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Superintendent

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MARY ANN BAINES
Director of Financial Services

June 12, 2020

Dear Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools Parents:

Please take a few moments to read a few important updates below:

Fall Re-Entry Plan

Since my last letter on June 4th, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) released IN-CLASS; *Indiana's Consideration for Learning and Safe Schools*.

IN-CLASS is a comprehensive 38-page document with several guidelines and some requirements regarding opening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidance includes cleaning, transportation, instruction, cafeteria, social distancing, extracurricular activities, and more. Through the document, and through Dr. McCormick's webinar, it is clear there are many local decisions to be made in consultation with the local department of health.

The leadership team is working through the framework of our re-entry plan. I will be meeting with various stakeholders in the coming weeks to review and modify our plan, including both the Dearborn County and Ripley County health officials, teacher leadership, and school health providers. The document will be presented to the board at the July 9th board meeting for approval. While there are many, many details to complete, I am able to release the following preliminary information.

Our re-entry plan will be based on three guiding principles:

1. We are committed to the growth of the whole child - intellectually, socially, and emotionally.
2. We will maintain a safe and healthy environment. However, safety protocols cannot be so extensive as to damage the growth of the whole child - particularly socially and emotionally.
3. We will be flexible and agile. The dynamics of COVID-19 are fast changing. We must be able to respond quickly and efficiently.

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 5th. While it will certainly be different, we are excited to welcome all of our students back for face-to-face instruction.

The re-entry plan will include a recommendation for some changes to the calendar, but not so drastic as to interfere with previously planned vacations during planned breaks.

As part of our re-entry plan, we are excited to announce a robust, comprehensive, and full-time online option for students and parents. A flyer is attached. More details will be released after the plan is approved by the board on July 9th.

Attendance policies will be modified to allow for extended absences for any student who is COVID-19 positive, exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or has been exposed to someone COVID-19 positive or who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. Students will not be permitted back to school until they are symptom-free for seventy-two (72) hours. Students may be asked to self-quarantine for up to fourteen (14) calendar days. The biggest impact parents can have on preventing an extended closure of school is to keep their child home when exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

While I am happy to provide some preliminary information, please note the re-entry plan will be subject to change at any time, including the school calendar.

2020-2021 Student Registration

There have been some delays in the end-of-year process that need to occur in PowerSchool due to some technical issues. The PowerSchool Parent Portal will be disabled from June 12 - June 19 so the technical issues can be addressed. As a result, online student registration will now be active on Monday, June 22nd, through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. An email reminder will be sent. Please be sure to register for next school year. Online registration is required for all parents and students. If you are unable to register online from home, internet and computer access will be provided for parents during Book Days.

Traditional student registration is still scheduled for July 29th and July 30th from 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM and July 31st from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The re-entry plan will cause some changes in the program for these days.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Andrew Jackson
Superintendent