

Updates from the District Office

December 30, 2020

Dear BSCSD Parents and Caregivers:

Hoping this finds all of you well and enjoying the holidays. As promised in our [Update](#) on December 22, I wanted to update you on where we currently stand regarding our reopening plans for Monday, January 4. Before getting to that, I want to be clear that our decisions recognize the terrible tension that exists between keeping our doors open to as many students as possible, particularly those who are struggling most with remote learning for a variety of reasons, and the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Honestly, there are arguments that favor both sides of this tension and we are working through those at this time.

1. **Current Data** – Last week we reported that the [7-day average](#) of positive cases in Saratoga County was 6.9% whereas this week we are at 9.0%. In the District, we have had an additional nine cases reported between students and staff with the majority impacting the high school at this point. Needless to say, this is not at all what we want to see, but it is not terribly surprising either given what we learned from the Thanksgiving holiday and the associated gatherings.
2. **January 4 Reopening** – Based on our current information then, our January 4 reopening will be as follows:
 - a. **Grades K-5** – There will be no change and remote and in-person learning will continue to take place. Should there be any changes to this plan due to new cases numbers and/or quarantining, we will notify you as soon as possible. Pinpoint screening will be reactivated for Monday morning. We ask that you please be sure to accurately complete the survey daily including the temperature check.
 - b. **Grades 6-12** – Students will be fully remote for the week of January 4-8.
It is our intention to run this model for the week of January 4-8 in hopes that we can get back to our full in-person/remote rotation (our hybrid model) beginning the week of January 11.
3. **Rolling Appeals Process to change Learning Model** – This option remains available to parents by contacting your child's building principal. It is important to note that this process is not intended for short term changes but is instead based on families' decision for a full change in model for a longer duration of time. We have not set this duration in stone as we want to remain as flexible as possible to meet families' needs, but *we will not be able to accommodate students who are seeking to stay remote for a few days or a week*. In these cases, we have stated in earlier updates what the process would be for short term situations. Specifically, as noted in the October 27 [Update](#),
 - a. **K-5, 5 days or less** – The student(s) will be provided with class work materials, resources, and supports (e.g., through *Schoology*) that will allow the student to keep pace with the class to the greatest extent possible during the absence.

- b. **K-5, more than 5 days** – The teachers and principal will work to determine the best solution for the student(s).
- 4. **Reporting Positive Cases** – Thanks very much to those of you who have utilized our COVIDreport@bscsd.org mailbox to report cases and quarantining to us. As we continue to work with the Saratoga County Department of Public Health and seek ways to be as efficient as possible, we ask that staff members and parents notify us at this address if you/your student have received positive test results or if you have been ordered to quarantine due to an exposure to a COVID-positive person.

Wishing you all a happy, safe, and healthy New Year.

Ken

Ken Slentz
Superintendent of Schools