



December 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing today to provide you with an update related to our CSO initiatives concerning the continued learning opportunities during the pandemic. Thanks to the wonderful cooperation of our parents, the hard work of the school staff and the school administration, we continue to see extremely low levels of COVID in our schools. To this point, there have not been any cases traced to being transmitted in our schools and we still have about 15 % of our schools that have not seen any cases. Additionally, government agencies have altered guidance related to when schools need to quarantine when a certain number of cases appear either in the community or at the school.

This success of this process of providing the enhanced safety environment in the school and the synchronous learning that is taking place in the classroom has been a challenge for all. With this in mind, we will be altering the Christmas break to provide two extra days of vacation on December 21 and 22 with the hopes of rejuvenating both staff and students. This is both a thank you and a preventative COVID Measure. Christmas vacation will begin at the close of the school day on December 18.

We are planning to return to providing both in-person and synchronous virtual learning on January 4, 2021. We will continue to monitor cases of COVID in the schools and the community during the Christmas break and make adjustments if needed or required. With this in mind, we ask that you continue to report any cases of COVID with your children to the schools. Schools prior to leaving for the Christmas break will also make preparation to switch to virtual learning on January 4 if mandated to go full virtual by a government agency as a result of increased community spread during the Christmas break.

I continue to ask you to be cautious with social distancing and following COVID safety guidelines in social situation as well as the travel guidelines. Safe environment in our schools is linked to safe practices followed at home. It is because of how well our families have done in these areas, that we have had such success.

In closing, I want to wish you a happy, holy and healthy Advent and Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Andrew McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Secretary for Elementary Education