



Dear Parents/Guardians of the SDOW:

We are a few weeks into the 2020-2021 school year, and we realize it is much different than any school year of the past. Never did we imagine we would be dealing with a pandemic that would cause such disruption in our lives. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone. As I stated in my letter to you on August 10, we planned to use the first 30 days of school in the hybrid model to consistently analyze the new protocols we have instituted to do our best at keeping COVID-19 from infiltrating our schools. Although we know we can't keep COVID-19 away completely, managing and containing it has been the priority.

Some of the data pieces we are monitoring include:

- Student attendance data by building (self-quarantines, and health dept. quarantines, relationship on total attendance)
- Staff attendance data by building (self-quarantines, and health dept. quarantines, as well as COVID positive cases) to ensure instructional and operational delivery
- Substitute fill rate in classrooms as it pertains to the above staff attendance rates
- Bus driver availability based on attendance rates
- Positivity and transmission rates as a county and region
- Evaluation of protocols at the building level to determine what is working or not working

We will continue to monitor this data in conjunction with on-going communication with area health experts, the health department and various school leaders to make the most informed decision for our school system. We know that we can't make everyone happy in this endeavor, no matter what we do. We are sorry. The administration and Board of Education will continue to review the status of the above and will make a decision regarding any change to our schedule (green, yellow-hybrid scenario 2, or hybrid scenario 3, and red) later this month. If there is a change, notification will go out to families on September 24 with the details.

Thank you and take good care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lori VanLeer'.

Dr. Lori VanLeer
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