

Parent Update 12/11/2020

Good Afternoon Parents,

As with every weekly update, I hope this finds you well. There has been a large volume of information shared with you in the last few weeks and I will therefore keep this brief.

**Second Semester Planning** - We have started the process for planning for the second semester. While we are planning for an increased number of days of in-person instruction in our elementary and middle schools, I understand the questions regarding the timing as we are witnessing a surge in COVID-19 cases in our state, region, and nation. There are several reasons as to why we are starting this planning but it is important to continue to state that we will be monitoring all health statistics. The metrics thus far indicate that there has been minimal to no school-based transmission of the virus. The mitigation efforts in each school create additional structures in place to address viral spread and the CDC, Agency of Education, and Department of Health have all emphasized the safety of in-person education for students. Our planning efforts are designed to provide us with the flexibility necessary to ensure learning continues should our circumstances change and pivot to remote or more hybrid instruction.

Schools will be distributing surveys to families for a commitment for the second semester. Each school will communicate a due date for this survey which will be no earlier than Tuesday. This information is critical in the planning process

**Second Semester Bus Survey** - As with the fall semester, families must complete a bus survey in order to be assigned to a bus. All those who live within a transportation eligible zone will be provided with a seat but this survey must be completed in order to do so. The link to that survey is [here](#) as well as in the information distributed explaining the school models. This survey is due January 6th, 2021.

**District Website** - Our website ([www.wsesu.org](http://www.wsesu.org)) has been updated to serve as a better tool for families seeking information regarding COVID-19 that has been sent from the district. The Parent Resources page contains documents that have been shared in the past and the COVID-19 Dashboard reflects current case counts that have been present in our schools. Please note, for purposes of confidentiality, we cannot share if positive cases were students or staff members.

**Remote learning week, January 4th - 8th** - As I shared last week, we will be fully remote the week upon our return from the December vacation. This is not directly connected to the threat of the virus. More specifically, as we continue to ask questions about multi-family gatherings on our screening tool, it is important that we create conditions that encourage honesty and accuracy in reporting from all building occupants. We also must be able to safely staff our schools. The number of religious and family festivities at this time of the year create a challenge

to this and this decision was made out of an abundance of caution. We further wanted to inform families and staff earlier so they can plan as necessary.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best,

Andy

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