



USD 330 Mission Valley School District

Home of the Vikings

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VIKING FAMILY:

I want to begin this letter by saying THANK YOU to each and every VIKING FAMILY member for what you do to keep our district moving forward. Since the middle of March, we all have been asked to go above and beyond our normal daily duties to keep our children and our district safe. Our district and our students would not be where we are today if it wasn't for each of you----THANK YOU!

With that being said we must look at the facts we are currently facing. As you know, there has been an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our communities which are beginning to impact what we can do as a school district. Currently there are 44 active cases in Wabaunsee County with a large number of them in our local communities. Combined (staff & students) we currently have 5 positive cases, along with another 56 (staff & students) who are quarantined as close contacts. This last week we have on average 13 staff members being gone during all or part of the school day. On Monday our attendance rate at the 7th-12th grade level was 90% and by Friday it had dropped to 78%. It is becoming increasingly difficult to continue operating as we are doing.

We have now reached the point that we must look at other viable options that will allow us to continue to provide education to all of our students. At the USD 330 Board of Education meeting on Monday we will be addressing our current situation and will explore the option to move the 7th-12th grade to Remote Learning while continuing face-to-face education at the PK-6th grade level. We recognize the amount of stress that has been placed on our Viking communities as we try to keep face-to-face education continuing and operating as close to "normal" as possible.

Our thought will be to use Tuesday as a plan and prepare day so that Wednesday we can begin Remote Learning on Wednesday for 7th-12th grade and continue to Thanksgiving Break. If the decision is to move to 7th-12th Remote Learning then we will discuss cancelling school PK-12th on Tuesday to make adjustments and prepare for a restart on Wednesday. Building administrators are putting together their plans and will begin working with staff members on creating an official plan.

Please understand that we believe that face-to-face education is the best for all students, however, we are reaching a point where we can not do that because of the impact the COVID-19 is having on our staff and students. Younger students can not do Remote Learning effectively, and although not the best, students at the secondary level can do Remote Learning effectively at times such as this. Our goal is to return to a full PK-12th grade face-to-face education but we must have the resources and staff available to do so.

Please help support Mission Valley schools by using common sense and wearing your mask while in public spaces, sanitizing hands frequently, practicing social distancing while around non-family members, and staying home when you feel sick and are experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Again.....THANK YOU for all that each and every one of you do each day as we work to keep USD 330 Mission Valley operating as normal as possible.

William J. Clark
USD 330 Mission Valley
Superintendent/Director of Special Services

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