



Dr. Alicia Geddis
Superintendent of Schools
John Hart
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary
Dr. Elizabeth Yacobi
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary

January 7, 2021

Dear District 118 Family:

I hope that this new year finds you happy and healthy. It was our plan to return to our Blended Learning Program on January 11, 2021 but due to the increased number of COVID-19 exposures and positive cases in Vermilion County over the past two weeks, District 118 will continue a fully remote program until January 25, 2021. If positivity rates in Vermilion County permit, we will resume our blended learning program on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

During this fully remote program, our school calendar remains:

- Monday, January 11, 2021 – Thursday, January 21, 2021- Full Remote Learning Days
- Friday, January 22, 2021- Asynchronous Learning Day
- Monday, January 25, 2021– Asynchronous Learning Day

As we work to develop plans to return to an in-person learning model, we would like to thank all of our families that participated in our second semester parent survey. We had 730 families participating in the survey representing approximately 1500 students with the following results:

- Elementary Parent / Guardian Preferences:
 - 53% prefer remote learning
 - 47% prefer in person learning
- Secondary Parent / Guardian Preferences:
 - 46% prefer remote learning
 - 53% prefer blended learning

We will continue with our Blending Learning Program at the elementary level as soon as positivity rates decrease, and exposures are limited. We have some additional challenges on the secondary level (Grades 5-12) where our parents expressed a stronger desire to have in-person learning. At this level, staffing is a challenge as more than 80 staff members have situations that prevent them from teaching in-person. These include personal health conditions, caring for an elderly/health challenged parents and caring for household members with health challenges.

While Danville High School, North Ridge Middle School, and South View Upper Elementary School have plans to support in-person learning pods (identified groups of students who need assistance), unfortunately, at this time, a blended model for all students is not possible.

We want to assure everyone that we do know the best learning environment for our children, under normal circumstances, is an in-person, full-day learning program. The learning and social emotional needs of our students are very important to all of us. Unfortunately, as we face the challenges of this pandemic, the district cannot provide in-person experiences under the current circumstances.

We realize that this pandemic has caused a great deal of disruption to our student's learning and are currently making plans to address academic gaps that may result from not having in-person learning. We will continue to support our students to the best of our ability under these very challenging circumstances.

The health and well-being of our school community will always be our number one priority. If you have any COVID related questions, we have identified Mrs. Danielle Montgomery, School Nurse, as our point of contact. She can be reached at 217-444-1603 or MontgomeryD@danville118.org. If you have other questions regarding you student's school program, please feel free to contact your Principal. We will stay in contact with you and will provide more detailed information as the situation changes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alicia M. Geddis

Superintendent