weekly academic schedule moving forward.

Therefore, beginning Friday, September 4, and continuing each Friday thereafter, we will no longer provide in-person student instruction. Fridays will be designated as remote learning days for all students. This change will provide our faculty and staff additional time to communicate with their students, plan for in-person instruction, and provide remote learning services for all students.

Again, this is a change we hoped to avoid when we developed our original plan. However, we knew it was certainly a possibility at some point. Unfortunately, that time has arrived. Despite the challenges we face our commitment to the goal of providing high-quality instruction for all students at Benton #47 remains unchanged. Like you, we look forward to the day we can have every single student at school learning and competing together. I remain optimistic that day is just around the corner.

As always, we appreciate your patience and support. If you have any questions, or concerns, please feel to let us know.

Sincerely,

Steve Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Benton CCSD #47