

River Bend Families,

11/22/21

Our staff and administration hope that your Thanksgiving will be safe and full of family traditions. Last week and even today, we experienced the highest number of positive COVID cases to date. We had a total of 20 student and staff positive cases throughout the district. We continue to work very hard at keeping students at school and completed 183 rapid tests last week alone. Thankfully, parents are communicating family cases and symptoms so that we can test and hopefully slow down any spread.

Because of a high number of cases in 7th grade, our 7th grade students will be remote for Monday and Tuesday of this week. **Due to 6 staff members out for COVID related reasons, 7 student positive cases at Fulton High School, and a lack of substitute teachers, Fulton HS may have to use a remote day tomorrow (Nov. 23rd) if adequate staffing cannot be provided. A final decision about Fulton High School's need to be remote will be made as soon as possible. Mr. Gosch will provide an update to the students and families.**

I share this information with our families as we all prepare for the Thanksgiving break. Please continue to monitor for symptoms and if you feel your child may have COVID please contact us or get tested so that the District can prepare for Monday, November 29th.

- Grades PK through 5 contact Principal Hoese at jhoese@riverbendschools.net
- Grades 6 through 8 contact Principal Schipper at kschipper@riverbendschools.net
- Grades 9 through 12 contact Principal Gosch at rgosch@riverbendschools.net

As the positive numbers of COVID cases have increased and the number of exclusions/quarantines have increased staff are feeling the impact. At Wednesday night's Board meeting the principals shared how this is impacting the day to day operations in the classrooms. Throughout the district, teachers are increasingly needing more time after school to support the needs of the students who are out of school. Last year's early release schedule helped provide the time for teachers to support students who needed to be at home. I have no way of knowing how COVID will continue to impact our ability to keep students in school. Our teachers, nurses and administration will continue to work our hardest supporting in-person learning. If a need to use remote learning is necessary, we will do so for as short a term as needed to safely get through a positive surge.

I want to get input from families as the district considers a response that will help teachers continue to support students and provide additional time to plan for the needs of learners who need to stay at home. A survey will be created and shared with families that provides a variety of solutions to support both student learning and teacher preparation for in-class and home scenarios. As soon as plans can be completed with staff, the survey will be shared.

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving,

Darryl Hogue