

**Betz, Deb**

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**From:** Betz, Deb on behalf of Reid, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 03, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** Betz, Deb  
**Subject:** A Message from the Superintendent - Update 12/3/2020

December 3, 2020

Dear SEL School Community,

I write today to communicate next steps as we navigate our way through this pandemic. As previously mentioned, we review national, state, county and local COVID-19 trend data weekly. In addition, district officials are in contact with medical experts, healthcare professionals and board of health officials regarding interpretation of the trend data. We also analyze other data points including staff and student attendance. Every data point is important in informing our decisions. My participation in virtual calls with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health officials have been extremely important in contributing to my understanding of this ongoing pandemic as well as the issues related to COVID-19, especially as they relate to schools in our county.

During conversations with the health officials, it continues to be reiterated that the increase in COVID-19 spread is not because students are in school, but rather, the spread is being caused by congregate activities in the community. Even though we believe the mitigation strategies we have implemented in our schools work very well, we cannot control what is happening outside of school, and that has started to affect us.

After careful consideration and guidance, we are making the decision to extend our remote learning schedule for **ALL students through Friday, January 8**. This means all students will follow their current schedules, including Arc Wednesdays. Our aim for the return of in-person instruction for our school-based students is for **Monday, January 11**. Students who elected the remote learning option for the first semester will continue as remote learners through the end of the first semester, which is January 28. **IN SUMMARY:** Students who elected the in-person (school-based) option for the first semester will continue on the remote learning schedule through Friday, January 8, and will return to the building to finish up the semester from Monday, January 11 through Thursday, January 28.

### **Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities**

The SEL Schools suspended all athletic and extracurricular activities on Monday, November 23 through December 4. A meeting was held on Wednesday, December 2 with all junior high and high school head coaches. This meeting was held to give head coaches the opportunity to provide me feedback on next steps as it pertained to their athletic team. Each sport presents different challenges, and we are reviewing how each activity can safely proceed. The athletic department will soon provide details on next steps.

## **Second Semester**

The district will be sending third quarter declarations to families. Please note, we will be asking for a commitment for the **third quarter only** (nine weeks). This commitment will not be for the entire second semester.

The declaration will be sent to families on or around Wednesday, December 16 and will be due on Wednesday, January 6. We will send a reminder to families and principals will be in communication with you throughout the process.

## **Important Dates for All Students**

Friday, December 18 (Teacher Training Day, No Students)

Winter Break: December 21, 2020 through January 1, 2021

Monday, January 4, 2021 (Continuous Improvement Day, staff only, No Students)

Tuesday, January 5 through Friday, January 8, all students will continue remote learning to provide for a period of self-quarantine following a second wave of holiday social gatherings and events.

Our District's priority is and always has been to focus on the safety of our students, our staff, and our families. I know how hard this has been on everyone. I am very aware of the dependence our families have upon the services we provide to them. We will continue to work hard to bring the best learning experiences to your children. We hope you and your family can help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as we all work together toward improving conditions so we can reopen our schools for in-person learning following the holidays.

Thank you for your continued confidence in our school district. I am deeply grateful for your support.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Reid  
Superintendent  
*Deb*

**Deb Betz**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent**

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