September 2, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Education and our team of staff members, we want to welcome everyone to the 2020-2021 school year. It has been 155 days since the District moved to a remote learning environment due to COVID-19. Fast forward to today. I am beaming with pride because so many individuals and teams have put us in position to start the 2020-21 school year face-to-face and respond appropriately to the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. For that, I am so grateful to be a part of this tremendous team here at the School District of New Richmond, which includes our student, parents, and community members. We continue to learn and prepare each day, as this situation remains fluid. As a reminder, please reference the following documents for details about the upcoming school year.

- SDNR Tiger Launch Plan 2020-21(8-13-20)
- SDNR Mask and Face Covering Requirements
- SDNR Mask and Face Coverings for Sale
- Principal/Director Communications (Sent out Week of August 3rd)
  - NR4Kids
  - Hillside Elementary
  - Paperjack Elementary
  - Starr Elementary
  - NRMS
  - NRHS

DHS and SCCPH sent out a school toolkit on August 27, 2020. With this new guidance, we modified and updated various parts of the Tiger Launch Plan based on DHS and SCCPH guidelines. To keep things simple, we have consolidated various metrics and matrices to help maneuver through these decision making processes. Please look over the following documents carefully as they speak to our overall processes when dealing with COVID-19 symptoms.

- SDNR COVID-19 School Based Exclusion
- SDNR Daily Symptom Check
- SDNR Returning to School COVID-19 Parent Information Sheet (8-30-20)

As a District, we will use the following decision matrix and data points to move from one learning model to another if needed:

- 14 Day County Level Case Rate
- Student and Staff Absences due to COVID-19 (SCCPH Required Quarantine)
- Student and Staff COVID-19 Positive Test
- Student and Staff Absences due to COVID-19 (Self Quarantine)
- Substitute Staffing Availability
- Community of New Richmond COVID-19 Testing Data
- DHS School Re-opening Guidance
If a positive COVID-19 case is identified in the District, the following will occur:

**Elementary**
- A letter will go out to the entire building and identify the grade of the positive case
- If 2 or more cases happen within 14 days only the grade will be notified
- A second letter will be sent to the entire building after 14 days if new cases arise at any grade

**Middle School**
- A letter will go out to the entire building and identify what grade level and what house is affected with the positive case
- If 2 or more cases happen within 14 days only the grade will be notified
- A second letter will be sent to the entire building after 14 days if new cases arise at any grade

**High School**
- A letter will go out to the building and identify what grade level of the positive case
- If 2 or more cases happen within 14 days only the grade will be notified
- A second letter will be sent to the entire building after 14 days if new cases arise at any grade

Finally, as we continue on this incredible journey unlike any other, I am reminded of three important lessons:

1. **We owe it to our students to try!** As you saw, we have plan A, plan B, and plan C as detailed in the 2020-21 Tiger Launch Plan above. Please also keep in mind that we have successfully educated and cared for hundreds of students at all levels in grades K-12 since July 6, 2020 with no positive COVID-19 cases to date.

2. **The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rewrite so many elements of education including our delivery. Thank you to everyone that has helped discuss, plan, and implement the 2020-21 Tiger Launch Plan.**

3. **As a District, we have become that shining light that everyone wants to be around because adversity is only TEMPORARY but the influence on our students is FOREVER! Our students and staff needs and wellbeing have been the focus of our attention from day one. I wish there were words, steps, or processes that could predict the future but unfortunately there is no such thing other than knowing, Together WE will get through this”. Situations like these create more questions than there are answers and sometimes the level of frustration and anger is directed in a manner that is not intended. The events of this past six months has created an emotional instability with many of our students, staff, community, and our country as a whole. Please continue to show patience, grace, and flexibility as we maneuver through these challenges together.

Have a great year and as always please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Patrick B. Olson
District Administrator