

Update – 01/10/2022

Parents/Guardians & Patrons,

Well, it has been a while since I have done one of these. I'm not sure if that is a good thing or a bad thing, but here we go. I must say, in comparison to other school districts, things have gone pretty darn smooth here in Blackfoot. Yes, the winter weather last week created a couple of interesting morning drives, but we seem to have handled that just fine. The reason for this update is, yet again, another challenge is beginning to rear its head.

It appears yet another COVID-19 variant will soon be prevalent here in southeast Idaho. I have attended meetings and discussions with state and educational leaders to discuss this new challenge. I could go on for several pages sharing the details of this newest obstacle, but since I know how I wish to move forward, I will focus on that instead. I intend on doing everything humanly possible to keep our schools going and in session. However, I will need some help to accomplish this goal.

1. Please, please express any appreciation you can to our staff. The past two plus years have been an extraordinary strain on all of us. I cannot fully imagine the stress our staff has been and IS under. Please find a way to say, THANK YOU!
2. The next concern that will shut us down is a lack of staff to properly supervise and educate our students. Today is an example of that struggle. We have 36 employees out today, 6 do not require a substitute, 19 substitutes accepted assignments, leaving 11 positions without a substitute. We have some means to address this, but WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are offering our substitutes incentives to take positions. If you are available to be a substitute, please contact us, and we can get you ready to go.
3. Lastly, if your child is sick, please, please keep them home. I am very aware of the burden this creates for families, but we truly need your cooperation to achieve our goal of keeping our schools in session.

Once again, I am committed to moving forward simply, because it is what our kids need. I will do everything I can, but please understand a continued struggle to fill substitute demands, and coming up short, may tie my hands. I do not, I repeat, DO NOT want to get to that point. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If you would like to help in any way, please contact our district office at (208) 785-8800.

Thank you for your continued support, we will get through this, lets buckle down and do what Blackfoot does, BLACKFOOT STRONG!!!!

Sincerely,

Brian Kress
Superintendent of Schools
Blackfoot School District #55