

Hello Alpha Community;

Unfortunately with the county infection rate up again this week and Alpha's infection rate up by more than 50%, the county is labeled orange-level "High Risk" on the State Department of Health COVID Matrix. As previously reported, the recommendation is for schools to be remote. We are following this recommendation.

Why?

- 1) The contact tracing and symptom check requirements are increased in high-risk counties. A class of students can be sent home due to one student having a stomach ache. Allergies would no longer be an acceptable reason to be in school with symptoms. This potentially creates a scenario where students are admitted and quarantined repeatedly, without pattern or warning.
- 2) Teachers are affected by these rules as well; if enough teachers are quarantined then the school would be forced to go remote due to a lack of staff.

When Do We Go Back?

- 1) Our initial remote dates will be from Monday, November 23rd to Friday, December 11th, 2020.
- 2) I get updates from the State on our Matrix level on Fridays. I will update the community on Friday, December 11th as to whether we can return to in-person learning or if we must stay remote. The goal is to allow for in-person learning as soon as it is permissible.
- 3) On December 18th, if the county is still high-risk on the Matrix, we will stay remote the week of January 4th, 2021. The next update would then be January 8th, 2021.

What Will Remote Learning Look like?

- 1) The school day will initially run on our early dismissal schedule <attached> from 8:00-12:30.
- 2) The students will utilize the Google Classroom, online resources, and Zoom to conduct classes.
- 3) The Zoom links are located in each class's Google Classroom Calendar. Each classroom's Google Calendar will be the most accurate start and stop time for each subject. The early dismissal schedule is the basic structure of the day.
- 4) For veterans of remote learning, there will be no weekly pick up of work. Everything will be sent home this week.
- 5) For those who are new to remote learning:
 - a. Find a quiet place for your child(ren) to work
 - b. Remember the Chromebooks have microphones and cameras: You can be seen walking past and heard from the next room if you are shouting or talking while walking into where your child is working.
- 6) The teachers will use 1:00-2:30 to meet with individual students, if necessary.
- 7) Students cannot pick and choose which classes on his or her schedule to attend and they must attend the entire class.
- 8) Please see the attached letter from the teachers regarding expected etiquette and behaviors while remote learning.

- 9) I am meeting with the Pandemic Committee to revisit this schedule to see if improvements can be made.

Breakfast and Lunch Pick Up While Remote:

- 1) The entire district still receives free breakfast and lunch.
- 2) We are sending a Google form so you can request a meal pick up each week. Meals must be ordered on this one-time only form by November 25, 2020.
- 3) Pick up will be weekly on Tuesdays from 8:00-10:00 am at door number 8 (the back of the building).
- 4) Each family will get 5 days' worth of meals for their school-age children only.
- 5) Pick-up will begin December 1st 2020.

We are once again where we were in March of last year; things change faster than we can adjust or predict. However, I can report we are much better prepared. We have expanded our technology and resources and received training to better conduct our classes. I will not pretend that this is ideal and appreciate the community's flexibility and patience as we continue navigating this slow moving crisis.