

November 16, 2020

Parents,

I want to share a quick update related to the COVID-19 data we are beginning to see as we all look forward to Thanksgiving break.

Number of Student COVID Cases in One Week

Last week, we had a record number of students, (8 students or 0.4% of those attending in-person) test positive for or be determined as presumed positive for COVID-19, since we began tracking our data in August. We also had a significant number of students who needed to quarantine (90 students or 4.5% of those attending in-person) due to exposure while at home, while riding the bus, or in the classroom.

COVID-19 Exposure on School Bus & Lost School Days Due to Quarantine

In reviewing our data, more than 40% of quarantined students needed to quarantine due to possible exposure while riding the school bus. We take all possible precautions on our buses, but without reducing the number of students who rely on our buses to get to and from school, these quarantines are unavoidable due to close contact that can occur on the bus. This said, not a single student has contracted COVID from another student on the bus. What is happening is students are missing 14-days of in-person class due to the quarantine requirement.

Please Consider Alternative Transportation Options if Possible

To avoid the need for students to quarantine because of a close contact on the school bus, we are asking families to consider any alternatives they may have for transportation to or from school so students can avoid a possible exposure and the need to quarantine for 14 days.

Continue Following Daily Panther Health Pledge

Thank you again to both students and parents alike for following the daily Panther Health Pledge including taking temperatures before leaving home and staying home when not feeling well. We count on families to continue to follow the Panther Pledge and keep children home from school if they have a temperature or any symptoms associated with COVID-19.

In the coming week, you may hear about other districts making adjustments to their instructional models. We continue to be committed to staying open for in-person instruction unless the state or local health department would mandate that we revisit our plans.

Last, although it may go without being said, our collective behavior in the coming week and over Thanksgiving break will most likely dictate if we will be able to continue to offer in-person instruction. We have 100% control over who we interact with and the ability to limit our exposure during this critical period. Please be mindful of the greater good and realize that it will take all of us doing our part to keep our COVID numbers low.

Thank you again for your commitment to following all the health and safety protocols we have in place. We are getting through this pandemic together.

Let's have a great week!
Todd Cramer, Superintendent