Dear Students, Staff, and Parents,

I want to provide an update as we continue to offer a face-to-face learning model for our students guided by the SDNR Tiger Launch Plan 2020-21 (8-13-20). To date, the SDNR has experienced (25) twenty-five positive COVID-19 cases since the start of the school year. We currently have (7) seven active cases in our District. We have had to quarantine various students and staff out of precaution due to these individuals being a contact of a positive COVID-19 case. However, as stated in our Tiger Launch Plan, we have been able to provide a synchronous learning experience to those students that are quarantined. In collaboration with St. Croix County Public Health, Westfields Hospital & Clinic, SDNR Contact Tracer, SDNR District Nurse, SDNR Staff and Administration, we continue to find that the spread of COVID-19 is not in the school buildings, but is traced back to outside interactions.

Our goal is to continue to safely educate our students in our face-to-face learning model. As previously communicated, we continue to monitor our decision matrix and data points to gauge if a different learning model should be considered. At this time, we do not believe a change is warranted based on the spread happening outside of the District buildings. As a reminder, this decision is a combination of the following data points:

- 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
- SCCPH and DHS School Guidance

We are confident in our Tiger Launch Plan and continue to find the balance in every step we take. We understand this has been difficult on everyone and appreciate your patience with this fluid situation. We have made various modifications to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic planning. Please keep in mind that St. Croix County represents 736 square miles and the 14 Day County Level Case Rate takes into account breakouts throughout this large geographic area and not just positive cases in the New Richmond Area. The county cases are on the rise compared to the first two weeks of school but the case count in St. Croix County schools is very low. Schools are not seeing the spread as in the general public. We continue to learn more from each situation to make appropriate modifications. I am very proud of how our students, staff, parents, and community have collaborated to embrace our COVID-19 mitigation strategies, so we are able to continue to educate our students in a face-to-face learning model. Please read over the following attachments carefully as we have made various updates, changes, and additions to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**St. Croix County Public Health COVID-19 Information**
- [SCCPH School Close Contact Notification Letter 09-28-2020](#)
- [Crisis Standards of Practice for COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Symptom Monitoring](#)
- [SCCPH September COVID-19 Close Contact Flyer](#)

**District COVID-19 Information**
- [SDNR COVID-19 School Based Exclusion (9-17-20)](#)
- [SDNR COVID-19 Student Triage Form (9-18-20)](#)
- [SDNR Daily Symptom Check](#)
- [SDNR Returning to School COVID-19 Parent Information Sheet (8-30-20)](#)

**SDNR Mask and Face Covering Overview**
- [SDNR Mask and Face Coverings for Sale](#)
- [SDNR Mask/Face Covering Requirements (9-10-20)](#)
**SDNR Activity Updated Schedule Information**

- SCC Walk to School (Cancelled)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be scheduled remotely to continue our mitigation strategies and limit traffic in our buildings. Please look for information from your building principal in the coming week. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on October 15 and October 19 as initially planned
- October 19 is a scheduled Professional Learning Day per our 2020-21 District Calendar
- Homecoming 2020 has been modified based on COVID-19 restrictions and will be held November 2-6, 2020
- The in-person NRMS Veterans Day Program has been cancelled. However, the NRMS is exploring various ways to still celebrate this important day. The NRMS program has been a staple for our community as it serves as a reminder and a lesson of gratitude. We sincerely thank all our veterans for their sacrifice to our country
- SDNR Youth Sports
  - We are working on a COVID-19 plan to allow for SDNR students to participate in youth sports using our facilities soon. However, at this time, we will not be hosting outside groups or tournaments in our facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This information will be coming out shortly for those local organizations that would like to use our facilities

**SDNR 2020 Fall Sports Spectator Guidelines**

- NRMS 2020 Fall Sports Spectator Guidelines (9-11-20)
- NRHS 2020 Fall Sports Spectator Guidelines (9-11-20)
- The other piece of information I would like to add at this time is if we are forced to move to a remote learning model then activities and athletics will also be cancelled for that time period. We all need to do our part so our students can continue to experience a new normal that includes face-to-face education, social interaction, athletics, and activities

**Here Comes the Bus**

- We are encouraging all parents to sign up for "Here Comes the Bus" app. Signing up will allow you to receive notifications about your child’s daily transportation needs including, real-time location of your child’s bus, scheduled and actual arrival times at home/school, and email notifications when the bus is near.
  - [Here Comes the Bus (Flyer)]

**SDNR Late Start**

- As communicated on September 28, 2020, the SDNR has implemented a 2-hour late start every Wednesday beginning October 7, 2020. We may continue this 2-hour late start on Wednesdays, even if a school or the District moves to a hybrid-learning model depending upon the level affected. Please reference the following announcement for more details that was sent out earlier in the week.
  - [SDNR Late Start Announcement (Students and Parents) 9-28-20]

Thank you for your patience, understanding, collaboration, and assistance as we continue to keep our doors open and provide the best educational experience possible for our students during this challenging time. I could not be prouder of our staff for their sacrifice, determination, creativity, and care as we are in this situation together. As always, please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Patrick B. Olson
District Administrator