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ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE

Patricia F. Deklotz, Ph.D.
Superintendent
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that in advance of the winter break, **on Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22, students who are currently learning in a face to face (F2F) environment will receive their instruction through distance learning.** This is a temporary, two-day move to distance learning for F2F students. The decision comes due to concerns with attendance and in order to ensure families have the ability to control their exposure to COVID in advance of the winter break.

We understand the difficulty that comes when you receive notice that your child must be quarantined due to a school contact. In the past week, we have received a significant number of phone calls from parents who want to ensure their plans during the winter break are not interrupted due to quarantine caused by a school close contact. In addition, a positive case in our schools on December 21 or 22 could require contact tracing on December 24 or 25, which are scheduled as time off for staff, and we will be unable to provide tracing. Without notification of a close contact exposure, families could unknowingly expose friends or family members to the virus, simply because they have not been informed. This could potentially increase exposure to the virus due to insufficient information.

The State Department of Health recently shared the statistic that 75 percent of infections occur within five days of exposure. We made this decision due to concerns with attendance and in order to ensure families have the ability to control their exposure to COVID in advance of the winter break. By serving all F2F students through distance learning on these two days, families have the assurance of at least a five-day period of no school based exposure to the COVID virus before the holidays.

It has been a challenging 2020 for all of us. We appreciate the partnership and hard work that you and our staff are demonstrating to keep our schools open.

Sincerely,

Patricia F. Deklotz, PhD.
Superintendent