

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

Empowering leaders who impact the NOW and innovate the FUTURE



December 14, 2020

Dear Raider Family,

Thank you to all our students, caregivers, families, teachers and staff for all you have done this year to create consistent and high-quality learning opportunities. As you remember, we began the year in remote learning, returned to our physical classrooms in hybrid for several months and now are closing out the calendar year back in remote instruction. This year has brought a lot of change and you have handled it with grace and flexibility.

Our ability to make changes and execute transitions is only possible through your support and commitment to putting the health of our students and each other at the forefront. We cannot thank you enough for your partnership and participation in each stage of learning with Reynoldsburg City Schools. Important and critical learning is taking place this year and we have been thrilled to see and celebrate our students' growth thus far.

Franklin County Public Health and Columbus Public Health warned us early on that the colder months could be the most challenging of this pandemic. Each day in the news - and perhaps even in your own circles - we are seeing that prediction become reality as our city, state and nation reach a critical point in our response and mitigation of this virus. We are continuing to adjust as a District and account for our current situation.

So that our families can prepare, I want to inform you today that our schools will remain in our remote learning model until at least Friday, January 15, 2021. Our goal is to then return to in-person, hybrid learning no sooner than Tuesday, January 19, following Martin Luther King Jr. Day but we will re-evaluate the situation in early January and keep you informed. This preliminary date is likely to change. Communication about the start of hybrid learning will be communicated on reyn.org, email, text, phone calls and social media.

Our reason for this is two-fold: first, providing an extended period after the winter break for virus spread to decrease or be discovered and quarantined within the 14-day incubation period creates a more safe situation for staff and students; second, remaining in remote learning for the remainder of the semester provides continuity for our students and staff and less disruption to learning.

When school resumes after winter break on Monday, January 4, students will re-engage with their teachers and class schedule virtually, as they did prior to the start of winter break. Additional details and information about returning to hybrid learning will be provided by teachers and building principals to both families and students.

In the meantime, there is a lot we are doing in our school buildings and with our staff to provide a healthy, supportive environment. Of course, we are taking the standard actions like frequent hand washing, sanitizing several times a day, requiring face coverings, and social distancing. But in addition to those measures, here are some of the extra safety steps we have in place:

- Daily fresh air flushing with HVAC systems
- Deep, industrial-grade cleaning of all buildings every evening
- A school nurse at each building to assist with quick symptom assessment and isolation to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Visual cues throughout the building to assist with social distancing measures

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- Modified transitions throughout the building to limit contact between classes
- Modified lunch schedule to provide for social distancing
- Desk barriers available for teachers and students
- Limited attendance at all extra-curricular events

I know everyone is doing the best they can to keep our students in school. We know it is important to have face time with our students and teachers and we are looking forward to returning to hybrid as soon as it is safe to do so. We must all continue to do our part to adhere to the safety precautions that have been put in place to protect us all so our students can return to school. We are excited to see them in person on DATE.

I remain proud of our Raider family as you continue to demonstrate creativity, care and compassion throughout this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Melvin J. Brown', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Melvin J. Brown, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Reynoldsburg City Schools

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