



BLUFFTON-HARRISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"A LEARNING COMMUNITY WHERE A QUALITY EDUCATION EMPOWERS
ALL STUDENTS TO LEARN AND ACHIEVE TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL."*

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BHMSD Students and Families:

Each autumn, important lessons are taught in our schools' hallways and classrooms including the importance of giving thanks. This season, I find it especially important to acknowledge the tremendous effort of our students, faculty, and staff as we tackle the many challenges of the 2020-2021 school year. Our district has been blessed with a very successful year, to date, in light of the increasing health concerns in our community, state, and nation. Our students and their families play a vital role in ensuring a safe school environment can be maintained. I thank you for your part in keeping our schools open by monitoring symptoms, staying home if feeling ill, wearing a mask, and maintaining social distancing whenever possible.

School leaders rely on the guidance set forth by the Indiana State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control regarding safe school operations. Our goal is to continue in-person instruction for students as long as the school setting remains safe for students, faculty, and staff. Our decision does not come without significant consideration for all parties. As reports of the health situation in Wells County change, our district team continually evaluates whether to maintain in-person instruction or transition to a virtual learning format based upon two guiding questions:

1. Does the building/district have adequate staff to supervise students?
2. Is there active spread occurring in the school building?

To date, our district has been able to fully staff our instructional spaces through the creative efforts of our teachers and instructional assistants. Additionally, I am thankful for the dedication of our highly valued substitute teachers.

Regarding potential spread occurring in our school buildings, our district maintains the approach as guided by the Indiana State Department of Health, of identifying positive cases, quarantining contacted individuals, and monitoring quarantined individuals.

In addition, with any new case, our staff cross-reference with any prior cases in order to identify or rule out if school spread is occurring. Thankfully, our protocols and procedures have been effective as our district has yet to identify active spread within our school buildings.

As your family approaches Thanksgiving, I encourage you to consider the health and safety of yourself and members of our community as you plan social gatherings. Our individual choices may impact our school's ability to remain open. As always, I want to extend my well wishes for all of our BHMSD families and I thank you for your trust in our school district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brad Yates

DR. BRAD YATES
SUPERINTENDENT

MRS. JULIE MEITZLER
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT