

Update – November 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

As the first trimester is coming to a close, we are doing our best to keep up with the demands of several deadlines fast approaching. Let me be the first to say that first trimester has definitely been a rollercoaster, but I am pleased to say WE MADE IT! We have learned a lot, and I hope second trimester will be smoother. However, something tells me 2020 has at least one more curveball to throw our way. As always, I will do my best to keep you informed as to any changing circumstances.

Today, I need to make you aware of two adjustments that have occurred within the school district. The first deals with the school calendar, and the second deals with COVID-19 close contact communication.

- During the November 4th Special Board Meeting, the school board approved the recommended adjustment to the school calendar. The Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving will be staff work days. This means students **will not** be in attendance on Monday, the 23rd and Tuesday, the 24th. I wanted to make sure parents and families were aware of this adjustment so that the necessary arrangements could be made. These two days will be used by teachers to address a few challenges which arose during the first trimester. We believe these two staff work days will help us be better prepared for the second trimester.
- It has been a personal goal of mine to make personal contact with families who may have been impacted by COVID-19 cases within the school setting. As mentioned above, there are starting to be a number of reports and deadlines looming that must be addressed. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, we will only make phone calls to the families of students who need to be asked to quarantine. If the situation is one that only requires awareness, we will send a letter out to parents reminding them to be mindful of the development of possible COVID-19 symptoms. Personally, I think we are at the point where we all need to do that regardless of any potential contact.

In conclusion, I would also like to make our parents aware of a great Public Information Meeting we held last Thursday at the Blackfoot Performing Arts Center. It was a great meeting which showcased an incredible opportunity that might be coming our way. We will be posting a recording of the meeting later today on our Facebook page. When you have the time, I encourage you to watch the video. We live in a great community, and we may have the opportunity to make it even greater!

Sincerely,

Brian Kress