



Cashton School District

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Good Afternoon,

Throughout the school year, our district team has proudly made every effort to provide a critical service in the community which is of high importance and value. The many changes and adjustments to district operations has been immense, yet the education of our students is simply that important. We remain fully committed to providing instruction and support for our students during the pandemic.

We know we can offer students our best educational opportunities when we can use our buildings for in-person classes and activities with staff and students working together to meet social, emotional, and academic needs. We also know, however, that we may reach a point that it may not always be possible to offer in-person classes. While the viral activity in our district buildings has been relatively manageable so far, it is clear that there is a concerning increase of positive cases of COVID-19 in our state, our surrounding counties, and within our community. As the number of cases in the community increases, our schools are directly impacted by related illnesses and quarantines which result in student absences and difficulty in staffing our buildings. In order to do our best work with students, we very much need the support of all of our families and community members to do their best to reduce the spread of this virus in the coming weeks.

By now, we are all familiar with the recommendations of health officials to limit the spread of the virus. Following the recommendations is the best option we currently have to limit the spread of illness in our community and to keep our school buildings open for in-person learning. As we all prepare for the weeks to come, our hope is to see a decline in viral spread in our region. In addition to the regular recommendations, we are also encouraged by health officials to avoid attending social gatherings such as birthday parties, sleepovers, and holiday gatherings beyond your immediate household as much as possible. The hope is that our efforts as a community will limit the spread of the virus allowing us to continue to provide in-person instruction and keep each other as safe as possible.

Each school district is charged with navigating their unique circumstances relying on the expertise and guidance of people familiar with their local context including the rate of absenteeism and the ability to staff the buildings. Each day, our administrative team evaluates data that would lead to adjustments to our instructional model, whether in person or from at-home online. To make sure we are using multiple perspectives and making data-based decisions in this constantly changing context, we consult the Monroe County and Vernon County Health departments, representatives from the local health care center, and school districts in our athletic conference and region. Based on multiple conversations this week, we will continue to provide in-person instruction for students in our district at this time. However, we will need to be prepared to adjust as the data can change very rapidly. We ask that you take the necessary steps to plan for a shift to a virtual learning environment should that occur.

While there is no perfect answer or script, mitigation practices in our schools have helped to maintain a high degree of academic and social progress for our students, a clear indicator of what can happen when we all work together. We are hopeful the actions we all take at home, at work, in the community, and at school will help to continue the successes of the first quarter. Thank you for all you are doing to help our students succeed under highly challenging circumstances.

Respectfully,

Ryan Alderson

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