



Update #14 – September 25, 2020

Santa Fe R-X Community:

It has been a couple of weeks since I shared an update, so I thought a Friday afternoon would be a perfect time to catch everyone up on all things Santa Fe!

Academics- We are nearing the end of the 1st quarter (October 21st), believe it or not! I hope that our students are prospering academically this year. I still believe that many of our kids have somewhat of a different view of school after missing 4th quarter last year, along with all of the activities and programs that are inherent in public education.

Activities- Home football tonight at Santa Fe! It has been, and will almost certainly continue to be an interesting year in our extra-curricular activities. I would like to thank my building administration and especially our activities director, Coach Capps, his assistant, Kerry Chiddix as well as our coaching staff for their efforts. As well, I thank our parents and patrons for their flexibility, patience and understanding. We are doing our best to provide as many opportunities for our students as possible, even if we have to make those decisions in the 'last hour'. Our high school, junior high and elementary volley ball athletes are also doing a great job! Congratulations to our volley ball seniors, who enjoyed a wonderful night on Tuesday, and thank you to Marshall for stepping up last second to allow us a game on our scheduled senior night.

Meals- For the past two weeks, we have been offering free meals to our students. I would encourage you to have your student eat with us! Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to our kitchen staff and Mrs. Boothe who have made this possible. A reminder that this program is slated to run through December, or until funding runs out, which could be before or after the December 31 date.

Flu Clinic- Another reminder that I would like to share is that the Lafayette County Health Department will be in district October 6th to provide flu shots for students and staff. We would like to thank them for their cooperation with this!

COVID - I am happy to not have much to share with you here! We have zero positive cases and zero quarantined. In fact, this past week we enjoyed a higher attendance rate district wide than I have ever seen in my 20 plus years in education; 97% attendance average at the high school and 98% at the elementary. Further, I saw another first just today: 100% attendance at the elementary (on a Friday, nonetheless!)! Way to go Santa Fe Elementary!

To close, I have had many mention to me an article that was printed recently that they found to be offensive. For us all, it's a time of overwhelming opinions, news, data, emotions, rumors, you name it. I will only say that I would never disrespect our county officials, health or otherwise, by ignoring a mandate that applied to the schools in our county. Since August 24th, we have had 3 positive cases of Covid-19, 2 of which were from exposure from someone outside of school. Should I see good reason to change our practices, I will certainly consider doing so. However, for the Santa Fe School District, I do not see cause to do so. Under no circumstances will I publicly 'shame' another individual, school or community because of their opinions or practices regarding Covid-19. Each state, county, school and individual has different beliefs and practices. Who's to say what's right? I do not know and would therefore respectfully hesitate publicly sharing that opinion. We do not need further divisiveness these days.

Sincerely,

**Derek Lark
Superintendent
Santa Fe R-X School District**