

February 3, 2021

Parents and Patrons,

I am still somewhat in disbelief, but I am so pleased nonetheless. The past two (2) weeks have seen a steady stream of positive news. In reality, I was not sure it would come so soon. I wanted to take a moment and share with you some of that GOOD NEWS:

1. We have seen a steady decline in COVID-19 cases in Bingham County and Southeastern Idaho. For Bingham County, we have not seen numbers this low since August 31, 2020. I do not pretend to know the reasons why this has occurred, but I am grateful. Please remember, we cannot take this for granted and shout, All is Well! Personally, I believe we are a long ways away from being done with COVID-19, but we are definitely on a good path.
2. Governor Little has placed Idaho back in Stage 3 of the state response plan. While this had little impact on our daily school routines, it is strong validation that we are improving throughout the state. This change does not alter our current extracurricular plan. However, please know this means we can now have noneducational gatherings in our buildings of up to 50 people.
3. Last Friday we held a vaccination clinic for our staff. We are so grateful to our community healthcare partners, Bingham Healthcare, Mountain View Hospital and Peak Family Medicine, for their role in helping make this happen. I will never forget what was done on behalf of our dedicated staff. You relieved such a burden. THANK YOU!!!! I am pleased to announce that during our first vaccination clinic, we were able to distribute over 300 vaccines to staff and a few community members. Our second clinic will be held on February 19, 2021. This will be an incredible accomplishment toward a return to normalcy.

In am SOOO grateful for this progress. Please remember, we cannot take it for granted. I would hate to take steps backwards after we have come so far. Please remember to continue your vigilance in all aspects of public health. I am optimistic that with continued support of one another, we will see normalcy return sooner rather than later.

It's hard for me to believe, but we are fast approaching the 2/3 mark of the school year with the conclusion of the second trimester in four (4) short weeks. Believe it or not, we are already planning for next school year. In the coming weeks, we will unveil a brand-new online registration process we have been working on for months. This new process should make the entire registration process, including the paperwork, a whole lot easier. I will be sure to keep you informed as we prepare to launch this new tool.

In closing, I know full well there is still much to be done, but I am so pleased and proud of what we have accomplished in the past 11 months. Please take a moment and reflect on the past 11 months. The Blackfoot School District has not been perfect, but I truly believe we have been there for our students, families and community. Thank you for your support, it is appreciated far more than you can imagine. We have more good news to share, and we strive to do that as much as we can.

God Bless!!

Brian Kress