

September 18, 2020

Good Morning,

1. The City of Marengo has asked me to remind all families to complete the 2020 Census. Federal dollars for our community are based on the information from the census. For more information, see www.2020census.gov. You can complete the census directly on-line.
2. As shared last week in an email, any students wishing to eat a school breakfast or lunch will not be charged, regardless if they qualify for assistance. This program will end on December 31, 2020 unless renewed by the Federal Department of Agriculture.
3. Families who wish to change their learning platforms must notify the district by October 2, 2020. Please email kburns@marengo165.org **IF YOU WISH TO CHANGE**. You do not need to let us know if you are staying the same. Informational packets will be mailed on Friday, October 16, 2020. Students will start their new learning platform on Wednesday, October 21. Families notifying the district after that date will have to wait until the semester. Please note, families are allowed to only switch one time. We cannot accommodate multiple changes.
4. I want to thank all the parents who have been completing the daily health certification for their child (ren). We have had a few technology glitches with it not being sent every morning at 6:00 am. We are working with the company to troubleshoot this. If for some reason you do not receive the 6:00 am text, you can use a previous link to complete the form.
Also, we still have some families that are not receiving the text. In problem solving with these families, a pattern was noticed. Families were blocking this text (and I get it—who would send a text every morning at 6:00 am)! The number the text comes from is: 98901. Also, some parents have opted out of receiving notifications from the school. If this pertains to you—please text 98901 and say “YES” and you should begin receiving the text. Finally, if neither of these remedies work, please email kburns@marengo165.org. We may have incorrect cell numbers.
5. As informed earlier this week, we did have an individual test positive with COVID. I know that this was a bit unnerving to many parents because of the anonymity of the letter. I unfortunately cannot share out a lot of details when this occurs, but in discussion with the lawyer, in the future I will only send out the notice by school building (s). I cannot identify grade levels or classes. Please note that if you will be directly notified if a contact occurred. In addition, on our website we are reporting new COVID cases by the week. This is another source of information for our parents. We are sensitive to the level of anxiety that such an announcement causes, but we are working collaboratively with the McHenry County Department of Health to ensure the safety of both staff and students.
6. With cooler weather on the horizon, please make sure that you are sending your child to school with a jacket, fleece, or hoodie. We want to be able to keep our kids outside for PE as long as possible, and it is still quite chilly in the morning.

Other than that—have a wonderful weekend..enjoy the Fall weather.

Lea Damisch-Superintendent of Schools